

PUBLIC

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DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

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Report of the Director of Public Health

REVIEW OF URGENT DECISION OF CHANGES TO DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH DELIVERED SERVICES

1. Purpose of the report

To update the Cabinet Member on changes made to Public Health delivered services due to the COVID19 pandemic and seek approval for continuation of existing service delivery.

2. Information and analysis

The COVID19 pandemic resulted in the implementation of national guidance for social distancing, self-isolation and the closure, and subsequent re-opening, of schools. At the time of implementing the requirements, changes were made to the delivery model for Public Health services, including the suspension of some services.

The Council's Constitution allows for Executive Directors to make urgent decisions:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution, the Executive Directors shall have power, after discussion, if practicable, with the leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member or Chairman, to take such action deemed to be necessary and expedient in matters requiring urgent consideration and which, because of the time scales involved, or the need to safeguard the interests of the County Council, cannot be dealt with by submission to the next following meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committee.

Changes to the delivery of Public Health services were approved by the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities in March 2020, and subsequently ratified by Cabinet on 23 April 2020.

At the 4 June 2020 Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the Cabinet Member should review all outstanding urgent decisions made by officers on a fortnightly basis.

Consequently, updates on the delivery of services have been reviewed on a fortnightly basis by the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities.

Currently, delivery of Public Health services continues to be affected due to the impact of COVID19. Due to the ongoing restrictions in place to mitigate the risk of community transmission of COVID19, it is highly unlikely that delivery of Public Health services will return to the delivery models in place prior to the onset of the pandemic in the near future. However, all Public Health delivered services have a revised service model in place, or have adapted their delivery focus to support Derbyshire residents who are most clinically and socially vulnerable as a result of COVID19.

It is therefore proposed that the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approves continuation of current service delivery models as outlined below, thus negating the need for a fortnightly review. Any subsequent changes to the service models outlined below will be brought to future Cabinet Member meetings for approval as required.

Live Life Better Derbyshire - Stop Smoking, Weight Management, Physical Activity and the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Live Life Better Derbyshire provides support to Derbyshire residents who wish to stop smoking, lose weight or increase levels of physical activity. It also delivers the National Child Measurement Programme, a mandated Public Health function for the Council, that measures the height and weight of children in Reception class and year 6, to assess overweight and obesity levels in children within primary schools.

Face-to-face service delivery was stopped on 18th March, and remains paused. Support has been provided to existing and new clients through phone and video-call support, in conjunction with online resources. Smokers and clients with a BMI of over 40 have been prioritised for support due to their increased risk of serious illness as a result of COVID19.

Stop smoking, weight management and physical activity support are now being delivered remotely by Live Life Better Derbyshire advisors. Individuals wanting to stop smoking are supported through phone and video-call support, with Nicotine Replacement Therapy provided by mail. A Weight Management digital offer was launched in August, allowing clients access to a range of online educational and communication options, available in conjunction with individual and group telephone calls with the Weight Management Health Improvement Advisor team. Physical Activity Health Improvement Advisors are also advising clients on ways to be more active and delivering group-based physical activity sessions by video.

The online Live Life Better Derbyshire MOT assessment has been amended to reflect the changes in service provision, and was re-launched on 7th September.

The service continues plans to re-commence the NCMP in early 2021, aligning with COVID19 practices within school settings. Further national guidance on re-commencing programme delivery is awaited.

School Crossing Patrols

All but 5 sites are now operational. Of these, 3 are unable to accommodate social distancing guidance and the other 2 are where the schools have made temporary changes to site entrances and exits, meaning that the patrol is not required at the site whilst these are in place.

Where required, the service has increased the length of time that patrols are on site at the start and end of the school day to accommodate the staggered start and finish times introduced by some schools.

Disability Employment Service

The Disability Employment Service supports disabled people to find training, work experience, voluntary work and paid employment.

The service has re-commenced provision of in-work support to service-users, with an intention to restart other aspects of service delivery from 1st October 2020.

First Contact

First Contact provides an easy way for Derbyshire residents to get in touch with local services who can support wellbeing and help with staying independent. The Council runs the scheme in partnership with a variety of local agencies.

The service is operating on a reduced basis, alongside the Community Response Unit. The service will continue to operate in this form as further work is undertaken to determine the future operating model for providing community support through the Community Response Unit.

50+ Forums

50+ Forums provide an opportunity for Derbyshire residents aged 50 and above to become involved in the services that are delivered in their area. The majority of 50+ Forum members are aged over 70 years old, and therefore are recommended to implement stringent social distancing and social isolation practices due to their increased risk of more severe illness from COVID19.

Face-to-face delivery of forums remain suspended, and will remain suspended for the foreseeable future. However the service is working with the Forums to determine how they can engage with local residents while COVID19 restrictions remain in place.

Pension Credit Project

The Pension Credit project identifies and supports older people entitled to, but not claiming, pension credit. New contacts with clients were suspended from 13th

March and the team has been following up on existing contacts by telephone. Support remains available to older people through the work of the Welfare Rights Service more widely. Support to individuals being discharged from hospital has been identified as a priority area for the service, subject to approval of funding.

Time Swap, Safe Places, and Local Area Co-ordination

Time Swap is an initiative that encourages local communities to help each other by sharing time and talents. Time Swap members earn 'time' by giving help and support to other members in your community, and in return spend that time on getting help from other members.

Safe Places are public buildings in towns and communities across Derbyshire, such as libraries, shops, pharmacies and GP surgeries. A Safe Place is somewhere vulnerable individuals can go if they feel scared, are lost or need help when they are out and about.

Local Area Co-ordination is a way of supporting people with disabilities, mental ill health, older people and their families and carers. Local Area Co-ordinators support people to live fulfilling lives, stay safe and be well connected with their local communities. Local Area Co-ordinators work in the Bolsover, Amber Valley and High Peak areas.

These services have not resumed the model for service delivery that was in place prior to the onset of COVID19. However, staff from these services have been an integral part of the Community Response Unit, and have supported some of Derbyshire's most vulnerable residents through provision of shopping, medication deliveries and telephone-based contact. There has been a reduction in calls received by the Community Response Unit since the height of the COVID19 restrictions, and work is underway to re-define the operation of the Community Response Unit to ensure that community support continues to be provided to local vulnerable residents for the duration of the pandemic. Staff from the Time Swap, Safe Places and Local Area Co-ordination services will continue to support this function.

3. Financial considerations

There has been limited financial impact in implementing amended service models for the majority of Public Health services, with any costs offset by savings due to a reduction in face-to-face delivery. Approval for all additional service costs will be sought in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

4. HR considerations

Where possible, staff working in the Public Health services detailed above have been redeployed to support the Council's response to COVID19, for example within the Community Response Unit.

5. Legal considerations

The Council has powers in accordance with s1-6 of the Localism Act 2011 to do that which will be to the 'benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area'. The proposed benefit of this action is to support the reduction in COVID19 infections and reduce the transmission of the virus. Due to the timescales involved it has not been possible to consult affected persons but arrangements have been put in place to continue to support people most vulnerable to COVID19 complications. The decision is a proportionate and reasonable response to COVID19 risks. The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities, in conjunction with the Director of Public Health, will approve any future decisions to change or suspend delivery of these services, particularly in light of any changes to the Government's social distancing and self-isolation recommendations.

6. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background papers

Cabinet report 23 April 2020: Officer decisions

Cabinet Member report 8 July 2020: Review of urgent decision of changes to delivery of Public Health delivered services

Cabinet Member report 22 July 2020: Review of urgent decision of changes to delivery of Public Health delivered services

Cabinet report 30 July 2020: Review of urgent officer decisions taken to support COVID19 response that have been in place for longer than 8 weeks

Cabinet Member report 3 August 2020: Review of urgent decision of changes to delivery of Public Health delivered services

Cabinet Member report 21 August 2020: Review of urgent decision of changes to delivery of Public Health delivered services

Cabinet Member report 4 September 2020: Review of urgent decision of changes to delivery of Public Health delivered services

Fortnightly reports to the Director of Public Health: available on request from Public Health Department

8. Key Decision

Yes

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

10. Officer's Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member notes the position with respect to the current delivery of Public Health services as a result of COVID19, and approves continuation of existing service delivery models as outlined in this report, with any subsequent changes to be considered at future Cabinet Member meetings.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health