

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**16 December 2020****Report by Chief Executive****COVID-19 RECOVERY ACTIONS - UPDATE****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To provide Elected Members with a further update on response and recovery work taking place across the Council and the Trust.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Council:-
- (a) note the ongoing work on response and recovery; and
 - (b) note that additional support to the NHS may be required for mass testing and mass vaccinations in the early part of 2021.

BACKGROUND

3. As Members are aware, the Scottish Government created a route map for moving through and out of the COVID-19 crisis. The route map set out a 4 phase approach for recovery with each phase introducing a gradual relaxation of restrictions and increase in permitted activities. The last time the Council considered an update report the country was in Phase 3.

4. However on 2 November a new protection level system was introduced by the Scottish Government. There are 5 levels in the new system ranging from the level with least restrictions (level 0) to that with the most stringent restrictions (level 4). Information for all local authorities across the country was considered and each placed in one of the 5 levels, Initially East Renfrewshire was placed in level 3. However levels were reviewed in light of an increasing number of COVID-19 cases across the country and East Renfrewshire along with a number of other areas in the central belt was placed in level 4. At the time of writing East Renfrewshire remains in level 4.

REPORT

5. The purpose of this report is to provide a further update to Members on response and recovery work being carried out across the Council since the previous report including possible new requirements in light of recent news in relation to the rollout of a vaccination programme.

6. Departmental specific updates are again provided first followed by updates in respect of the cross-cutting CRMT Sub-Groups. Only those departments and sub-groups where there has been a change to the level of service provided as compared to the previous report are included below. This report should be read in the context of the previous update reports presented to the [Emergencies Committee in May](#) the [Council in June](#) and the [Council in October](#).

Health and Social Care Partnership

7. The Integration Joint Board has been receiving regular updates on the HSCP's recovery and response. The Integration Joint Board were presented with the HSCP's [Response to COVID 19](#) and its [COVID-19 Recovery Plan](#) at its meeting on 24 June and have considered subsequently recovery updates at its meetings on [12 August](#), [23 September](#) and [25 November](#). Additional response and recovery activity is given below.

Flu Immunisation Programme

8. Delivery of this year's seasonal Influenza Programme for people aged 65 has almost concluded. Over 15,000 residents have been vaccinated in the 4 local vaccination centres established by HSCP staff or in their own homes by our district nurses. Local GPs have vaccinated over 6,500 people in the '18 to 64 at risk'

9. Front line health and social care workers who have face-to-face contact with those who use our services have been actively encouraged to take up the offer of immunisation by our flu champions. To date over 500 staff have been immunised.

10. Flu Immunisation Clinics for residents aged 60 -64 will take place at Eastwood Health and Care Centre and Barrhead Health and Care Centre over the next two weekends, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th December. Residents are permitted to travel to their flu vaccination appointment while the area remains in level 4. Strict infection and prevention control measures will be in place.

11. To keep patients and staff safe, the HSCP are inviting East Renfrewshire residents aged 60-64 to attend a specific drop-in clinic based on their GP practice. This will help ensure social distancing measures are adhered to. Anyone unable to attend the clinic scheduled for their GP practice, or for those who live in East Renfrewshire but their GP practice is not listed, can attend any of our clinics in the afternoon between 1pm and 3pm or arrange an appointment at a participating community pharmacy. Further details are available on the Council Website.

Winter Plan

12. Each year Scottish Government issues updated guidance for Winter Planning with an expectation that Greater Glasgow and Clyde submits a whole system Winter Plan. This year the complexity of the Covid-19 pandemic adds a further level of uncertainty to winter. This year's winter plan reflects considerable cross system working on unscheduled care that has accelerated since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in the spring. Cross Greater Glasgow and Clyde arrangements established to respond to the immediate challenges of the lockdown have been used to identify opportunities for improvement in pathways and processes for urgent care.

13. In East Renfrewshire we are strengthening our out of hour's arrangements to support this work. Our local response will be a combination of the social care services that operate out of hours: care at home, telecare responder and Bonnyton House. We have on call management arrangements in place at operational level until 10pm each day and at senior management level on a 24/7 basis.

East Renfrewshire Healthier Minds Children and Young People Recovery Service

14. In response pandemic HSCP Children and Families and ERC Education Department have designed a multi-stakeholder Healthier Minds Recovery team aligned to school communities to identify and ensure delivery of mental wellbeing support to promote children and families' recovery. The approach has three key elements:

- Strategic mapping and support to maximise school community capacity to be trauma responsive
- Provision of direct services to children and families to build on strengths and improve social and emotional wellbeing
- Strengthening of our existing school counselling model

15. The multi-disciplinary team will be in place for 1 year and bridge the gap between current service provision and a new systemic model of individual and family support, which we intend to introduce in 2021. The team comprises a mixture of multi-agency professionals recruited, seconded or aligned to the recovery model. An operational grouping is jointly led by the Principal Educational Psychologist (education) and the Senior Manager for Children and Families and Strategy (social work). The team includes:

- East Renfrewshire Education Service
- Primary and Secondary Schools in East Renfrewshire
- East Renfrewshire HSCP
- CAMHS
- Children 1st
- RAMH

16. In order to promptly respond to the significant increase in emotional wellbeing concerns of children and young people the team has been established within a very short timescale and has begun operating as a key resource for families and schools. Systems are also in place to evaluate the overall impact for children and families, as well as schools and other agencies.

Support to Care Homes

17. As reported to Council in June, the HSCP have been holding daily assurance meetings in which the Chief Officer, supported by senior nursing, commissioning, and locality social work and testing administration, review the safety huddle information received from local care homes. Each Wednesday the daily group is joined by public health and care inspectorate colleagues. The safety huddle information is used to offer professional support and guidance to each care home where required. Each care home is categorised red, amber or green based on risk and this guides the level of HSCP response, which included supportive and assurance visits to care homes with a focus on clinical care, infection prevention and control and other issues.

18. Since June HSCP staff have worked with care homes to support them to undertake their own testing of their staff. The HSCP continues to administer regular surveillance testing and outbreak testing as requested by public health.

19. Care home liaison nursing and commissioning staff have regular Microsoft teams meetings with care home managers to support with changes to national guidance, and other local issues identified by both the HSCP and homes themselves. Commissioning colleagues are working with homes and public place to put in place risk and supporting the roll out of lateral flow testing for visiting

Education Department

20. All schools and nurseries across East Renfrewshire continue to operate to as near our normal level of provision as possible, with a variety of measures and mitigations in place to prioritise the safety of all pupils and staff across every establishments. Despite the fluctuations

in the impact of COVID across wider communities, the number of cases in schools remains comparatively low. This is testament to the significant efforts being made by all staff and pupils in keeping schools and nurseries as safe as possible.

21. From August 2020, schools have undertaken focussed assessment of learner progress using a variety of approaches in all curricular areas and specifically in literacy and numeracy in the BGE, these combined with processes to monitor, evaluate and track learners' achievement and attainment have helped to identify any learning loss. Schools have planned how to address any gaps in learning by selecting appropriate interventions and strategies based on evidence from robust analysis of data, effective self-evaluation and research.

22. Schools have aligned the additional teaching resource from the Scottish Government with their Pupil Equity Funding and East Renfrewshire lowest 20% resources; to support targeted learning and teaching and address any gaps in learning caused by school closures. Head Teachers have had autonomy to decide how they deploy the additional staff funded by Scottish Government a suite of CLPL opportunities have been provided in the areas of literacy and numeracy in order to share pedagogical approaches and interventions and support schools in effectively addressing possible learning loss. In addition Educational Psychology continue to support pupils and staff with their wellbeing, providing a range of learning opportunities, interventions and advice.

23. All pupils are assigned to a digital class group, for example on MS Teams, or Google Classroom (both through Glow). Schools successfully use these to provide learning for classes who may be having to isolate or to enable teachers who are isolating to still provide work for their class. Schools seek to ensure that they adopt digital approaches which are equitable and will suit learners and their families. Many schools are making good use of pre-recorded videos and follow up tasks and support learners through check in sessions with their teacher or feedback/comments using chat functions on platforms. Teaching staff and senior leaders are systematically tracking engagement and motivation, with senior leaders following up with parents/carers, any issues that are arising. Schools have continued to provide support by loaning devices to families who require them in order to enable children/young people to access remote learning opportunities.

24. Following the announcement in October 2020 regarding the cancellation of the National 5 examinations, the Education Department established a working group to provide a clear and consistent approach to assessment and moderation of National 5 across East Renfrewshire. This group will support teachers as they make assessment decisions and ensure that the progress and achievements of all of young people are rightly and fairly recognised.

25. Although the majority of our children have shown great resilience and strength when returning to school, the continued restrictions are beginning to have an impact on their day to day wellbeing, with a few children finding the lack of opportunity to socialise with friends, participate in hobbies out with school and meet up with family members difficult to manage. This has resulted in some pupils struggling to self-regulate and cope. School staff, along with Educational Psychologists continue to have a focus on Health and Wellbeing and provide support and structure as needed. This can be demanding on resource.

26. The Education Department is very aware of the challenges facing families during this time of uncertainty. In particular, the financial difficulties which are impacting on wellbeing, especially with the pressure of Christmas approaching. In response to this the department has organised its annual Christmas Gift Appeal. This year 692 children were identified as in need, this is an increase of 15% from last year. As an alternative to collecting gifts, we have asked for cash donations, with schools being given the cash to purchase personalised gifts. This appeal has raised £10,625.

27. In addition to the gift appeal the department has committed its Social Pledge monies to support the Health and Wellbeing of our youngest pupils. Children living in SIMD 1 & 2 attending our nurseries have been gifted a bike or scooter with appropriate safety equipment. Ninety-six children have received these gifts. To further support these families with their wellbeing and activity, 65 siblings have also been gifted a bike or scooter. In total 161 children will receive this gift with the encouragement to get outdoors and stay active and healthy.

Culture and Leisure Trust

28. In October the Trust ran a school holiday programme for October Week, and opened Neilston Leisure Centre, recommencing the swimming programmes at the three opened leisure centres.

29. Arts, drama classes and some indoor bookings were reinstated, prior to the revision of the guidance and a further tightening of restrictions under 'Level 4'.

30. Throughout lockdown and to the present an on-line offer has been maintained, and this is being added to – particularly in performing arts - as a response to the continued closure of the theatre through the winter.

People

31. Whilst planning was underway for the cessation of the Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) at the end of October, ERCL pivoted back towards furlough with the extension of that scheme late in that month, and a number of staff have now been furloughed once more, or else have been so for the first time.

32. Recognising many of the challenges facing staff over the last 9 months, Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health First Aid training has begun across the organisation. As part of our Mental Health programme, virtual coffee-mornings / get-togethers have begun for all staff.

Libraries and Information Services

33. For the period 14th September 2020 – 11th November 2020 **4,438** physical visits have been recorded across the 7 operating libraries. In the period July 15th 2020 – 11th November 2020 which covers the launch of Click & Collect and the transition to limited access the following book issues have been recorded.

	Issues only	Issue plus auto-renewals
Adult	8,043	35,791
Children & Young People	3,809	19,912

34. eBook, eAudio and Digital Magazine services have been running throughout the lockdown period.

Gyms and Fitness

35. Level 4 restrictions meant the closure of gyms and the withdrawal of indoor group fitness classes from Friday 9th October. (We were delivering 40 indoor classes per week in Barrhead Foundry and Eastwood Park Leisure at this point out of a usual provision of about 100 classes per week spread across various locations with 9 outdoor classes also being

delivered.) We expanded our outdoor fitness class provision to try and compensate for the withdrawal of indoor classes, delivering 28 outdoor classes per week spread across three locations, Eastwood Park Leisure, Carlibar Park and Eastwood High Sports Centre.

36. Prior to the second enforced closure in October we had 4,500 gym attendances, by 557 individuals. 30% of whom came 10 times or more.

Active Schools

37. Our Active Schools Coordinators have operated throughout the pandemic, delivering holiday programmes in Easter, Summer and October Week; supporting school hubs by providing outdoor sport and physical activity opportunities; and are currently supporting our primary schools in the delivery of outdoor sports activities making sure that children have regular opportunities to participate and supporting teacher training through producing online resources.

Community Facilities

38. Nine Community Facilities were reopened (Dunterlie Resource Centre has been open throughout the period as the site of the Humanitarian Food Hub), prioritising Care Commission Registered bookings (after school clubs et al) in support of the Education Recovery, and commercial bookings (those clients whose livelihoods depend on access to ERCL-operated facilities, such as, for example, commercial dance schools). The sites opened were Albertslund, Carmichael Hall, Dunterlie Resource Centre, Eastwood House, Glen Hall, Muirend, and Netherlee.

Finance

39. At the beginning of lockdown ERCL anticipated losses of £2.5M as a result of the enforced suspension of activities due to Covid-19 in 2020/21. By balancing maximising access to available financial support (including the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme), and careful cost management, with the measured recovery of services, the projected loss to Year End has been halved.

Corporate and Community Services Department

HR

40. Since the last report the number of employees absent as a result of COVID-19 including all those employees reporting sick, those isolating, and unable to work from home increased to a peak of 94 employees and since then has again started to improve and as at 2 December there are 60 employees affected in this way. All employees continue to be supported and we continue to keep up-to-date with government and Public Health Scotland updates to ensure that the manager and employee guidance reflects the national position and that we communicate these changes to our employees. Regular meetings continue to be held with the Trade Unions to ensure that any concerns raised are discussed and reviewed in a timely manner. Job specific risk assessments are in place for all roles and these continue to be reviewed on a regular basis. The council continues to encourage staff to work from home where possible, with the appropriate equipment and health and safety guidance provided to support employees in doing so. For those staff coming into buildings the numbers are tightly controlled to ensure all social distancing measures are maintained.

Environment Department

41. The Environment Department at the start of the pandemic focused on response services and then started over the late summer/ autumn to focus on recovery and renewal. However, the recent issues around coronavirus has seen increasing re-emerging pressures in relation to response and recovery.

42. As is the case with other departments the Environment Department is certainly not now in any way "back to normal". Urgent Covid related issues are now taking up considerable amounts of staff time.

43. This has meant that many areas of planned strategy and policy development (e.g. climate change, economic development and community wealth building strategies, tourism strategy) have had to be delayed.

Prevention Services (Environmental Health and Trading Standards)

Present Situation

44. Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers continue to be at the forefront of interpreting and enforcing the Coronavirus Regulations along with many other issues in relation to Coronavirus. The service is under considerable pressure in that respect particularly given the recent move to level 4.

45. Officers remain committed to the 4 E approach for any non-compliance identified which is engage, explain, encourage, enforce. In addition, liaison continues with the national Environmental Health / Trading Standards Covid-19 Expert Group for consistency in approach where there is ambiguity around the interpretation of the restrictions.

46. Resources remain focused on Covid-19 and "normal" activities remain a lower priority but are addressed if and when resources become available.

Forward Planning

47. Given the fast-moving situation priorities in relation to Covid-19 continue to change and / or escalate on an almost weekly basis creating difficulty in short term planning. The service may have to assist with the coordination of logistical support (transport, buildings, traffic management etc.) in relation to mass vaccination proposals.

Neighbourhood Services (Cleansing, Parks, Street Cleaning, Transport and Cemeteries)

Present Situation

48. Since the last update to the Council on 28 October 2020 Neighbourhood Services has continued to make steady progress in relation to recovery with the Special Uplift service being fully restored on 18 November 2020.

49. Ongoing and further restrictions within East Renfrewshire Council area continue to have a negative impact on service income levels from both the Sports Pitch Letting Service and Trade Waste Collections. This will be a continuing trend with an inevitable impact on budgets at year end.

Forward Planning

50. Preparations have been made to ensure the main cleansing service continues to operate through the festive period. There will be a temporary cessation of food/garden waste

collections and a pause on special uplifts for two weeks to facilitate this. This will ensure the service has the resource required to continue to operate with the ongoing challenges highlighted in the previous report to Council of 28 October 2020.

Economic Development

Present Situation

51. Much day to day recovery work has been paused as large numbers of existing staff are focused upon the processing of a variety of Scottish Government grants to local businesses (this has also required assistance from other departments in processing payments). These new grants include the various Strategic Framework Business Fund Furlough Support Grants. Requiring around 16 staff for half a week for up to six weeks located within Economic Development this has posed a significant staffing resource issue for the team. Strategic work that had been planned such as developing the tourism strategy and employability strategy have been delayed due to staff resource shortages.

52. All referrals to the Work EastRen team are being allocated and routine assessments are taking place. There has been a significant increase in the levels of referrals to the team, primarily from Department of Work and Pensions. During this time there has been increased demand from groups the team don't normally see e.g. job-ready, skilled unemployed residents. Business growth, Town Centre, Place and Community Benefits work continues to be delivered remotely.

Forward Planning

53. The vast majority of economic development service provision can be delivered from home. The Work EastRen team are now able to gain access to their office in Lowndes Street, Barrhead, where they will be able to meet more vulnerable clients. It is expected that there will be an increase in demand from local residents for the employability team services once the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends.

Housing

Present Situation

54. The move into level 4 has resulted in a decrease in the number of planned and response repairs that can be undertaken. This is due to Scottish Government guidance restricting the circumstances in which tradespeople may enter tenant's home.

55. Homeless services and the allocations of housing continues as do essential repairs. However, there remains a backlog of homeless households awaiting a permanent offer of accommodation and in temporary accommodation. Properties remain prioritised for homeless households to address this backlog.

56. Rent arrears has continued to rise during 2020/21. The number of council tenants in receipt of Universal Credit has doubled during the pandemic. Officers continue to provide support and assistance. Under current restrictions this remains predominately by telephone.

Forward Planning

57. Business Continuity plans are in place to help address the current and future level 4 restrictions. Resources remain prioritised for essential services to address any backlog or service gap created as a result of level 4 restrictions

Property and Technical Services/Corporate Health and Safety Unit

Present Situation

58. The newly issued guidance around ventilation in schools has taken up the vast majority of Property Services staffing resources in the last month. Each school requires to be inspected in detail and any necessary adaptations undertaken. In addition the move to level 4 has seen work associated with the closure of some buildings and preparations being undertaken in relation to guarding against water borne diseases once buildings re-open

59. Corporate Health and Safety Unit Officers have been heavily involved with the pandemic response since March and continue to spend the vast majority of their time on significant new additional COVID related issues as other council services endeavour to recover. They receive continued requests for advice on guidance changes and how these reflect on the services, with risk assessment reviews of service tasks and buildings being undertaken on an ongoing basis to reflect such change. All activities have been reviewed and legislative compliance tasks prioritised. The fire risk assessment programme has now commenced, with Education new builds a priority to ensure they can open. There are increasing demands on the officer's time from services for CHSU staff are able to undertake "normal" activities in terms of supporting services. Given the urgent situation regarding COVID those issues are unable to take priority and are addressed as and when resources are available.

Forward planning

60. Property Services will complete the inspections of the properties and undertake any minor works identified to comply with the Government guidance. Technical services will undertake the implementation of any advanced works identified in the inspections. Progress of the works will be dependent on the availability of contractors, materials and access to the buildings to complete the works.

61. Constantly changing Scottish Government advice means that Corporate Health and Safety Unit priorities in relation to COVID continue to change on a frequent basis which makes forward planning a challenge. However, any resource available will be focused on the priority areas of the service plan which are fire legislation compliance with council owned, leased and Housing property, with the management of hand arm vibration and the roll out of the new health and safety management system.

Planning and Building Standards

Present Situation

62. Building Standards Service provision has been maintained by staff working digitally from home. There is a slight delay in processing larger applications and a small backlog in inspections, mostly completions, but this is being managed with the use of video calls.

63. Development Management is also being maintained by working digitally from home, however the team is dealing with an increasing backlog of planning applications, and enforcement cases. As a result of the increasing backlog of planning applications, enforcement cases and increased email enquiries, officers are carrying substantial workloads which are resulting in the processing and determination of planning applications being delayed.

64. Strategic Planning service has been maintained by working digitally from home. However, there have been some delays with the completion of key monitoring tasks due to Covid 19. LDP2 is in Examination in Public and the team are heavily involved in responding to requests from the DPEA Reporters Unit.

Forward Planning

65. Service provision can be delivered from home. However, a reinstatement of some of the Covid 19 restrictions could result in a stop to site visits which would create further backlogs of planning application and building warrants being processed. In addition, in order to reduce officer workloads to a more manageable level in improve processing time, agency staff including admin staff and qualified planners are required. As a consequence, there is likely to be budget challenges.

City Deal

Present Situation

66. Service provision has been by working digitally from home. However, the projects have been impacted adversely due to the restrictions arising from coronavirus.

67. The lockdown resulted in the Balgraystone Roads construction site being locked down on 23/3/20 until July. When the site was re-opened the contractors had to follow the new Scottish Government guidelines and develop new ways of working. These works are now complete and the road is open.

68. The proposed Barrhead South Train Station and Aurs Road projects continue to be significantly delayed because they require extensive engagement with Transport Scotland and Scottish Water who understandably have similar difficulties to the Council due to coronavirus and having to prioritise emergency work.

Forward Planning

69. Staff will continue to work from home. However, the risks to the Council with regard to City Deal Projects lies in relation to essential consultation with and consents from statutory agencies such as Transport Scotland and Scottish Water if they have to provide a restricted service due to COVID-19. This could result in a serious risk to the programme and lead to increased costs and delays.

Roads & Transportation

Present Situation

70. There has been little change in relation to this service since the report to the Council on 28 October 2020.

71. There continues to be a reduction in output by the Roads Contracting Unit due to challenging new ways of working to comply with COVID Risk Assessments (staggered breaks, cleansing of vehicles/plant/equipment, social distancing,).

Forward Planning

72. With regard to the Winter Maintenance Service this continues to be a challenge as reported to the Council in October 2020. This is considered a priority service by the Department. Should there be COVID related issues (such as an outbreak among staff or new regulations/guidelines) there is a risk that there will be insufficient drivers available to cover all of the 11 Priority routes. Other road maintenance work activities (pothole repairs, gully emptying etc) may have to be curtailed at short notice to help prioritise and support the Winter Maintenance Service. In a worst case scenario it may be necessary to revert to treating the 4 Primary routes only.

CRMT Sub-Groups

Humanitarian Support & Assistance

73. The Humanitarian Support workstream continues to function, overseeing the Council's proactive outbound calling to those asked to isolate by Public Health Scotland; administering the Self-Isolation Support Grants via the Scottish Welfare Fund team; answering queries from East Renfrewshire residents to the National Helpline; and keeping an overview of the requirements of those on the shielding list. There is close liaison with Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire, who continue to provide excellent support to local residents through their Community Hub.

74. We are putting in place arrangements to deal with emergency support needs which may arise over the Christmas/New Year break, when normal provision (e.g. the Community Hub or foodbanks) may not be available. The CCTV Control Room and Community Wardens are on standby to assist where required including answering incoming calls to the National Helpline on the public holidays and managing the ongoing self-isolation support requirements which are to continue through the festive period.

75. The Humanitarian workstream also has oversight of some of East Renfrewshire's allocations from various national funding streams, aimed at supporting those in financial hardship or experiencing other support needs as a result of COVID-19. There is close working with the CRMT and key services including the Money Advice and Rights Team, CAB, Education, Housing and Social Work to identify needs. There are also wider engagement links with groups including the local Food Poverty Network; Social Security group; Home Energy Scotland and VAER's Keep Calm and Co-ordinate programme, which is working closely with the HSCP on a wellbeing framework, including work on isolation and loneliness.

76. Most recently, the Humanitarian Support group led on the payment of an additional school clothing grant allocation to enable eligible local families to purchase suitable clothing to help their children to participate in the significant proportion of outdoor learning that is now taking place in all weathers. This £25 grant will be paid to around 2200 East Renfrewshire residents before Christmas. Social Work have also made similar arrangements, using this funding, for some of their clients. This is in addition to the £100 winter payment that the Scottish Government announced for recipients of Free School Meals, which will also be processed before Christmas. In addition to the business support grants, this is a significant additional workload for the Accounts Payable (Creditors) team at a time when they also have pressures of end-year invoice payments.

77. We have also reviewed the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) criteria to ensure that the fund is being used to its full extent over the next few months and criteria is also being drawn up for a Hardship Fund to support those who are currently experiencing severe financial challenges as a result of an income reduction as part of COVID-19. Often people in this cohort still have some income and are not in immediate crisis so unable to satisfy the entitlement for other schemes. The MART team will oversee this low-value discretionary fund, which is similar to those that Barrhead Housing Association and CAB have operated in the past.

Mass Testing Unit / Mass Vaccination Programme

78. CRMT are currently planning for the potential roll out of a mass testing facility in the new year should local cases per 100,000 of the population remain consistently high. Neighbouring Councils are currently piloting this approach and if successful could be adopted on a community basis, predicated on greatest need. There is a significant role for Councils in the planning and operation of a mass testing centre.

79. CRMT in conjunction with HSCP/NHS require to plan for a roll out of the mass vaccination programme once vaccine supplies have been confirmed and distributed. Prior to Christmas, the highest priority groups will receive vaccinations using primarily NHS resources to deliver the vaccination programme. However as more doses of the vaccine become available, Councils will be asked to support the roll out of mass vaccinations. This will be one of the largest logistical operations carried out in this country and the support of all parts of the public sector will be required. In East Renfrewshire the strategic lead will be from the HSCP who will be working as part of the NHSGGC team. A council wide project team is likely to be required in support.

80. Both of these programmes will be labour and resource intensive and will require considerable planning and logistical skills, and potential re-prioritisation of service provision.

CONCLUSIONS

81. The report demonstrates the continuing and new activities of the Council and the Trust since the previous report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

82. That the Council:-

- (a) note the ongoing work on response and recovery; and
- (b) note that additional support to the NHS may be required for mass testing and mass vaccinations in the early part of 2021.

Report author
Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager
577 3023
eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk