

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 26 JANUARY 2021****REPORT OF: MR TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****LEAD OFFICER: MICHAEL COUGHLIN, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: COVID-19: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL - UPDATE****ORGANISATION STRATEGY
PRIORITY AREA: GROWING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY SO EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT/
TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITY/EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council continues to have a vitally important role in leading the ongoing local response to Covid-19, to save lives, protect the NHS, ensure our residents are protected wherever possible and that crucial council services continue to operate in these unprecedented times.

The pandemic has unquestionably impacted significantly on communities across Surrey and continues to do so. Responding to this effectively and helping communities to recover is critical to achieving our vision of a county where no-one is left behind. We are working to harness the community spirit that has emerged during the pandemic and develop different ways to empower communities to support one another during these challenging times.

With the new national lockdown beginning on 4 January 2021, the purpose of this report is to set out the latest Public Health information about Covid-19, update Cabinet on the strategic and sensitive issues arising from the extensive response and recovery work going on across Surrey, and request Cabinet approval for delegated decision-making in regards to Covid-19 funding streams.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet agree:

1. To delegate decision-making for the use of the latest £3.3m of Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) received and all future COMF monies to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health and Surrey's Local Resilience Forum (SLRF).
2. To delegate decision-making on the distribution of the grant to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) during the current lockdown, and future tranches of this grant, to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health.

It is recommended that Cabinet note and endorse:

3. The challenges to the provision of normal council services presented by the new variant and more transmissible Covid-19 virus,

4. The principle of needing to de-prioritise certain services/projects to enable more capacity to be deployed into critical services,
5. The lobbying for the prioritisation of key workers, including teachers, to have access to the vaccination programme as soon as possible,
6. The latest public health situation, nationally and in Surrey, actions being delivered through Surrey's Local Outbreak Control Plan, and the ongoing support to vulnerable residents, including through the council's Community Helpline and the Covid Winter Support Grant scheme,
7. The latest impacts on Adult Social Care and Children's, Families, Lifelong learning services,
8. The ongoing preparation for the local elections in May 2020 and associated risks,
9. The work in train to better understand and respond to the impacts on communities of Covid-19, and looking ahead, the work being planned and undertaken to harness the community spirit evident across the county.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The county and council continue to face unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 crisis. We are simultaneously managing response activity and work with our partners to enable recovery within the county, looking ahead to a return to day-to-day life for communities following the end of national lockdown.

The recommendations set out in this report ensure Cabinet are appraised of the most recent work going on across the council to protect, sustain and support residents and communities and the economy of Surrey.

DETAILS:

Public Health Update

National Lockdown

1. On 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a third national lockdown. This came into force with immediate effect, instructing people to stay at home. The lockdown will be reviewed on 15 February and follows a surge in Covid-19 cases across the country. Full 'Stay at Home' guidance is available [here](#).

Covid-19 Surveillance

2. Public Health continue to hold daily data surveillance meetings to ensure prompt action is taken in line with the [Surrey Local Outbreak Control Plan](#). [The Surrey Covid-19 Intelligence Summary](#) and [daily infographic](#) provide a regular update on Covid-19 Alert Levels. As at 11 January Surrey's rate per 100,000 is higher than the rate in England and the South East region.

Test and Trace Programme

3. Full details on COVID testing in Surrey is [available here](#). A range of testing for symptomatic individuals continues to be accessible including regional drive-through test sites in Guildford, Chessington, Gatwick, Heathrow and Twickenham and local test sites in areas of greater population density offering cycle/walk-in testing.

4. Lateral flow devices (LFDs) can turnaround results within an hour at the location of the test. Public Health is working with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), including Military support for planning, and across the Surrey system to put in place test sites which are likely to operate for around 6 weeks. The aim is to identify asymptomatic people who are COVID positive with the priority to target essential workers in areas of highest infection rates.
5. Testing of residents and staff in older people services is now happening and the availability of tests has considerably improved. In registered care homes the government has increased the frequency of testing using LFDs and this is now being progressed across Surrey. Testing of staff in home-based care is being rolled out.
6. Surrey's Local Outbreak Control Plan is continuously updated in line with national guidance. The following key actions aligned to the plan have recently taken place:
 - **Local Contact Tracing** – The combined national and local contact tracing of cases across Surrey each day is around 82%, with the local service successfully contacting 63% of 1132 cases (as of 10 January 2021) transferred from the national team for Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Runnymede and Spelthorne areas. Due to the current pressures on the service, a phased roll-out to the rest of Surrey will take place over the coming weeks. In the meantime, contact tracing for those areas will continue to be carried out by NHS Test & Trace.
 - **Targeted Community Testing (Point of Care)** - Planning is progressing across a number of aspects: identifying target areas/population groups, identifying potential buildings for test sites, a workforce strategy to operate the sites, resources and planning required for our application to the DHSC for additional support/funding and engaging with other authorities to support this work.
 - **Care Homes** - Letters have been sent to care providers encouraging support for hospital discharge arrangements.
 - **Schools** - Planning is underway for asymptomatic testing in schools. Further guidance is expected from the Department for Education (DfE) and the DHSC.
 - **Universities** - All Surrey's university settings offer LFD testing to their students for the staggered return of priority student cohorts to campus in 2021.
 - **COVID Champions** – schemes have been, or are in the process of launching in Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell and Reigate and Banstead These bring together groups of volunteers, including residents, councillors and community leaders, to communicate clear and consistent messaging. Public Health are in discussion with the other Boroughs and Districts about launching schemes there.

Vaccination Roll-out

7. The vaccination programme is currently being managed nationally. By 15 February the Government aim to have offered a first vaccine dose to everyone in the top four priority groups identified by [The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#): all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers; all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers; all those 75 years of age and over and all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.

8. Integrated work between health and the council to support the rollout of the vaccine to frontline social care staff across the system in Surrey has now started. Vaccines will be offered in a range of community settings including hospitals, the large vaccine centre in Epsom Race Course and GP led Vaccination Centres. Several sites are already providing vaccinations and more will be coming on stream to ensure full coverage across the county, where possible providing the service 12 hours per day, 7 days per week.
9. Eligible patients will be contacted with information on when and where to attend to receive their vaccination. Data on the uptake of vaccinations can be found in the [twice weekly COVID surveillance report](#). Further details on the national strategy and the local update for Surrey can be found in Annex 1.

The Council's Covid-19 Ops Group

10. The Ops Group continues to lead on the council's tactical response to Covid-19. Following the announcement of the latest national lockdown it has been monitoring any changes to service provision which may have an impact on communities. The group are leading on the management of business continuity of key services with the rise in cases increasingly affecting both council staff and contractor workforces.
11. CLT and Cabinet have agreed to focus on providing support to critical services and to the priorities of protecting the NHS and supporting the mass vaccination and community testing programmes. An exercise is being carried out to reprioritise services within the council to release capacity to support critical services and the SLRF response. The Ops Group are analysing which services could slow, reduce or pause some areas of work to provide additional capacity to be redeployed elsewhere, including the impact of these decisions.

Communications Response

12. **The Multi-Agency Information Group (MIG)** works with partners to set the overall strategic direction of communication across the county relating to Major Incidents, in this case Covid-19. The MIG continues to deliver a comprehensive communication approach that supports the work of the SLRF and the Strategic Coordination Group in its handling and management of the pandemic and other threats.
13. The primary objectives of the MIG are to:
 - Ensure that Surrey's communities and stakeholders are effectively *warned and informed* about the nature of the incident, the response and actions they should take,
 - Maintain public confidence in the ability of the SLRF and Surrey partners to manage a coordinated response,
 - Deliver proactive and reactive communications that are timely, consistent and relevant,
 - Achieve coordination amongst partners and other agencies to ensure consistency of messaging and an integrated communication approach,
 - Lessen the impact on the vulnerable and hard to reach groups through the early identification of risks and implementation of effective and robust comms plans,

- Address inaccuracies and public concerns by working to quickly counter misinformation.
14. The MIG supports all areas of the ongoing Covid-19 response, including providing communications support to the areas outlined in this report and continues to respond to the latest national behavioural insights to drive a number of coordinated campaigns, which both maximises awareness of health messaging and promotes compliance with national government guidelines.
 15. It is planned to set up a central communications vaccination sub-group, to coordinate all external and internal engagement to ensure consistency of messaging that builds trust and public confidence in the vaccination rollout.

Impact on Adult Social Care services

Hospital Discharge

16. Teams continue to support the flow out of Surrey hospitals which has become more challenging with the higher level of Covid-19 cases. The Adults Leadership Team is actively working to support the system in a rapidly changing and demanding environment. In line with previous Covid-19 updates to Cabinet, catching up with Scheme 1 assessments to transfer these people to correct funding streams, whilst also completing Scheme 2 within six weeks, continues to prove challenging.¹

Designated Settings

17. As previously reported to Cabinet, the DHSC has set out requirements for designated care settings for people discharged from hospital who have a Covid-19 positive status. Despite engaging extensively with the residential and nursing care market, and in common with many other authorities in England, we have been unable to secure suitable provision. We have agreed an approach with Heartlands Integrated Care System and Frimley to manage acute flow and discharges through use of Community Hospital beds. We continue to explore all options with the market to source an adequate supply of beds considering the difficulties in scaling up the number of beds available at NHS Seacole Centre.
18. Alongside this the focus continues to be to support discharges back to the community and people's homes with the right care and support. To support this approach and focus on community discharges we have put in place additional community capacity.

Infection Control Fund (ICF)

19. The second round of the ICF covers 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021. Surrey is due to receive £15.8m of funding; 62% is ringfenced for care homes, 18% for home care, supported living and extra care providers. The remaining 20% is discretionary. The first set of payments have been made with the intention to make final payments to all providers who have complied with the grant conditions at the start of February.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

20. In line with previous updates, the SLRF PPE Cell remains in place to support care providers should the national portal fail or not meet all needs. Up to 50 providers are

¹ Scheme 1 people were discharged without an NHS or social care assessment between 19 March and 31 August as per the emergency guidance funded via the NHS. From 1 September (referred to as scheme 2) new or extended health and care support is funded by the NHS for a period of up to six weeks.

still using the SLRF each week, citing issues with the national portal such as unavailability of items or insufficient maximum amounts. Providers have been charged for these non-emergency orders since 2 November.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

21. Adult Social Care staff notified as being CEV are being encouraged to self-identify to their manager to enable risk assessment and agreement of mitigating actions.

Impact on Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Children's Social Care

22. In line with the [national guidance for children's social care services](#), we are not making any blanket changes to our social work practice and will continue to visit children and families face-to-face wherever possible. Virtual visits will be by exception and any significant changes to frontline practice will require approval from the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning.
23. Across frontline children's services, working arrangements largely remain the same with both frontline and support staff being asked to work in offices and the community to enable services to function effectively. As of December 2020, 82% of Looked After Children, 73% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan and 67% of children subject of a Child in Need Plan have been visited (face to face) within timescales.
24. There are currently over 1000 open assessments in social care teams. This number has incrementally increased from April to October, although we have seen a reduction in the last 2 months. The number of children subject of a Child Protection plan has increased to 802; a 28% increase compared to this time last year.

Education

25. In line with the national lockdown, all children who can remain at home should do so to reduce the transmission. Mainstream primary and secondary schools and further education colleges are currently only open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Schools and colleges are working to deliver both in-classroom learning and remote learning. Over 3,000 laptops were delivered by the council to enable access to learning from home and we are supporting the roll out of more laptops and broadband to households still in need.
26. Early years settings, such as nurseries and childminders remain open to provide childcare for young children of all parents. Surrey's special schools, attended by children with an education, health and care plan, also remain open. We recognise the important contribution all settings have made to the Covid-19 response throughout the pandemic and the difference made to the children and families in Surrey.
27. We have put a robust case to government for the prioritisation of teachers and early years staff for the Covid-19 vaccination, given their vital role in educating children. We are also pressing government to ensure that early years providers are protected financially through this challenging period.
28. We continue to deliver our statutory education requirements, such as ensuring that all children at key stage transfers have a school place in September 2021 and that children with additional educational needs continue to receive therapies.

Supporting Families

29. Many families have been significantly negatively impacted by Covid-19 and family vulnerability across our communities is increasing. The community response to families in need has been heartening. District & Borough Lead Members and Officers for Children's Services recently shared examples of support to families, including vouchers and hot meals, food stores supported by grants and donations, Christmas gifts, measures to tackle digital exclusion, data packages for young people. Work has also been undertaken with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and businesses to support young people into employment.
30. Throughout this pandemic, we have worked hard to ensure that young people across Surrey are properly fed and cared for. The finance update elsewhere in this report highlights how the Covid Winter Grant funding was used during the Christmas holidays. We intend to do the same over the February half term and Easter holidays.
31. All schools, nurseries and colleges must continue supporting children eligible for Free School Meals who are now at home during term time. Schools will be reimbursed up to £15 per week either for vouchers or food parcels to enable all schools to secure high quality food provision and ensure no child in Surrey goes hungry.
32. We support the flexibility for schools to choose to use either a local or a national supermarket voucher scheme, rather than provide a food parcel, where that is best for the family and child. For many families, a £15 weekly food voucher provides them with greater choice and value than a food parcel and empowers them to feed their children well. For schools that chose to provide food parcels, the quality and quantity of that offer must meet children's nutritional needs, equivalent to a school lunch. Schools have been provided with extra government support to distribute food parcels. Catering suppliers should also support parents with things like recipe advice and meal planning, as many are. We will continue to support schools and parents wherever possible to ensure our young people are adequately fed and cared for during this already difficult time.

Covid-19 Finance update

Overall impact on budget

33. The impact of Covid-19 on the 2020/21 budget is reported monthly in the Financial Update reports to Cabinet. At Month 6, Cabinet approved a budget reset to distribute Covid-19 emergency funding to meet Directorate pressures and the costs of the SLRF Cells. A total of £52.5m has been allocated; with £9.9m currently held in reserve. Against the £52.5m budget, at Month 8 a £0.5m deficit is forecast. The forecast will continue to be reviewed throughout the remainder of the year and further budget resets may be necessary. The 2020/21 Month 8 (November) Financial Report (to this Cabinet meeting) sets out further detail.
34. The 2021/22 Budget and MTFs to 2025/26 paper (also reported to this Cabinet meeting) sets out the Cabinet budget proposals for 2021/22. The proposals include £15.1m Directorate Covid-19 pressures with £4.9m held in reserve. These amounts are funded by means of a £20m Covid-19 Government grant; announced as part of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 17 December. Further Government financial support is included in the budget to partially mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on 2021/22 council tax and business rates funding.

Specific grants

35. The Government announced the **COVID Winter Grant Scheme** in November 2020. Up to £2.1m has been awarded to Surrey County Council and the grant has to be focused primarily on families with children and on the provision of food and help with utilities during the winter to ensure vulnerable households do not go hungry or without essential items. We have delivered a package of support targeting specific vulnerable categories of residents. The first tranche of funding (£1.1m) was received in early December and helped to provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals and support to care leavers over the Christmas period, as well as a contribution to the Surrey Crisis Fund to support the most vulnerable and support for utility costs at the Winter Cabins set up in Elmbridge and Reigate to provide temporary accommodation and support for the homeless. A significant proportion has been spent with the remainder planned to be distributed by the end of January.
36. The **Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)** is a DHSC ringfenced fund set up to support local authorities with their public health duties to tackle Covid-19. In two tier areas, funding is being paid to upper tier authorities with a proportion of funding then distributed to lower tier authorities. The council's Public Health service is managing the administration and deployment of Surrey's COMF funding. We received £9.6m of funding for the period of the second national lockdown from 5 November – 1 December 2020. £3.6m (£3 per head of population) of this funding was paid to District and Boroughs, with the remaining £6m (£5 per head of population) retained by SCC for coordinated responses to the pandemic that need to be delivered at scale, as agreed via a delegated decision paper.
37. We were notified on 6 January that a further £3.3m of funding will be paid to Surrey for the period 2 – 29 December 2020. We expect further funding to be paid from 30 December up to the end of the financial year (31 March 2021), and potentially beyond. Details of funding allocations from 30 December 2020 have not yet been published, however, based on the previously indicated funding formula we would expect funding to be paid at £8 per head of population for the current period of national lockdown, and then on a sliding scale depending on infection rates, assuming that the government reintroduces a Covid-19 tier system.
38. We are working collaboratively with District & Boroughs and other partners through the SLRF to determine how to deploy the funding most effectively. Decisions need to be made agilely in response to the rapidly changing status and impacts of the pandemic. As such, Cabinet is asked to delegate decision making for the use of the latest £3.3m of COMF and all future COMF monies to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health and the SLRF.
39. Additional funding has also been announced for January to provide **support to the CEV** during the current lockdown. The first tranche was based on a fixed amount per CEV person and we are awaiting further details. In line with the above recommendation, Cabinet is asked to delegate the decision on the distribution of this CEV grant and future tranches to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health.

Recovery activity

40. The SLRF Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG) continues to meet monthly, to plan and monitor recovery activity, with the January meeting considering the impacts of the latest national lockdown, the forecasts for the mass vaccination programme and the likely timescales for the resumption of services and activities as vaccination of the most vulnerable begin to take effect. The relationship between 'Response' and 'Recovery' remains ongoing, fluid and complex. Arising from the findings of the

[Community Impact Assessment](#) (CIA) and Local Recovery Index, the RCG has more recently focused on the impacts and recovery work in two key areas:

Mental Health Recovery

41. Due to the increased incidence of mental health challenges, particularly amongst those aged 16-34, preventative interventions have been put in place. We have looked to empower communities by signposting them to support and guidance that they can use to support themselves and people around them. These have included: improved access to technology for the digitally excluded, access to resources and support via the Healthy Surrey Wellbeing Hub and working with DWP on supporting employment coaches and provision of Mental Health First Aid for volunteers.
42. The outstanding contribution of the voluntary, community and faith sector in providing support has been critical, and we continue to work in partnership with organisations in support of both adults and children with mental health issues. Since March 2020, in response to the need for an increased use of emergency powers under the Mental Health Act, schemes such as 'Home First, Home Fast', wraparound care provided by the third sector and 24/7 crisis support have been enhanced.
43. A number of measures are being progressed to address a 22% increase in demand for support for children with mental health issues. These include a 24/7 crisis line, children's safe havens, Hope House (to keep children out of hospital), an integrated role in the Emergency Duty Team and increasing support available to schools.

Income Poverty and Worklessness

44. Covid-19 and associated control measures have had a significant impact for many residents on their employment and earnings. The number of children receiving free school meals has increased as has the number of families accessing foodbanks. Information collected between March and September 2020 highlighted that many children are having to make do with smaller portions, having to skip a meal or go a day without eating. Funding from the [Winter Grant](#) was, and will be, used to help ensure families can access food during school holidays.
45. Universal Credit (UC) applications have increased from 17,000 in September 2019 to 60,000 in September 2020, with the largest increase for those aged 16-24. Some parts of the county have seen some of the highest increases in the country. Partnership work and data sharing has been established with DWP, Citizens Advice and Surrey Welfare Rights Unit to monitor the prevalence of income poverty, debt issues and worklessness. Initial discussions have taken place with DWP on procurement and training initiatives to create employment opportunities for those in receipt of UC.
46. The RCG are also working to document the beneficial changes in communities to service delivery and partnership working which have arisen as a result of the pandemic, to help form the longer term restore and restart work.

Local Elections

47. At the time of publication, there had been no change announced by government regarding the 6 May 2020 local elections. Preparation continues in conjunction with Districts and Boroughs, recognising that the prevalence of Covid-19 now and the forecast for the next few months presents serious challenges and risks that are likely to impact on the democratic process. This includes the costs, logistics and management of the elections (voting and the counts) in these extraordinary

circumstances. The timeframe for the roll-out of vaccinations and when beneficial effects are expected to be felt fall close to the election timetable. Ensuring residents' safety and reassurance in the conduct of the elections will be critical to ensure that people do not feel discouraged and/or disenfranchised.

Impact on Communities and Support to Vulnerable Residents

48. Covid-19 is having an ongoing and profound impact on communities in Surrey. As reported to Cabinet on 24 November, the CIA has helped us better understand the health, social and economic impacts of Covid-19, as well as communities' priorities for recovery. Despite the significant challenges everyone has faced, the pandemic has shown how much we can achieve working together with our communities and partners. In urban and suburban areas, we have seen a greater feeling of neighbourliness between local people, with hyper-local networks forming. There have also been many positive messages about local services during the pandemic.
49. As we start the year in another period of lockdown, it is helpful to remember the impact of our work alongside partner organisations, including District and Borough Councils, and over 250 voluntary, community and faith groups to support residents and communities during the pandemic so far. This includes delivering over 2,500 boxes of emergency food and coordinating over 10,000 registered volunteers to deliver support in the community. Across the partnership we have also distributed £100,000 to 47 projects from Sport England's Tackling Inequalities fund, over £600,000 to voluntary and community organisations and over £207 million to businesses.
50. The Community Helpline continues to provide help and support to vulnerable residents, linking them up with local support for essential services including food provision, prescription collection and befriending. This is complemented by an online offer and information available on the council's website. As at 10 January 2021 the Helpline has dealt with 12,190 calls from residents needing help since being launched. Volumes remain steady with a recent average of 60 calls per day, although have increased slightly following the new national lockdown being announced.
51. Support continues to be offered to over 40,700 CEV residents. District & Borough colleagues are contacting CEV residents in their area who register for support on the National Shielding Service System (NSSS). Following the reintroduction of formal shielding measures, an outbound text message operation to CEV residents has been re-initiated to let them know how to access support. Text messages continue to be sent to anyone living in the county and newly added to the Shielded Patient List.
52. The strengthened focus on communities in our revised Organisation Strategy will build on these achievements, going even further with reinvigorating our relationship with residents, and empowering more communities to tackle the issues that matter to them. The other items on the agenda of this communities themed Cabinet meeting provide further information about the initiatives to tackle challenges and build resilience in communities to enable recovery from Covid-19.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

53. Risk implications are stated throughout the report and Covid-19 related risks are managed through the Strategic Coordination Group governance structure.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

54. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium term financial outlook beyond 2021/22 remains uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which may not be fully funded. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.
55. The financial implications of the pandemic continue to be monitored closely and reported regularly through the budget monitoring report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

56. The various initiatives described in the report have been the subject of specific legal advice and support in formulating and implementing the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure they are in accordance with the Council's powers, duties and responsibilities. There are no further specific legal implications arising in the report.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

57. This report draws attention to several activities and initiatives that are supporting some of Surrey's most vulnerable residents at this challenging time. It highlights the progress being made in increasing the amount of testing for users of our older people's services and staff, as well as the support being provided for over 40,000 CEV residents through the NSSS and outbound messaging service.
58. Some of the county's most vulnerable children and young people continue to be supported by Children's Social Care to ensure their safety, with high rates of face-to-face contact being recorded. The delivery of 3,000 laptops to support children without technology with remote learning, with more to come, aims to mitigate the risk of them falling behind in their learning. Schools continue to provide support to vulnerable children across the county with face-to-face teaching, including special schools for children on an education, health and Care Plan.
59. The examples of community spirit highlighted in this report reflects the important role that people in Surrey's communities have to look after and support one another so that their vulnerable neighbours continue have a wider network of support as we work through this challenging period. Many older and disabled residents, residents with long-term health conditions and low-income households will continue to need support both from local organisations and the council should continue to work closely with communities to enlist further support.
60. As lockdown continues, and we look towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic, some residents who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic will need greater levels of support. Pressures on the NHS will have a knock-on impact on Adult Social Care, and the difficulties with discharges and designated settings could lead to uncertainty for some older and disabled residents, particularly those who have tested positive for Covid-19. We are working closely with system partners and providers on bed supply issues and to ensure people are

discharged from hospital as soon as possible, but the conditions remain very challenging.

61. Younger working age adults, and families with young children also continue to experience acute social and economic impacts. Increasing incidences of mental health issues, unemployment and more reliance of families and children on foodbanks and claiming free school meals will potentially have long-term consequences for some of these residents, and there is a risk they will need to depend on public and voluntary services for a longer period of time after the lockdown and beyond. The partnership working detailed in this report with Government, the VCFS and other organisations will be crucial for the wellbeing and prosperity of these young people and the wider outcomes we seek for the county.

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Consulted: Corporate Leadership Team and other staff

Annexes:

Annex 1- COVID-19 Vaccination Programme