



To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)

Date: 1st December 2021

Subject: Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020-2021

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 This paper updates Scrutiny Board 5 on the Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report 2020-2021, 'Connecting through COVID-19 - Making a difference by working together in unprecedented times'.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny is asked to:

- Note the progress on recommendations from the 2019-2020 DPH report;
- Note the findings from the 2020-2021 DPH report; and
- Endorse the recommendations from the 2020-2021 DPH report.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 This year's DPH report focuses on the value of relationships and connecting with people and communities. It offers a reflection on the city's approach to engagement and working with communities through the pandemic and demonstrates how this has shaped our COVID-19 response, recovery and ongoing defence.
- 3.2 The One Coventry approach and values have been at the heart of the way we have worked. The pandemic has shone a light on the engrained health inequalities that exist in Coventry. COVID-19 has led to 682 deaths in the City by September 2021 and caused long-term health problems affecting the day-to-day activities for thousands of residents. COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions have disrupted the daily lives of all 379,000 people who live here. This report brings together data that shows the impact of COVID-19 and provides an overview of the Council's strategy on communications and engagement. It demonstrates how our services and response was guided by community-led activity.
- 3.3 As we learn to live with COVID-19, the report offers recommendations for improvement and future practice. The recommendations augment and look to consolidate the good practice that has taken place over the last 12 months. The pandemic has forced us to take a different approach to engagement which has heavily relied upon true Partnership working in an unprecedented way. To minimise the harm brought by COVID-19 and to amplify the benefits gleaned from this way of working, it is important for us to learn lessons and use this best practice in the future. The relationships built during COVID-19 lay firm foundations for future growth and joint work.
- 3.4 The report provides updates on the progress made on the recommendations in the 2019-2020 report "Resetting our Wellbeing".

4 Recommendations from the 2020-2021 DPH report

These recommendations are born out of our reflection on the city-wide effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and also feedback from the community and partner organisations about the engagement approach taken and strategy adopted.

- 4.1 Recommendation 1: Harness the work of the Community Messengers approach established during our COVID-19 response, as an ongoing method of working with communities and a central component of engagement for public health and wider programmes.
- 4.2 Recommendation 2: Build on the engagement structures created and strengthened during the pandemic such as the Places of Worship and Community Centre Network, and grass-roots community organisations who were funded to support COVID-19 response efforts. Further understand the reach of these community organisations and networks to enable the targeting of work in areas with limited availability of community resource.
- 4.3 Recommendation 3: Strengthen the existing relationships with GPs, other health professionals and those working with populations at higher risk of a range of poorer health outcomes due to inequality, deprivation, ethnicity and underlying health conditions – building upon the work started through the Vaccinating Coventry Programme.
- 4.4 Recommendation 4: Embed our partnership approach to maintaining local COVID-19 defence, led by Coventry City Council’s Public Health working collaboratively with UK Health Security Agency and in partnership with the wider Council and ‘One Coventry’ partners. Embed our partnership approach to maintaining local COVID-19 defence, led by Coventry City Council’s Public Health working collaboratively with UK Health Security Agency and in partnership with the wider Council and ‘One Coventry’ partners.
- 4.5 Recommendation 5: Establish strong COVID-19 recovery workstreams with ‘One Coventry’ partners and communities to embed a robust and coherent recovery for the City, with the aim of building a better future for all.
- 4.6 Work is currently underway to support the achievement of these recommendations. Examples include:

Community Messengers (as per recommendation 1 as above).

To ensure the legacy of this excellent engagement work, Community Resilience and Engagement Team have started to explore with the community messengers a menu of legacy ideas. Work has started to progress one from the menu – this is a joint project working with Adult Social Care and University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire to explore why an increasing number of people aged 65 and over are attending A and E. A workshop was held on 16th November to explore this issue with those Community Messengers who have lived experience, a further workshop is planned for 24th November.

Building on Engagement Structures (as per recommendation 2 as above)

Work has started to map and explain the reach of community organisations and community groups across the city. The Community Resilience and Engagement team have been supported by colleagues in ICT to find a suitable web-based system to store, map and exemplify this information in a way this can be easily understood and used. This has not been easy as there is no off the-self software that can do all the elements we need together. A work around solution has been found which means that we can move onto the next stage and gather all the information.

Work will begin soon to call all contacts on the CRET database as well as the Community Information Database and all community organisations charities etc the service knows about through its social media to ascertain the information for this mapping targeting tool.

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Appendices: Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020-2021 – Connecting through COVID-19 - Making a difference by working together in unprecedented times'