

Purpose

To receive a presentation from Louise Livingston, Executive Head Transformation

Background Information March – July 2020

1. Surrey Heath Prepared (SHP) is a temporary community group that came together in March to fill a local and immediate need in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The organisation provided a huge amount in a short time by providing a helping hand where it was most needed, in the form of collecting prescriptions, shopping, and delivering food parcels to those who were vulnerable, shielded, and at a higher risk of infection. Each of the 16 wards within the Borough had been represented by a coordinator where people can ask for help that kept them safe at home. The operation ceased from the 1st July and requests for support services have been diverted where necessary.
2. The Government officially withdrew the shielding category from the 1st August, which ceased delivery of Government provided food parcels.
3. Food parcels continue to be supplied from either Besom or The Woking Foodbank to support those with welfare or hardship needs within Surrey Heath. Surrey Heath have recently received £42,000 from Central Government to divest within our community to ensure that food banks are sufficiently funded to meet local need.

Covid-19 Welfare Support Service

4. The Council has worked in partnership with SHP and the local legacy organisations who continue to meet local need, although demand is very much reduced now. Our community to a greater extent are self-sufficient and the vast majority do not require or need any assistance. Those who are older and vulnerable have been written to and provided with the Council's contact details in order to be able to access help if required.
5. The Tactical team continues to work with Applied Resilience to ensure that as far as possible we are as prepared as possible for a 2nd Wave, and a desktop exercise was undertaken in August, where the theories were tested, and it was clear that from the 1st wave the teams not only dealt with the day to day issues but learnt from it as well, with robust plans in place to ensure we are able to deal with a 2nd wave.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to consider the presentation in relation to Surrey Heath, and any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers:

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