

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

14TH September 2020

Present: Councillor Liddle in the Chair, Councillors Whittle, P Akhtar, Oates Smith Afzal M. Hussain

Also Present- Laura Wharton, Consultant in Public Health

Jayne Ivory, Director of Children Services and Schools

Joanne Siddle- Head of Schools.

Paul Conlon- Scrutiny and Technical Lead.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting and received apologies from Councillors Jacqueline Slater and Salton.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2020

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

4. COVID 19, Test and Trace and Supporting the Community

The Committee looked at two key issues the first being how the Council was working to prevent the spread of the virus in the borough including track and trace and the testing. The Committee looked at how the council and partners were working to ensure that the take up of flu vaccines was as high as possible to prevent possible hospital winter pressures from both Covid19 and influenza. The Committee looked at how joint planning was taking place and the way that the Organisations were working together. The local outbreak control plans would centre on 7 themes-

- Car Homes
- High risk places, Locations and Communities
- Local Testing Capacity
- Contract Tracing in complex settings
- Data integration
- Vulnerable People
- Local Board

The work was underpinned and supported by specific outbreak plans including schools, care homes, workplaces, HMOs, Faith Settings and Madrassahs. A daily incident hub had been established with a communication and engagement strategy. Additional testing was to be carried out with a local case/contract testing facility. Enhanced local restrictions would be used to control virus spread.

The Committee were informed that joint planning was taking place across Pennine Lancashire health care systems. Additional support had been required to meet hospital discharge and extended capacity in Crisis Domiciliary Care, Planned Night Time care and Assessment. Additional social work capacity had been retained for community pathways.

RESOLVED-

That the Committee commend the hard work that the Council and partners were doing and that regular updates be provided at each of its meetings.

5. Schools Education and Children’s services.

The Committee received a presentation on the return to school and the services provided to families and children who were supported by the department. The Committee were made aware of the issues that had been addressed and the detailed planning that had ensured that pupils and teachers could return safely and the measures that would be followed should there be a case at a school. The Committee were assured that safety was the main priority when trying to ensure that pupils received the education they needed.

The Committee also looked at the other services provided by the department to support children and vulnerable families in the Borough and how they had met the challenges presented by the virus. The Committee will look at how the work continues and develops over the year to meet the needs of the children safely both in schools and in the community.

RESOLVED-

That the hard work and dedication of the department and schools in the borough be commended and the Committee be kept up to date on the continued issues relating to COVID 19.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were signed.....

Date.....