

## **BRIEFING NOTE FOR WORCESTERSHIRE M.P.'S**

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council internal gold meeting in respect of Covid-19</b>
<b>Meeting number:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – 17:00</b>

### **Key Messages**

- Reminder that the Here2Help website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-8pm 7 days a week – 01905 768053.
- Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [ww.carersworcs.org.uk](http://ww.carersworcs.org.uk) or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.
- PPE remains an issue, but we are providing an email - [CoronavirusASC@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:CoronavirusASC@worcestershire.gov.uk) and a helpline (01905 768053) for all Providers to contact Commissioners if they have a supply problem or other issues.
- Today (Tuesday) WCC saw requests from Providers that will result in a significant call on the total stocks of masks being allocated. We are monitoring stock levels on a daily basis but with increasing numbers of Care Homes reporting active Covid-19 infections demand will increase daily.
- There are over 539 beds available across the acute, community hospitals and hospice in Worcestershire, the contingency for accessing private hospital beds at Dolan park private hospital will be available from next week which will further enhance capacity. We have also we facilitated access to some Worcestershire beds for Herefordshire to assist them with capacity.
- The need for oxygenated therapy at the Acute Hospitals remains a high proportion of patients with COVID-19 symptoms require oxygenated support and while oxygen supply is sufficient there may be a concern as need increases.
- Places for children and young people continue to be provided in schools, colleges and early years settings across Worcestershire that have remained open during the Easter holidays.

### **Key Service Areas**

#### **Adult Services**

- An agreement has been reached to use the Worcester Warriors car park site for Drive through COVID-19 testing for key workers. This is being led by Deloitte, on behalf of the NHS. Deloitte met on site over the weekend with representatives from Highways – WCC and Ringway. The site is being prepared with the aim of this becoming operational on Wednesday.
- Testing slots at the drive through at the Coach House (Perdiswell) have now been made available to social care staff
- Social care staff unable to travel to testing stations will be provided with transport options.
- Approximately 85 new enquiries were received over the weekend through the here2help website.
- Supply of PPE continues to be a major concern with the risk that some care providers may refuse to take patients discharged from acute hospitals

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## **Children's Services**

- Social Care capacity holding up, with additional shifts being worked and visits reduced to statutory minimum and carried out 'virtually' wherever possible.
- Direct support provided to those leaving care who are living independently, especially around the Social Distancing message.
- Calls for additional PPE remain with a maximum of one weeks supply available for social care visits to vulnerable children
- Lower numbers of vulnerable children are attending school than expected but we continue to work hard to encourage attendance.
- Children of critical workers and vulnerable children aside, the Government have confirmed that schools will remain shut for the foreseeable future.

## **Community Services**

- All Libraries and Museums remain closed
- Registering of deaths is now taking place over the phone.
- Trading Standards are actively raising awareness of potential scams
- Support is being given through volunteers and through community groups to assist with pharmacy deliveries.
- Food parcels continue to be distributed to the individuals within the Shielded Cohort / those in urgent need.

## **Economy & Infrastructure**

- All major infrastructure project construction sites are now temporarily shutting down in a controlled manner
- All Household Waste & Recycling Centres remain closed which aligns with recently updated guidance from Government
- Refuse collections appear to be catching up to normal schedules and some districts are reintroducing garden waste collections from today.

## **Workforce and Training**

- Daily communication update issued to staff
- The County Council are reviewing options around furloughing staff that are unable to be redeployed or where their workload has significantly reduced

## **Communications**

- Regular bulletins on local media to promote the here2help programme.
- Enquiries coming in on the potential testing site at Sixways.

## **Finance**

- Continue to evaluate the quantum of higher costs for the first quarter.

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## **COVID-19 STATISTICS**

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

Some key statistics being:

<b>Number Testing Positive in Worcestershire</b>	<b>634 (107.1 per 100,000 population)</b>
<b>Number Testing Positive in UK</b>	<b>93873 (138.3 per 100,000 population)</b>

<b>UK</b>	<b>14/4</b>
Number of Tests carried out per day	14982
Daily Increase in Cases	5252
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>12107</b>

## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?**

### **Here2help**

There will be many vulnerable people in our community who will have to self-isolate. This site will provide a central location for the vulnerable that are unable to seek help from family, friends and neighbours. You can request help, volunteer to help and find useful resources.

Want to help/volunteer or need assistance

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Guidance for Councillors

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/50.1%20COVID19%20guidance%20for%20councillors\\_03\\_1.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/50.1%20COVID19%20guidance%20for%20councillors_03_1.pdf)