

BRIEFING NOTE FOR WORCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Title of meeting:	Worcestershire County Council internal GOLD meeting in respect of COVID 19
Meeting number:	17
Date:	Monday 4th May – 17:00

Key Messages

- As previously reported, the Military are operating 3 mobile / “pop-up” units from the Sixways Regional Testing Facility. Currently based in Redditch and Bromsgrove, work is underway to assess and confirm additional “pop-up” locations. These will then be used on a rotational basis. Booking via normal digital route.
- Pressure continues to ease on the Acute Trust with hospital discharges currently outnumbering new cases; Oxygen supplies remain healthy.
- Whilst significant hospital capacity is currently available this will reduce linked to social distancing measures being implemented to facilitate the increasing number of cancer/heart surgery cases being treated.
- Concern remains regarding the adult social care community but there has been some improvement in recent days in the number of care homes that have confirmed coronavirus cases.
- The priority is prevention control. We are rolling out the testing of staff and residents in all Worcestershire care homes. Alongside testing, a series of infection control training sessions are getting underway.
- Working with our district council colleagues, the entire NHS shielded list has been contacted either by text or by letter to ask if they need extra help
- Supplies of PPE currently meets the demand from our social care staff and our key workers
- Planning is ongoing for a phased return to schools and other education settings.
- The Council is making plans to safely reopen some Household Recycling Centres within the near future.
- The entire NHS shielded list has now been contacted either by text or by letter to ask if they need extra help (both those who have registered with the national service and those who have not).

Key Service Areas

Adult Services

- Additional Domiciliary Care has been booked to back fill the capacity in Care Homes.
- Increasing concerns re the financial viability of Care Homes linked to a reduction in admissions.
- Ongoing contact and support is being provided to those receiving Direct Payments
- Over 2000 individuals and organisations have come forward to volunteer to help others in their community through the Here2Help initiative
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

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Children's Services

- Subject to the outcome of this week's "Lockdown" review, we are reviewing potential options around the eventual opening of some schools. For example, to ensure social distancing measures are in place, it is estimated that there will be a significant reduction in pupil capacity, although this will obviously vary by school.
- Whatever happens attendance at school is likely still to be voluntary and online learning will continue to be available pupils not in schools.
- The number of pupils attending school who are either children of key workers or vulnerable children continues to increase although is still low. 26% of vulnerable children are now attending school. We continue to work proactively with schools and families to encourage attendance.

Community Services

- Business support and advice is being provided jointly by the County Council, District Councils, Worcestershire Business Central, One Worcestershire, the Chamber of Commerce and the Worcestershire LEP.

Economy & Infrastructure

- Traffic levels remain at around 40% of normal activity.
- Construction on the Worcester Southern Link Road will recommence next week, with other key sites being mobilised.
- All Household Waste & Recycling Centres remain closed but we are looking to open some as soon as practical. We may be unable to open all HRC's due to the redeployment of staff needed to ensure social distancing measures are in place at those that are open.

Workforce and Training

- Additional testing capacity for staff is now available at the Sixways testing site.
- Plans under development to accommodate social distancing measures for a phased return to the use of Council buildings.

Communications

- Regular bulletins on local media to promote the here2help programme.
- In partnership with the Health & Care Trust we have launched the "Now we are talking" campaign to raise awareness of help available for those with mental health issues.

Finance

- Working as "One Worcestershire" we are reviewing the details of the second allocation from Government. Aiming to have an equitable distribution between Districts and County based on the evidence of additional expenditure incurred. Concern remains that the allocation is insufficient to meet additional expenditure and lost income.

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COVID-19 STATISTICS

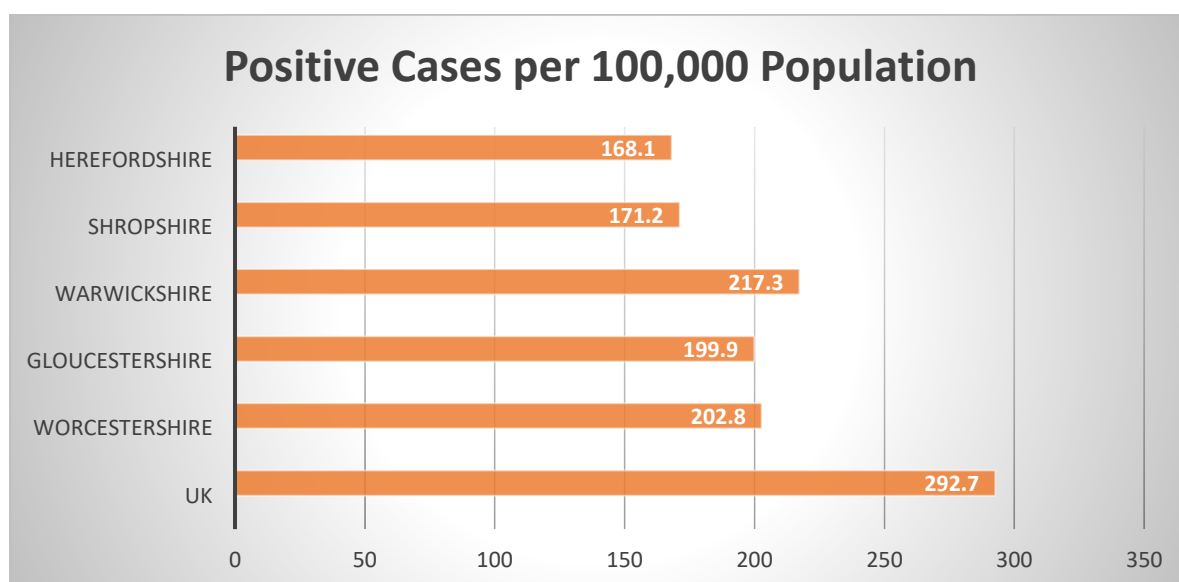
Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

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

Some key statistics being:

Number Testing Positive in Worcestershire	1201
Number Testing Positive in UK	194990

UK	5/5
Number of Tests carried out on the day	84806
Daily Increase in Cases	4406
Cumulative Deaths	29427



WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website 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 www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

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

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>