

SCC CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2020

SCC has no operational issues at present and staff absence remains low.

High streets are anticipated to be able to start to re-open by the 15th June.

EDUCATION

There have been some logistical hiccups with re-opening but these are not felt to be significant. Attendance figures should be available next week.

More children are due to return to school in the next two weeks.

Home to school transport is being assessed for any safety implications.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Alison Bell gave an update at this briefing but did not provide specific figures; there has been some time delay in the reporting of incidents.

There will continue to be some fluctuation with the number of cases reported, especially as more people are being tested.

Those with positive results are being followed up to ensure isolation.

Those being shielded, and the elderly, remain vulnerable especially as the general population are now moving about more freely.

It is important that people continue to socially distance and hand wash regularly.

Numbers admitted and deaths from Covid-19 have increased slightly this week, but this has been expected and is not unduly worrying.

The number of Covid-19 fatalities in care homes remains stable. Currently there are two outbreaks, one of which is in Chard, but this is considered manageable.

The 'R' value (reproduction number from one infectious case) has increased to 1 this week in the SW. This is largely explained by the fact that there have had very low infection rates compared with other parts of the country, so the impact of any increase in new cases will show as disproportionately high.

Those involved are on alert to respond rapidly where necessary. If the 'R' number rises above 1, plans are in place for local authorities to take action in conjunction with Public Health – one of the key factors to be considered is the reason and pattern of any outbreak.

Businesses have expressed concern over the likely impact of their ability to re-open but enabling the wider economy to re-open is a priority.

Track and Trace – SCC are using the regional team to carry this out, and updates are provided twice daily. Protocols are in place to determine what action is appropriate according to the setting e.g. schools.

There is concern over the possibility of scams being used and the public are urged to be vigilant – **any calls received will always be from an 0300 number.**

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Some work, in partnership with the Police and district councils, has been carried out. In Somerset, the first tranche of £120k allocated to SCC is for both capital and revenue expenditure with a very short timescale for bids to be submitted, by today.

Money allocated directly to South Somerset is £150k.

Funding success will be announced at the end of the month and schemes need to be in place within 8 weeks.

Initially the focus will be on quick wins, instant temporary intervention measures (e.g. plastic barriers) where there is a high level of footfall, enabling high streets to re-open whilst adhering to social distancing; which is expected to cost SCC £211k.

As the cost of implementing such measures will exceed any funding provided, giving a significant shortfall, a priority list will need to be drawn up.

A further £480k is expected to be allocated to Somerset by central government in the second round of funding, and plans are already in place to put forward suggested schemes within a short time frame.

One area of concern is those vulnerable people who only have access to public transport. At present public transport use in Somerset remains low, as expected.