

Committee:	Dated:
Safer City Partnership	07 July 2020
Subject: Community and Children's Services Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For information
Report author: Jordann Birch, Partnership and Engagement Assistant, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides an update of relevant data and activity from Community and Children's Services.

Recommendations

- Note the report.

Main Report

1. This report summarises ongoing developments in four areas: homelessness and rough sleepers, shielding residents, public health and strategies.

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

2. The Community and Children's Services department have been working in partnership with commissioned homelessness and rough sleeping providers on the response to the Covid-19 crisis.
3. To date, we have assisted 117 rough sleepers into accommodation, mainly City of London Corporation or Greater London Authority (GLA) funded hotel rooms.
4. We have also taken on a temporary license to operate an emergency rough sleeping hostel at the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) St Pauls site. We are accommodating 20 of our most vulnerable here and are currently in negotiation with YHA executives regarding an extension of our license to assist with the recovery plan.
5. In line with the Pan-London Covid-19 recovery plan drafted by London Councils and the GLA, we have a local City of London plan which is driven by the Governments 'In for Good' principle. We are currently focusing our efforts on ensuring that all City connected rough sleepers who have left the streets since the beginning of March, have a safe and secure home to go to as we ease out of the crisis.

Shielding residents

6. There are currently just under 160 City residents on the shielded list. Those on the shielded list have been able to access government food parcels if they wish and have had priority access for online deliveries at a number of supermarkets. Three community volunteer networks across the City have also provided additional support and assistance with things such as prescription collection.
7. The Department of Community and Children's services (DCCS) contacted everyone on the shielded list, and also identified and contacted other households who may require some support during the pandemic, such as all those who have a telecare service. One of the needs that arose was around loneliness and social isolation, so library staff undertook to delivery weekly wellbeing chats with residents who requested it.
8. Shielding is now being relaxed and it is currently anticipated that government support for shielded households will finish at the end of July. DCCS are currently contacting people who have been receiving the government support to ensure a smooth transition and to identify if there are any ongoing support needs.

Public Health

9. The Public Health team and Business Healthy, alongside partners – including Samaritans, are continuing efforts to engage the security and construction sectors in local suicide prevention work. This recognises that much reduced footfall in the City, resulting in reduced opportunities for passers-by and members of the public to intervene in suicide attempts, means that the role of the security, construction and other workers who continue to come into the City for work, as frontline responders and “eyes and ears” is more important than ever, and so providing them with opportunities to upskill in responding is crucial.
10. During lockdown, the Street Triage programme, which is a collaboration between City of London Police, ELFT Mental Health Nurses and the City Corporation, has continued to work effectively, with short response times. The latest evaluation of the programme showed that it has helped to reduce the number of detentions under Section 136 by almost half (46%), resulting in better outcomes for the individuals in mental health crises, as well as substantial savings on police times and resources.
11. Since late January, Business Healthy has continued to share Government guidance on Covid-19 for employers and organisations to members of its network. More recently, this includes how to ensure they can remain COVID-secure and reiterates the important role they play in supporting the NHS Test and Trace programme.
12. The Public Health team has continued to focus on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of local residents, workers and other groups throughout the pandemic, including children and young people. This includes securing media coverage on the “why” and “how” of good mental health, supporting Dragon Café in the City onto a virtual platform where it can continue to deliver fortnightly

sessions while Shoe Lane Library is closed, as well as working with key stakeholders to signpost to local mental health and bereavement support services that have moved online/ telephone, and regional and national support services too.

13. The Public Health team is working to raise awareness of health and other inequalities experienced by lower-paid City workers in routine, manual and service roles (and where there is a higher proportion of BAME workers), with the aim of addressing (and not exacerbating) these inequalities in recovery-planning. This approach also recognises that with COVID-19 shining a light on health inequalities, this is an important opportunity to engage the local business community on this issue and support them to actively tackle it.

Strategies

14. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2017-20 for the City of London Corporation will come to an end this year. The aim of a JHWS is to jointly agree what the most important issues are for the local community based on evidence in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA), what can be done to address them, and what outcomes are intended to be achieved. The Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) are currently mapping out a plan to continue the drive to achieving better health outcomes for the population of the City of London.
15. Due to Covid-19, consultation with key stakeholders has been put on hold due to a number of barriers, and therefore this work has been incorporated into the next quarter work profile.
16. DCCS will be consulting and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to review existing priorities and identify if new ones have emerged.

Jordann Birch

Partnership and Engagement Assistant

E: Jordann.birch@cityoflondon.gov.uk