

Committee:	Dated:
Community and Children's Services Committee	05/03/2021
Subject: Golden Lane Community Centre Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Sam Bedford, Community Engagement Manager	

Summary

This report is an update on all the work undertaken by the Community Engagement team and others to ensure that the Golden Lane Community Centre is COVID-secure and meets the needs of the local community as best as possible within national Government guidelines.

This report was requested by the Chairman as part of the COVID-19 Working Group.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Golden Lane Community Centre is a community facility in the middle of the Golden Lane Estate, managed by the Housing Service in partnership with a resident Advisory Board. The Advisory Board consists of six residents from the estate (three tenants and three leaseholders) and has continued to meet regularly throughout the pandemic.

2. From April 2020, the Square Mile Foodbank occupied the Community Centre with support from the Centre Manager. Square Mile Foodbank moved out of the centre on 10 January 2021.

Current Position

3. Since September 2020, we have been preparing for the reopening of the Community Centre in accordance with national guidelines. Every stage of this process has been undertaken in discussion with the resident Advisory Board. At the time of writing, Government guidance allows us to reopen from 12 April under strict conditions, which we will meet with the help of a comprehensive risk assessment.
4. The two main elements to the plans to mobilise and transition to reopening the Golden Lane Community Centre are as follows. Firstly, the measures we need to put in place to ensure that we are compliant with COVID safety measures; and secondly, our priorities for reopening in terms of what activities and opportunities we focus on first, given that capacity and group numbers will be limited in line with COVID-secure requirements.
5. The Centre Manager has implemented several measures to ensure that the Golden Lane Community Centre is COVID-secure. We have worked with the City Surveyor's Department to complete a risk assessment of how we can use the space in line with national guidelines. This Risk Assessment has been signed off and the building inspected for compliance.
6. The following measures have been implemented in accordance with the risk assessment:
 - Visual social distancing measures have been put in place (floor markings, and so on)
 - Sanitation stations set up throughout the building
 - Public Health England hygiene guidance displayed throughout the building
 - Extra supplies of hand sanitisers, wipes, gloves, paper towels, and hand soap have been obtained
 - Extra cleaning by the cleaning contractor, SERVEST, has been implemented
 - Flushing of taps and toilets has continued regularly throughout, to address legionella-related risks.
7. We have devised a socially distanced system of use for the community centre, including a room-by-room plan for numbers currently permitted in each space and a one-way system. In addition, we have designed track-and-trace processes for users.
8. These arrangements are regularly reviewed to make sure they meet official guidance. We have also taken the opportunity to display new Fire Action notices and review the building's first aid procedures. Certain meeting rooms and the classroom have been taken out of use as their size makes social distancing measures unachievable. Communal seating areas have also been taken out of

use. We have also drawn up a new COVID-compliant Hire Agreement and Hirer Risk Assessment.

9. On reopening, we will have to operate at a much-reduced capacity, at least initially. This is due to restrictions on both the number of people allowed in each space, and the total number of people in the building at any one time. We have been working with the Advisory Board and important stakeholders such as the Adult Skills and Education team, to work out how to best prioritise the limited space available.
10. We have designed a set of principles from which the Centre Manager can approve or reject bookings and enquiries. Again, this has been done in discussion with the resident Advisory Board and with key partners. We will look to focus on services that meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents and those who have been most affected by the pandemic.
11. There is a strong desire to prioritise those who offered services and activities from the Community Centre prior to the pandemic, with a particular focus on the Memory Group and the Youth Club. We will look to strike a balance across the different priorities. We will also focus on activities that benefit the community, rather than those that are income-generating. However, it will of course be worthwhile to maintain relationships with people and organisations that have hired spaces at commercial rates before the pandemic, so that we don't need to start again in terms of building up commercial hirers when we can reopen fully.

Conclusion

12. Through the steps we have taken so far, introducing and installing the COVID-19 compliance measures within the building, alongside working with the resident Advisory Board and other stakeholders to set our priorities for reopening with a much reduced capacity, the Golden Lane Community Centre is well placed to reopen from 12 April, as per the Government guidance at the time of writing.

Appendices

- None

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