

SCC CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2020

AVON & SOMERSET GOLD MEETING – there is a continued move away from response mode (run by the police) into transition towards ‘recovery’.... the strong message re: washing hand and social distancing remains the same.

There is significant concern over the impact of pubs and bars opening up this weekend.

The expected inclement weather will help to manage this.

There are also rumours of raves planned to take place this weekend – measures are in place to prevent/contain these, and the NHS is putting into place ‘new year’s eve’ type measures to deal with any incidents.

Work has been continuing with partner organisations on economic recovery and to identify opportunities that develop. Guidelines are in place to enable the visitor economy to open.

A £10m. national tourism fund is now available.

Building and construction - £4.8m. was awarded to SCC this week to upgrade Jct. 26 of the M5 at the Chelston roundabout.

Work is also being carried out with communities and residents, with a focus on mental health

The Somerset LEP has received a significant amount of funding as a result of its bids for a number of schemes (over 120).

PUBLIC HEALTH - The Local Outbreak Management Plan has now been published, and has received national recognition. There are 4 key priorities –

- preventing outbreaks (with a focus on high risk places)
- ensure access to testing (with support from the Army for the time being, including mobile sites at Yeovilton and Dillington on some days, and tests available by post)
- contact tracing – at present approx. 25% of positive cases are not being reached – Somerset is aiming to be part of a national pilot to address this
- response to outbreaks

There have been no major incidents this week and in the last two weeks there have been no outbreaks in care homes or schools in Somerset.

Close attention to data trends is helping to identify common factors in any outbreaks.

There may be changes to the Covid Act to enable local authorities to initiate and enforce local lockdowns if necessary.

Pillar 2 - testing of care homes and by post for those with symptoms, including workers who may need access to someone’s home e.g. plumbers. This was seen to have caused a ‘spike’ due to the availability of new data as a result but is only related to data now being more accurate rather than any new cases.

Vulnerable people – work has been done to identify those most needing support.

I have been reminded that masks are available from Ile Mask Makers at Silver St Dairy, The Pharmacy and Health Food shop, Just Things and St Margaret’s Hospice.

COVID FUNDING – Expenditure has been £47.7m., and taking into account funds received, has resulted in a loss of income and a shortfall of £15.4m. Further government financial funding is in the pipeline, including a scheme to fund 75p in every £ over and above the first 5% of lost income (SSC’s funding shortage is such that it is unlikely to qualify). Commercial investment losses will not qualify for support.

Reserves are healthy due to budget underspends in the last two years.

Active Travel – schemes that have been introduced are being reviewed. There has been no further information yet on the 2nd tranche of government funding.

Somerset Local Authorities Coronavirus Response Update

3rd July 2020

1,300  **volunteers** have signed up with **Corona Helpers** www.corona-helpers.co.uk

Somerset Community Foundation's **Coronavirus Appeal** has raised  **£809,000** and so far awarded **163 grants** worth **£447,000**

Over **1,150**  **Food parcels** have been distributed across Somerset from District hubs in addition to **3,074 weekly Shield parcels** from central government

Our **Coronavirus helpline** has received **6,734**  **calls** since going live

Community and Village Agents have completed **53,449**  **community activities** since the start of lockdown

Talking Cafes are now online reaching an average of **14,376**  **people per week**

51  **rough sleepers** have successfully moved to permanent accommodation

         

Coronavirus support helpline Available 8am to 6pm, seven days a week
0300 790 6275

If you're unable to use available services in Somerset you can contact Coronavirus Helpline Support from Somerset's Local Authorities. Abuse of our helpline will result in your community not use the helpline for any other reason.