

REPORT TO	ON
Scutiny	22 nd October 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
South Ribble Community Hub Update	Cllr Aniela Belinski-Gelder Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	No
Is this report on the Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	No
Is this report confidential?	No

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update Scrutiny on the work of South Ribble Together Community Hub.
2. To update Scrutiny on work to sustain COVID-19 related community support going forward.
3. To update Scrutiny on local research being undertaken about the impact of COVID-19 on mental health.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	✓
Place, Homes and Environment	✓

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	✓
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BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. As set out in the previous update report to Cabinet, South Ribble Together Community Hub was set up as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff from services across the Council were brought together to be able to communicate with and engage vulnerable residents.
6. The purpose of the hub is to work with local partners, community groups, charities, services and volunteers to provide help and support. Principal priority has been given to helping those on NHS shielding lists, and those in need with no support from friends, family, neighbours or carers.
7. Numbers of interactions to date are as follows:

Total no. of individuals we have made contact with via outbound calls	7600
Total no. of individuals we have made contact with via inbound calls	2971
Total no. of individuals we have sent postcards / letters to	13,800
Total no. of individuals that have received support	1100
Total no. of individuals that have received support on multiple occasions	399
Total no. of food parcels requested and issued	801
Total no. of individual prescription collections	317
Total no. of repeat prescription collections	60

8. Appendix A shows a geographical breakdown of demand. This has been monitored weekly throughout the pandemic; there has been a consistent and direct correlation between the highest need for COVID-19 support and socio-economic deprivation.

PROPOSALS

South Ribble Partnership

9. The earlier update report contained details of work to strengthen relationships and networks with colleagues from South Ribble Partnership. This continues with a focus on the 'one front door' seamless service model for people needing the help of multiple agencies, and efforts to tackle digital exclusion for those in most need.

Community Development

10. The Council has recruited new roles in community development, as a progression from the review of community involvement undertaken by a cross party working group.
11. In addition to adding capacity to the existing team, there is a new focus on youth engagement, including establishing a youth council and debate club. Going forward,

there is potential to build on the learning from the South Ribble Together hub to develop new ways of working in communities.

Foodbank Network

12. The inaugural meeting of South Ribble Foodbank Network has been held, with representatives from all of the foodbanks across South Ribble in attendance.
13. There was significant commonality between the experiences of the groups during the pandemic, with collective agreement that demand is likely to increase further as furlough draws to a close and redundancies are made.
14. All foodbanks were in agreement that registering as food businesses with the Council's Public Health team was a good move. They are now considering the Council's offer of food hygiene training for volunteers before the next meeting on September.
15. On the 10 July 2020 a urgent S35 decision was taken to allocate £76k of Covid-19 grant funding to support the Holiday Hunger scheme.

School Uniform Project

Through the hub, the Council is currently a partner in a project to recycle school uniform for those families who will struggle to provide it in the Autumn term. Along with Key Unlocking Futures (The Base on Bannister Drive), TippyToes BabyBank and Lancashire Care NHS Trust, we are collecting, laundering and distributing uniform for primary and secondary age children.

Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health

16. The earlier update report mentioned feedback from staff across the Council about the impact of COVID-19 on people's mental health. Appendix B shows some sample case studies of people supported by the hub who have struggled with their mental health.
17. Partners in health will carry out detailed long-term studies of the ways in which people's mental health is being affected by the pandemic, backed up by NHS data. To provide a snapshot of the local picture, a survey has been carried out with local partners. A copy of the questions asked is attached at appendix C.
18. The results of the survey are still to be analysed, but will be reported soon.