

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
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AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Leader of the Council Public Health and Cohesion
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Since the last meeting, we have all been shocked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the potential scale of civilian casualties, and the growing numbers of refugees.

We are continuing to show our solidarity as a Council and the community with the lighting up of Wainhouse Tower in Ukrainian colours and are looking at other measures. There has been a huge groundswell of support in the community which the Council has promoted.

The most important practical measures we are taking will be our support for the relocation of refugees, and we will keep members updated on this. As details of the scheme are developing at pace, I will not include them in this report but will ask colleagues to update verbally at the meeting.

Much of the period covered by this report was taken up with matters associated with the Council budget, and therefore the general section of this report is briefer than normal.

Cabinet decisions

Since my last report to Council, Cabinet has met once. Significant decisions include:-

- Agreeing the new Calderdale Cares Partnership agreement setting out how the council, health, and the voluntary sector will continue to work together on health and wellbeing;
- Responding to the Scrutiny Panel report and proposals on tackling problem debt;
- Agreeing changes to the Workplace and Office Accommodation Strategy relating to the future use of Horton Street; and
- Noting the latest positions in terms of capital and revenue monitoring.

Health and wellbeing Board

A number of discussions and decisions taken at the March Health and Wellbeing Board are worth noting. In addition to agreeing the Calderdale Cares Partnership agreement, these included:-

- An excellent report and presentation on the actions we are taking to address BAME health inequalities;
- Approving the Calderdale suicide prevention action plan and strategy (which integrates with the West Yorkshire wide strategy referred to in my separate report);
- Discussing the Covid-19 Impact Assessment report which sets the challenges our area faces in recovering from the pandemic; and
- Sharing information and concerns about the pressures on the health and care system and the steps being taken locally to manage them.

Senior Management Changes

I am pleased to announce that Diane Drury, who is currently Head of the Children's Safeguarding unit and quality assurance at Barnsley Council, has been appointed to replace Rob Murray as our Assistant Director for Early Intervention and Safeguarding.

Interviews are taking place shortly for the post of Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion, to find a replacement for Lesley Bowyer.

Queens Jubilee Tree Planting

Pleased to observe the Mayor planting a tree in the grounds of Halifax Minster to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

High Streets Taskforce

We had a useful walking tour of Halifax followed by a good workshop as part of the early support work with the High Streets Taskforce and look forward to receiving the next steps of their proposals.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

Update for Full Council- Councillor Tim Swift – March 2022

Covid-19

The ending of restrictions has led to a large reduction in the number of people taking Covid-19 tests. This means that data on cases is less reliable than previous phases of the pandemic. The limited data we have suggests that Covid-19 cases in Calderdale reduced rapidly following the early January Omicron peak. In late February cases

appear to have settled at a rate just over 200 per 100,000 (lower than the national and regional averages)

At the time of writing cases have started to increase again, following a pattern seen right across the country. This is likely to be driven by a combination of changes in behaviour among the public linked to the ending of all restrictions, and a sub-variant of Omicron which is more transmissible.

The Calderdale case episode rate based on testing had increased to 328 per 100,000 for people tested 5-11 March, a rise of 68% in the most recent week. This compares to 475 per 100,000 and an increase of 56% nationally.

Routine testing of staff and service users in health and care, means that data from these settings is more reliable. At the time of writing there have been increases both in the number of outbreaks in care settings and in the number of people in our local hospital who have tested positive for Covid-19.

Reviewing the Covid-19 response

On 21 February, the Prime Minister announced the end to remaining Covid-19 restrictions from 24th February, including the requirement for people with the virus to self-isolate as well as the financial support to individuals and businesses impacted by Covid-19. The associated Test Trace and Isolate and outbreak management infrastructure put in place to respond to the pandemic, including free universal testing will cease at the end of March.

As part of these national changes Calderdale's local contact tracing service ended on 23 February. The service was consistently among the best performing contact tracing services in the country and was recognised as a finalist in the public health category of the MJ awards for 2021. I want to thank all of the local contact tracers for their contribution to protecting the health of Calderdale residents during the pandemic.

As the response to the pandemic is reduced and we learn to live with Covid-19, Calderdale Council and our partners are reviewing and updating our local outbreak plan and the Covid-19 response governance arrangements, including the Local Outbreak Board. We are also working with managers, staff and councillors to explore what living with Covid means for the way we work and our services.

We are using the following objectives to guide this process:

- To protect vulnerable people and settings to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and communities at highest risk of poor outcomes
- To reduce as far as possible the risk from and impacts of dangerous new variants and future waves
- To enable the recovery of social and economic activities and minimise educational disruption
- To improve population health and address both the direct and wider impacts of the pandemic on health and wellbeing and health inequalities

Active Calderdale

Health and care system

- The Moving Medicine activity finder microsite for Calderdale is now live. This enables front line health and care staff to connect service users to physical activity opportunities in the community.
- Calderdale Council Adult Social Care staff are participating in the design thinking Workshop programme to enable them to consider how physical activity can be integrated into the local social care system and support putting plans into practice.

Workplaces

- A workplace active travel project is now under way and an active travel charter is being developed through the project working with a range of different partners.

Voluntary and community sector

- A 'Keeping Active toolkit' is being developed and piloted by partners in the voluntary and community sector
- Staying Well staff are engaged in the design thinking programme to support them apply design approaches to the development and delivery of their plans to further integrate physical activity into their services

Residents

- A monthly newsletter (including updates, advice, health and wellbeing tips, and activities) for over 50s in Calderdale is due to be published on social media

Education system

- The Creating Active Schools (CAS) programme is developing well. In the future it will be part of the Calderdale Healthy Schools programme currently under development. CAS principles are being embedded into the education recovery programme,
- There are 12 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in phase 1 CAS programme.
- An evaluation of phase 1 of the programme is under way and is showing a positive impact on physical activity in primary school settings.
- 10 primary schools are involved in phase 2 of the CAS programme, which has recently started.
- Work is also taking place to help understand how to engage and support schools that face additional barriers to being involved, to inform phase 3 of the programme.

Parks and green spaces

- Work is underway to engage ‘friends of people’s park’ groups in how parks can encourage people to be more active.
- The community and partners are working together to develop a shared plan for Shroggs Park in North Halifax.
- The Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve project has gathered feedback from a diverse range of residents, and will inform the development of action plan.

Walking and cycling infrastructure

- An active travel social prescribing feasibility study is underway across several services to consider how active travel can be integrated and what support is needed
- Following the approval of the Green and Healthy Streets Policy, a series of Healthy Streets workshops are being delivered to 60 staff across a range of council services. The aim is to explore how the policy applies to different service areas.

Built environment

- A Placemaking Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document is being developed to enable active and healthy environments linked to new developments

Leisure and sport

- Sport England have introduced a Storm Relief fund of up to £15k for each application to fund repair of facilities such as clubhouses, courts, and pitches after storm damage
- Active Calderdale highlighted local athletes’ participation in the winter Olympics through social media