

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 7th October 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: CRF Action Plan in Response to Rapid Increase in COVID-19 Cases

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the Board on the Cheshire Resilience Forum Action Plan in response to a rapid increase in COVID 19 cases.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the contents of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 All areas of Cheshire have seen an increased incidence in COVID-19 cases in the last week (as of 14th September), with more significant increases being observed in Warrington and Halton. Cheshire currently has a lower incidence than other areas in the North West, but the rate of increase is of concern.

3.2 In response to these concerns, the Cheshire Resilience Forum has produced an action plan (Please see Appendix 1). The plan sets out a summary of the epidemiological evidence for Cheshire and steps that are being taken NOW in response to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases, and also what future steps are under consideration. The appendix at the back of the action plan provides a more detailed summary of Covid-19 surveillance data for both Cheshire and Merseyside.

3.3 As of 17th September the 7 day incidence rate for Halton was 61.5 per 100,000. This compares to 111.2 for Warrington, 31.7 for Cheshire West and Chester and 24.4 for Cheshire East. The NW currently has 24% of England's cases but only around 15% of the national testing capacity.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The actions set out within the CRF plan affect a wide range of local authority and partner organisation functions and services. The implications will need to be

considered individually alongside the capacity and resources needed to support these actions at a local level.

5.0 OTHER/ FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The actions are funded wherever possible from existing test and trace grants to local authorities, and also through the use of and redeployment of existing resources. However, there is a natural limit to capacity / resources at a local level. The Plan states that, "The opportunity cost of not taking these actions on both health & wellbeing, and on economy is significant."

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There are a range of actions within the plan aimed at early years settings, schools and colleges to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The plan sets out action for employers and educational settings to help control the spread of Coronavirus.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

All of the actions within the plan are directly related to this priority and the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that implementation of the plan will reduce and control the spread of the virus within communities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Police will have enforcement powers in relation to Covid-19 regulations. Local authorities will continue to offer support to the business and hospitality sector on ensuring Covid- secure settings.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The plan provides action related to Transport to ensure the safe operation of services. Communication of key public health messages across outdoor spaces and leisure venues are also an essential ongoing requirement.

RISK ANALYSIS

7.0

The implementation of this action plan is crucial to reducing the risk to health and wellbeing and the economy.

7.1

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.0

N/A

8.1

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.0

9.1

None