

Meeting Date: 8 September 2020

Public/Private*: Public

Title: Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jack Paton

Covid-19 in Carlisle

We had a lengthy discussion on this in which a lot of areas were covered, and the update was very informative. The R rate for one was quite worrying with the report that the number of cases had risen, but like we pointed out a lot of this was due to the results from the care homes. This in no way reflects their professionalism as in nearly all cases it was brought into the care homes.

It was mentioned that the report did not look at the virus and the recovery process in relation to climate change as was requested at a previous meeting.

There were concerns about the R rate and were we preparing plans in case of a second wave. The Military have been in the city doing track and trace tests where lots of people were tested.

One thing came to light that the numbers of domestic abuse cases had risen since the lockdown. This is extremely alarming but a number of agencies including our team from the City Council have been working very hard and continue to monitor the situation.

It is alarming that a large number of people might lose their jobs as quite a lot of firms have concerns that they may not survive a long term lockdown, even with the support that the government is giving, people are very worried about their future.

It was upsetting to hear that certain pubs and barbers were not adhering to social distancing. I myself have reported a number of barbers who were cutting hair without any PPE however I think this has now been resolved.

Homelessness has been a subject that has drew attention from the Panel. Our Accommodation Manager and the team have worked so hard to try and get as many people into housing, working with other charities and agencies.

New Cumbria Choice

The new policy related to homelessness as well as normal allocations. This would give greater clarity for who may register in the future. The panel welcomed the Equality Act, however the inclusion of transgender in the assessment was incorrect as it was in direct opposition to the men and women it referred to.

There are a large number of people registered with Cumbria Choice, but the bands have changed. The Homeless Manager said that the reduction in the bands should give greater clarity for customer and if the applicants were not satisfied, they could appeal.

I submit this report to the council

Cllr Jack Paton

Chair – Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee