

**WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL EXCEPTIONAL PRESSURES BRIEFING
JANUARY 2021**

Priority issues

- a) Sussex Resilience Forum declares major incident to maximise COVID-19 response (paras 1 – 6)**
- b) National and Local Outbreak Management (paras 7 - 41)**
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a) Sussex Resilience Forum declares major incident to maximise COVID-19 response

1. A major incident has been declared in Sussex to best respond to unprecedented pressures of COVID-19. The same decision has been taken by several other local resilience forums in the South East.
2. The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) which co-ordinates and communicates between health, emergency services, local authorities and other partners, agreed to declare the incident in response to the high and increasing rate of infection across Sussex and to allow public services to make exceptional preparations for a potentially worsening situation.
3. A major incident is a recognition of national demand and puts all agencies in Sussex in the best possible position to come together to tackle the virus. It is a well-recognised and rehearsed escalation that can be expected at times of exceptional need – a major incident was also in place during the summer of 2020.
4. The SRF decision recognised the strong and connected pressures across the entire health and care system, from 999 calls to hospital admissions, clinical treatment, discharge from hospital, community services and provision in care homes.
5. SRF partners are satisfied that they are currently managing the extra demands on the system but agree that they must now make plans for the likelihood that pressures will increase still further in coming weeks. There is a need to continue delivering the programme of vaccination to Sussex residents.
6. Partners agreed the decision would allow the SRF to step up and strengthen its response still further. This may include making more use of volunteer help, preparing in detail for extra capacity needed across services and considering requests for extra support from national government if necessary.

b) National and Local Outbreak Management

West Sussex Data

Note: Data change frequently. The information provided below was correct as of 2pm on Tuesday 12th January 2021.

Recorded Cases

7. **Scale** - On average for the 7 days between 31 December and 6 January there were approximately 822 new cases a day across the county.
8. The **seven-day incidence** rate varies among the districts and boroughs of West Sussex:

- Over the period 31 December and 6 January, Crawley had the highest rate at 1,144.9 per 100,000 population, Chichester the lowest rate at 471.4 per 100,000.

Area	Cases in the 7 Days between 31 December & 6 January	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000 (60+)
Adur	430	668.7	411.8
Arun	1,044	649.4	501.3
Chichester	571	471.4	381.3
Crawley	1,287	1,144.9	807.7
Horsham	777	540.4	346.1
Mid Sussex	850	562.8	372.4
Worthing	796	719.9	518.1
West Sussex	5,755	666.1	456.3

- Overall, the county rate was 666.1 per 100,000. The rate for the South East region was 680.2 per 100,000 and for England the rate was per 629.3 per 100,000.
- The rate of cases for people aged 60+ range from 807.7 per 100,000 in Crawley down to 346.1 per 100,000 in Horsham, the regional rate is 509 per 100,000 and the England rate of 447 per 100,000.

9. **Positivity Rates** – For the period 31 December and 6 January, Crawley had the highest positivity rate in West Sussex; at 24.6% this means that 1 in 4 people being tested are tested positive. Chichester has the lowest positivity rate at 12.3%.

Area	Positivity Rate (weekly percentage of individuals tested who test positive)
Adur	15.7
Arun	13.1
Chichester	12.3
Crawley	24.6
Horsham	13.8
Mid Sussex	14.1
Worthing	15.2
South East	17.8

Hospital Activity

10. The national Coronavirus dashboard (link below) has been updated and includes additional information, including information at individual NHS Trust level. This means that all sites will be included in the figures.

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Note: The national dashboard is still showing figures as at 5 January, pressures have increased since then. Locally we have access to more recent data these are shown below but should be treated as provisional.

As reported on **11 January**:

COVID-19 patients currently in hospital

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	222
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	240
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	255

COVID-19 patients on mechanical ventilation beds

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	48
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	19
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	29

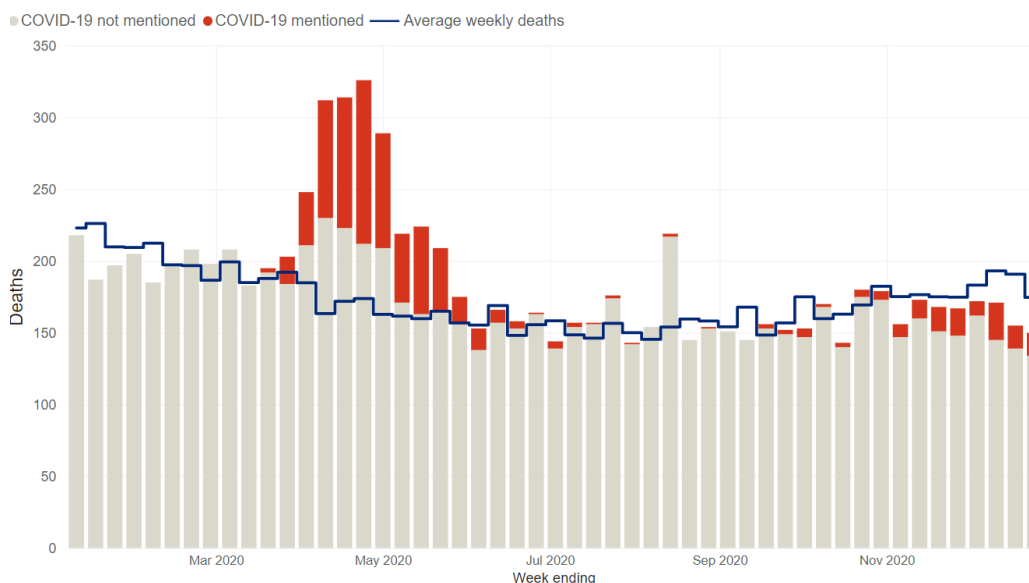
Deaths

11. The Office for National Statistics publish, on a weekly basis, data relating to deaths where COVID has been mentioned on a death certificate. Data are provided down to lower tier local authority level. In week ending 25 December there were 16 deaths where COVID was mentioned on the death certificate. Of these, 2 were in care homes. *Note: trends in this specific week's release should be interpreted with caution as this includes the Christmas period.*

12. To date (to week ending 25 December) there have been 797 deaths of West Sussex residents where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate.

13. In terms of deaths compared with previous 5-year average, deaths remain below the 5-year average for the corresponding week

West Sussex - Deaths and 5 Year Average



National Lockdown

14. On Monday, 4 January, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown and instructed people to stay at home to control the virus, protect the NHS, and save lives.
15. The decision follows a rapid rise in infections, hospital admissions and case rates across the country, and hospitals are now under more pressure than they have been at any other point throughout the pandemic.
16. This drastic jump in cases has been attributed to the new variant of COVID-19, which scientists have now confirmed is between 50 and 70 per cent more transmissible.
17. The four UK Chief Medical Officers advised that the COVID threat level should move from level four to level five, indicating that if action was not taken NHS capacity may be overwhelmed within 21 days.
18. From 5 January people were told to stay at home and only leave for a [limited number of reasons](#), including shopping for basic necessities, for exercise or to go to work where they cannot do so from home. Those with severe underlying health conditions are required to shield.
19. There is potential for further restrictions to be introduced between the publication of this report and the meeting.
20. Colleges, primary and secondary schools remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of [critical workers](#). All other children will learn remotely until February half term. Early Years settings, such as nurseries, remain open.
21. People cannot leave their home to meet socially with anyone they do not live with or are not in a [support bubble](#) with (if they are legally permitted to form one). People may exercise on their own, with one other person, or with their household or support bubble.
22. Indoor gyms and sports facilities will remain closed. Outdoor sports courts, outdoor gyms, golf courses, outdoor swimming pools, archery/driving/shooting ranges and riding arenas must also close.

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

23. On 8 January, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna was given regulatory approval for supply by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This follows a thorough and rigorous assessment by the MHRA's teams of scientists, including advice from the independent Commission on Human Medicines, which reviewed in depth all the data to ensure this vaccine meets the required standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.
24. The NHS (Sussex Health and Care Partnership) is leading the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme across Sussex, working with Local Resilience Forum

partners. The County Council are supporting the Vaccination Programme as needed.

25. Work continues at pace to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination across West Sussex. Vaccinations are taking place in hospital hubs, GP led vaccination services, roving service to care homes and housebound, and planning is taking place for large vaccination services (formerly known as mass sites). A briefing for all Members is to be held on Friday 15 January by the NHS.

Hospital Hubs

26. Hospital hubs in Sussex were launched at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton on 8 December. Teams at the hospital have been vaccinating those over the age of 80 who were attending the hospital and health and care staff. In West Sussex, vaccination services have gone live at Worthing Hospital, Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and East Surrey Hospital (for residents in the north of the county).
27. Princess Royal Hospital was one of the first in the country to use the new AstraZeneca vaccine. Other hospital hubs in Sussex include The Conquest Hospital in Hastings and Eastbourne Hospital.

GP-led Vaccination Services

28. GP-led vaccination services are where the majority of the current population are being offered their vaccinations. In the majority, each service is supported by a number of GP practices (within their Primary Care Network footprint) working together to vaccinate their collective population.
29. The Government guidance on the timing of the second dose has been updated and is now over a 12-week period. NHS vaccination services will be working to adhere to the guidance and invite their patients back for their second dose in the 12-week period.
30. The NHS are working to vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible but deploying a vaccine at this scale is unprecedented. Timing will be dependent to a large extent on manufacturing timescales and supply.

Vaccinations in Care Homes

31. Older people in care homes have been identified as the top priority group for the vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations due to their high risk from COVID-19.
32. Due to the well-publicised logistical challenges associated with the Pfizer vaccine, the NHS was initially unable to transport the vaccine to care homes and instead began inviting care home staff to receive the vaccination at hospital hubs and then at other local vaccination services.
33. Now that regulators have approved a way for the Pfizer vaccine to be transported in smaller batches, the NHS has begun the process of delivering

it in care homes. The approval of the Oxford vaccine, which is much easier to transport, means that they will now be able to vaccinate in many more care homes much more quickly.

34. The NHS are working in partnership with care homes to organise and schedule the vaccinations. Vaccines are being delivered in the main through the GP-led vaccination service, managed by the local Primary Care Networks. They expect these to cover about 60 per cent of the care homes in Sussex, with the remainder being served by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust vaccination teams. All residents will receive the vaccination in their care home. Staff will continue to also be able to access the vaccine from hospital hubs.
35. The NHS are working with care homes directly to arrange and support the process of vaccinations and the appropriate information sharing and consents needed, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity and safeguarding.
36. The NHS, local authorities, acute hospitals, and community services have worked together to draw up a prioritisation schedule for the order in which Sussex care homes will receive the vaccine, and this will be aligned with availability of the vaccine in local areas to work towards the goal of getting all care homes vaccinated by the end of January. Availability of the vaccine and sites able to vaccinate people are increasing week by week, but we need to be realistic that it will take time.
37. A detailed plan for each area is currently being worked up which will confirm the timelines, requirements and Standard Operating Procedures for care homes and scope any support likely to be required based on learning from the pilot sites already vaccinated.
38. The Sussex Health and Care Partnership COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website is regularly updated and provides the latest information:
<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

Local Tracing Partnership

39. Last November, the Local Tracing Partnership (LTP) launched across East Sussex and West Sussex to support the national NHS Test and Trace system, with the first cases received on 26 November.
40. Following a small, but steady flow of cases coming through to the LTP team from the national service at the end of last year, a large increase in case numbers has been seen since 1 January, which could in part, be due to the impact of the festive period.
41. To address the rising workload, additional measures are being put in place including redeploying some staff, recruiting new staff members, and increasing weekend staffing to meet demand.

c) Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and the Community Hub

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

42. As part of the new national lockdown, the Government is advising all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people to take extra measures to protect themselves during this period.
43. Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to stay at home as much as possible. They may still go outdoors carefully to exercise or to attend health appointments but are strongly advised not to visit shops or supermarkets. Individuals are directed towards their Local Authority Community Hub to assist in the provision of food and essential supplies if they are unable to shop online and do not have a support network able to assist.
44. As part of this advice CEV individuals are strongly advised to not work from home if they can. If they cannot work from home, then they should not attend work. A letter has been sent nationally to all CEVs in England, this letter is a formal shielding notification and can act as evidence for employers to show that a person cannot work outside their home from the period 5 January until 21 February 2021, including for statutory sick pay (SSP) purposes. Shielding advice will apply until 21 February 2021. If the advice is to continue beyond that date, we will write to CEV individuals again with further information.
45. The County Council is still receiving updates to the Shielded Patient List which identifies those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). Data was paused over the Christmas break but as at 8 January 2021 there are 34,813 residents in this group across West Sussex. This is an overall decrease in just over 100 from the previous data update.
46. Since this data has been available in the first wave of the pandemic 3202 individuals have been removed as their condition no longer classifies them in the most at risk and 2514 have died.
47. Emails and Letters were sent on 30 December to all individuals on the CEV list at that point reminding them of the support available via the Community Hub. Individuals newly added to the CEV list are contacted by telephone along with those who register on the national platform asking for support.

Community Hub

48. The Community Hub, launched in late March 2020, is available during this national Lockdown to provide a range of support and practical assistance for all residents of West Sussex as well as almost 35,000 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals.
49. Telephone lines remain open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week supported by website content and a series of e-forms to provide digital access. Additional

staff have been redeployed from across the Communities Directorate to enable an increased level of proactive outbound contact during this new National Lockdown.

50. Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals, or their friends and family are encouraged to contact the Community Hub or use the online registration service to:

- Request priority access to supermarket delivery slots (if you have already got priority supermarket deliveries, you'll keep them).
- Tell the County Council if they need support in order to follow this guidance that cannot be provided by friends, family or other support networks.
- Update details, for example, your address.

51. This service can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support>, and has been available for active registration since 26 December 2020. Individuals registering on this platform and indicating they require support will be telephoned directly by the Community Hub.

52. Outbound contact from the Community Hub to newly added Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents is ensuring that they are able to receive the practical support they may require and providing reassurance to those who may only just have received their clinical diagnosis.

53. During the second Lockdown in November the Community Hub was notified of 373 requests for support via the national registration service and followed up via telephone. Since the system was activated again on 26 December there have been 179 requests for support to date.

54. The County Council continues to utilise its own locally developed sustainable food and supplies offer available via the Community Hub, providing flexibility to support either a one off or ongoing requirement. Each food and supplies delivery is followed up by a call to minimise dependence by working on sustainable options where appropriate.

55. Government require a fortnightly data return on the activity undertaken by the Community Hub to support the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.

COVID Winter Grant Scheme

56. On 8 November 2020, the Government announced extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. West Sussex County Council was allocated £2m from this COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

57. Designed to provide direct assistance to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals this grant covers the period from early December 2020 until the end of March 2021.

58. There is a requirement for the County Council to determine eligibility across the county and targets support within the scope of the grant conditions to provide direct assistance to individuals, vulnerable households and families

with children particularly affected by the pandemic with meeting the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs.

59. Working in partnership with our Schools and Further Education establishments children and families in receipt of Free School Meals during term time were provided with a £30 supermarket voucher to assist over the Christmas holiday. Vouchers totalling £466,200 were distributed by 284 establishments to provide this support across West Sussex. Plans are in place to adopt the same approach for February half term.
60. Working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector a number of locally based food and support models have been established. These build on existing networks but increase the accessibility and reach. Funds have been distributed to a number of organisations including Stonepillow, Horsham Matters and Age UK.
61. Age UK will deliver low-cost nutritious meals to peoples' homes with a chat, check and refer service alongside the provision of hot meals through day centres. In addition, they will give advice on wellbeing in winter from nutrition through to improving warmth and energy consumption in the home and fit home improvements to increase warmth and reduce energy and water use. Anyone interested in receiving meals, energy advice or other support should call 01903 731 800 or email info@aukwsbh.org.uk
62. Citizens Advice will be distributing fuel and cash vouchers to eligible households for the period until the end of March. The scheme will be accessible to households with a pre-payment meter, credit meter and anyone other households struggling to pay for their fuel. The scheme will cater for households struggling to pay for gas, water, electricity and domestic heating oil and portable gas cylinders. Residents can access via 03444 771171 and advisers are available to answer the phone 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. A freephone number will be launched on 11 January 2021.
63. Sussex Community Foundation are administering a funding programme on the County Council's behalf to support West Sussex VCSE organisations, Mutual Aid Groups, and Town and Parish Councils which are well placed to identify vulnerable households most in need of support. Organisations can apply via https://sussexgiving.org.uk/named_funds_posts/covid-winter-support-fund/
64. Funds have also been used to assist vulnerable individuals already known to the County Council. Just before Christmas practical support including the delivery of food parcels and help with heating/utility bill costs was provided to young people supported by the Leaving Care Service.

d) Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL)

65.The Executive Director, and her team, continue to ensure that there is a robust focus on service improvement, despite these challenges.

Social Care Update

66.Staffing levels remain good, however numbers of staff needing to isolate are rising, and there is some significant degradation to in-house residential provision. This is being well-managed and closely monitored at present and all in-house residential and fostering placements for our children remain stable. Staff in the department have been notified that it may be necessary to temporarily divert work to support other more critical priorities, including residential provision. At present there are no reports of staff with children of school age being unduly impacted by the partial closure of schools, with classroom places available where appropriate.

67.We know, from an analysis of the impact of the first national lockdown, how important it is that face to face visits to children open to social care continue. Guidance has been issued to staff and foster carers to ensure continuation of these visits, and to ensure contact with birth families is undertaken safely. All children open to social care continue to be RAG rated to ensure targeted responses to those children and families most in need are prioritised and safeguarded. This includes young people being worked with by the Youth Justice Service.

68.Early Help services are continuing, mainly remotely, but physical visits to families are continuing when required and workers are also delivering food parcels to vulnerable families under financial pressure.

69.There is a stable and sustainable stock of PPE which is being well managed to ensure delivery of frontline and other critical services.

Early Years & Childcare

70.The announcement in the week beginning 4 January that early years providers should, unlike school provision, remain open for all children has placed a significant pressure on the sector, creating high levels of confusion and anxiety. Government guidance has stated that childcare provision for school age children can only be provided for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children yet universally for children under the age of 5. The impact of this on business sustainability across the whole sector, for what are mostly small businesses, is significant. This may impact on the wider County Council statutory duties to ensure sufficient childcare places as outlined in Childcare Act 2006 especially in the early year sector (nurseries, preschools and some childminders) that deliver the Free Entitlement (FE) funding.

71.Of the 429 group-based providers registered with the County Council to provide this funding, in the week beginning 11 January:

- 79% are open
- 3% are partially open

- 6% are only open for critical workers and vulnerable children
- 6% are currently closed
- 4% are unknown

72. Settings are currently struggling with high levels of staff sickness and a reduction in children attending and are concerned that they will have no option but to close or reduce their offer to families. We are monitoring this situation weekly and continue to support childcare providers and parents through the Family Information Service.

73. The latest guidance about Spring term FE funding states that local authorities should return to the normal funding approach (that is, 'funding following the child') for all providers from 1 January. Government funding allocated to local authorities, for the early years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2021/2022, is based on the January 2021 Census count. This means that our future funding allocation will be determined on the number of children accessing their early years provision on 21 January.

74. The current position is that a significant number of children are not accessing their entitlement due to parental concerns around COVID-19, as well as the issues outlined above, and as concerns increase, numbers in attendance are likely to decrease. The risk is that the usual rates of children will not be present at settings for Census day and this will negatively impact on our final budget allocation as determined in July 21. There is significant national lobbying underway on this issue.

Education and Skills Update

75. All schools are now partially open and are working to meet the needs of face to face teaching for all vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

76. Due to the significantly broader criteria for critical workers and vulnerability, the numbers of children requesting and able to access a place in school is significantly greater than was the case during the first lockdown. There have been a number of critical workers, including school-based staff, who had initially had their request for a place turned down. However, as schools have organised their staffing arrangements and routines, many of these have now been accommodated. The School Effectiveness Team are working with individual schools to address any related issues.

77. We are aware that some other local authorities in the region are restricting places to children where both parents are critical workers. This is affecting staffing in West Sussex schools when staff living over the county borders are unable to attend due to childcare issues.

78. Attendance recording information is being collected mid-week starting week beginning 11 January so we do not as yet have an accurate picture of overall attendance until data begins to feed through into the DfE database.

79. Special schools are working on risk rating their pupils to determine a blended approach with those with the greatest need receiving face to face full time, others with a blend of face to face and home learning, and others with home

learning only. This is the only way that special schools can manage provision safely. The local authority is applying to the DfE to implement their Contingency Framework for special schools as the course of action being taken is not in line with national guidance.

80. Some secondary schools are applying the lateral flow testing arrangement but current advice and answers to questions raised are conflicting between different agencies leaving some schools frustrated and confused. We have advised schools to focus on establishing routines and home learning initially with the intention of implementing the lateral flow testing once the current inconsistencies are resolved nationally.
81. IT access for disadvantaged pupils working from home has been supported with additional guidance and access for schools to order through a DfE ordering portal. The portal is under extreme pressure nationally as schools put forward their requests. However, secondary schools are able, and some have successfully done so, to place orders and have timeframes for delivery. However, the DfE is indicating that they are not processing orders for primary schools at this particular time.
82. West Sussex has agreed with our school meals contractors to provide hot meals to Free School Meal children in school and all KS2 pupils (which goes beyond the statutory requirement). Food hampers are being organised for FSMs children who are not in school for parents/carers to collect from the school. The national Edenred voucher system has very recently been reintroduced but only as a back-up plan where local arrangements are unable to be made.
83. Home to school transport is working well overall and the transport team are working with our special schools to provide flexibility, based on each school's plans and needs.
84. School Effectiveness Link Advisers are organising a timeline of focused calls with schools over the term to pick up on vulnerable children not in school, on home-based learning provision, and on provision and learning progress for disadvantaged pupils. They are also a key contact for school leaders to raise issues.

e) Care Homes - update

Care homes

85. There are 235 care homes for older people in West Sussex. The care homes provide 8,608 beds. A third of these are commissioned by the County Council with the remainder commissioned through other local authorities, health or funded directly by residents.
86. For the week commencing 7 January 2021, 49 care homes for older people had a confirmed case among staff and/or residents. In the same period, 9 learning disability and one mental health service had confirmed cases.

87. For the same week, local data on care homes reports admissions are currently restricted in:

- 55 care homes for older people,
- 2 extra care setting,
- 13 care homes for mental health/learning disability,
- 0 domiciliary care providers, and
- 4 supported living settings.

88. There has been a sharp increase in the number of positive tests within care services, some of this may be attributable to the change in testing regime. Care homes now test staff twice a week; once a week with a PCR swab and lateral flow test (LFT) on the same day and LFT only on another day. Where an outbreak is identified, staff are tested in advance of their shift for a period of seven days following the start of the outbreak. As staff have to immediately isolate following a positive test, this is having a notable impact on services and capacity within care services.

89. Over the last few weeks, the County Council has supported the local NHS to communicate messages to care providers on the planned vaccination programme for coronavirus and opportunities for care staff vaccinations with the acute hospitals.

90. The County Council understands there may be a further round of grant funding to support care homes, which follows rounds 1 and 2 of Adult Social Care Infection Control Funding. Further detail is awaited.

Commissioning

91. Outbreaks are also being seen within community services with increasing reports from domiciliary care providers of staff and/or customers testing positive. Support is being provided where required and restrictions considered on a case by case basis.

92. Care commissioning activity has been undertaken to support additional demand for health and social care support in the county over the winter months. This includes ensuring access to designated accommodation for people leaving hospital who are medically fit but remain COVID-19 positive, which is anticipated to commence during January 2021. Further contracts have been awarded and commenced for:

- Additional domiciliary care hours across a range of both urban and rural areas, which have been delivering since 6 December 2020 and are increasing in volume as demand requires and capacity allows.
- Additional Home First Care capacity across the county, focussed on densely populated areas, which started on 14 December 2020 and are also increasing hours of delivery as required.
- Block contracted beds within care and nursing homes focused on supporting people with dementia and nursing dementia needs.

93. The County Council is also working alongside the Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Continuing Healthcare and Sussex Community NHS Foundation

Trust to support commissioning of overnight care to enable more people to be discharged from hospitals and supported in their own home.

Mental health system

94. There continue to be pressures within the inpatient beds for people with mental health needs that warrant an admission, with a significant number of people requiring placement in beds outside those delivered by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust. There are increased numbers of people presenting with complex mental health issues in the community and in A&E.
95. The Approved Mental Health Professional service is experiencing increased demand for formal assessments under the Mental Health Act and this includes a significant rise in the number of young people under 18 years old requiring assessment.

People with learning disabilities

96. The Government's announcement of a further period of lockdown re-introduced shielding for those in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable group. Those who are shielded are advised to remain at home and avoid contact with people outside of their household. This means that those who are in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable groups, which includes adults with Down's Syndrome, should not usually attend day services due to the inevitable mixing with others outside of their household.
97. Alternative offers of support, such as outreach, virtual support (e.g. Zoom groups) and activity packs are available. However, where this does not provide adequate support, in limited circumstances consideration may be given to resuming attendance at day services. This will depend on the agreement of the day service provider and the steps they are able to put in place to manage the increased risks to physical health.

Hospital capacity

98. Acute hospitals are under significant pressure and have been asked to offer mutual aid to NHS Trusts in other counties by accepting critically ill COVID-19 patients from out of area. This, alongside the rapid spread of COVID-19 in care homes, peaks in winter demand, increased pressure in A&E departments, is presenting some challenges for the discharge pathways in ensuring those who are medically fit are discharged as quickly as possible.
99. Hospital discharge hubs and a combined placement and sourcing team (CPST) continue to operate, as well as working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to secure appropriate levels of domiciliary care, care/nursing home beds and voluntary services to support effective discharge. The additional commissioned winter capacity described above, on top of the County Council's commissioned Hospital Discharge Care Services which commenced in April 2020, aim to support swift discharges and enable people to return home where possible following discharge from hospital. Due to levels of demand at present, and the number of care homes which are

restricted to admissions due to COVID-19, the discharge hubs and the CPST are under considerable pressure.

f) Financial pressure

100. The latest estimated cost of the pandemic (as at 18 December 2020) in 2020/21 to the County Council is £65.8m; increasing to £85.8m when including the estimated loss arising from business rates and council tax. The Government are allowing councils to defer 2020/21 council tax and business rates deficits and repay these deficits over the next three years instead of the usual one year. The estimated deficit is included within the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2021/22 to 2023/24, whilst the actual deficit will not be known until the end of the financial year. These estimates were updated prior to the announcement of the national lockdown in January 2021 and the increases in service pressures now emerging, which will potentially see estimated costs increasing.

101. A number of funding streams have been made available to local authorities to address these budget pressures, covering both specific purposes, such as the Infection Control Fund, and generic funding that has provided the County Council with flexibility to use it in line with local circumstances, for example in relation to providing support to care providers. In total the funding provided by the Government thus far to West Sussex County Council to address the impact of Covid-19 in 2020/21 amounts to £89.1m, as set out in the table below. The Government has confirmed that additional funding will be provided on a monthly basis until the end of the 2020/21 financial year, with an additional £1.9 million notified to the County Council for January 2021.

Income and Estimated Grants:	£m
COVID-19 non ringfenced Government grant	(45.853)
Infection Control Grant	(24.321)
Test and Trace	(3.179)
Partnership Funding CCG - Social Care Market	(1.061)
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	(6.912)
Reimbursement of lost income	(2.700)
Emergency food grant	(0.737)
Home to school transport	(1.102)
Protect and increase travel services (emergency active travel fund)	(0.234)
Winter support grant	(2.493)
Bus support services	(0.249)
Travel demand management	(0.175)
Wellbeing for education	(0.090)
PPE Storage	(0.011)
Estimated Grant/ Income	(89.117)

Future Funding for 2021/22

102. Details of the Local Government COVID-19 Support Package for 2021/22 were announced alongside the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The package comprises of £1.55bn of unringfenced grant to manage both the immediate and the long term impacts of the pandemic; £670m to enable councils to continue reducing council tax bills for the least able to pay; and an extension of the sales, fees and charges income support scheme to June 2021. The allocations currently published provide the following additional funding to West Sussex County Council:

COVID-19 Emergency Pressure Grant	£15.618m
Local Council Tax Support	£6.628m