

Report for Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel: March 2022

Title: Living through Lockdown Report

Report authorised by: Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director of Commissioning

Lead Officer:

Ward affected: All

Report for Information

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This brief paper provides an initial response to the recommendations of the Living Through Lockdown Report, published in August 2020. The response has been co-produced by a small working group from the Joint Partnership Board and the Council and offers both an update on partners' response to the report and some suggested future actions to embed learning from the Report.
- 1.2 The Living Through Lockdown report is a summary of issues and concerns experienced by adult social care service users and carers during the first lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic in Haringey from March 2020. The report covers a wide range of areas and was compiled through a series of interviews and meetings carried out by Public Voice with the Joint Partnership Board. The Joint Partnership Board was set up in 2017 to ensure that vulnerable groups in Haringey have a voice in the way NHS services and social care are provided for them. Public Voice, which runs and manages Healthwatch Haringey, was commissioned by Haringey Council to establish and support the running of the Joint Partnership Board and its reference groups.
- 1.3 Since the report was published in August 2020, it has been widely promoted across statutory partnerships and the Council and used to reference the considerable impact of both the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown on vulnerable Haringey residents. It is hoped that the response set out here will be used to guide future working to ensure the needs of vulnerable residents are included as standard in all planning.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the Living Through Lockdown report at Appendix A, the work undertaken to respond to its recommendations as set out in Appendix B and the role of the Joint Partnership Board moving forward.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 N/A

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 N/A

6. Background Information

- 6.1 The first lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic, introduced in March 2020, changed life for everyone in the country. The fundamental shift to the way we live was both abrupt and far-reaching and whilst proportionate to the severity and seriousness of the pandemic was nonetheless experienced as significant. It is only now, as we enter a new phase of the pandemic, and a new phase in the national response, that it is possible to look back on the pandemic and to begin to appreciate what may be the long-term impacts of this period which touched us all. For vulnerable residents, most affected by both the disease and the lockdown, the impacts were particularly acute as set out so clearly in the Living Through Lockdown Report.
- 6.2 Whilst there were some positive responses from the community and partners, including an increased sense of community spirit and upsurge in volunteering; the role of Connected Communities in helping residents to access essential items including food and other support they needed; Mutual aid groups formed during lockdown at the neighbourhood level and building strong links with statutory and Voluntary and Community Sector services and vice versa; telephone support from the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other organisations to check on carers; and a telephone befriending service set up by Public Voice's Reach and Connect Service, there were also a number of areas where residents felt there could and should be change and improvements.
- 6.3 A series of recommendations was made in response to residents' experiences and it was agreed that a small working group, comprising members of the Joint Partnership Board and officers from the Council, would together co-produce a response to these recommendations.
- 6.4 Attached at Appendix 1, is the Living Through Lockdown report and at Appendix 2, a summary table of the responses to the recommendations to date – it is recognised that there is more work to do as the recommendations are about shaping the way services respond now and into the future, and not solely a reflection of what happened at a point in time. The work is not yet complete – given the relentless pressures on the NHS for example, the Workin Group has not yet addressed the series of recommendations with NHS partners, but is moving to do so at its next meeting where a wider membership is to be invited.
- 6.5 On this basis, the co-production working group will continue to meet and to influence future service design and equally the work with partners will continue. As the report

was commissioned by the Joint Partnership Board, it is suggested that the work will from now on be presented there for consideration, comment and support.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

7.1 Listening to residents' voices and understanding their experiences is a core principle underpinning the Borough Plan 2019 – 2023 and our approach across the Council to working with communities. Co-producing a response to the Living Through Lockdown Report recommendations supports our commitment to working alongside residents to effect change and to improve outcomes.

8. **Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer, Procurement, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities) – Not applicable**

8 Use of Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Living Through Lockdown Report

8.2 Appendix B – response to recommendations

9 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1995

10.1 N/A