

8 July 2020

Member briefing from Leader of Cornwall Council

Dear colleagues

Firstly, it was good to see so many of you at yesterday's full council meeting, and I hope you found the format satisfactory. It is good to be moving back towards business as usual, despite the fact the circumstances are anything but.

This afternoon our weekly media briefing will be taking place, so I felt now would be a good time to ensure you are fully updated with the latest news on our action to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

Latest Covid figures for Cornwall

I thought that the following might be helpful in setting out some of the key messages from this week's data releases:

- The **case numbers** reported nationally changed on 2 July 2020 to **include the number of individuals who have received a positive test result for COVID-19 identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2)**. This has increased the figures reported for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, but this is not a recent surge in cases - it is the inclusion of pillar 2 positive tests between April and the July now being added.
 - The **cumulative number of confirmed cases of COVID-19** across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly **stands at 889 as at 6 July** (Source: UK.GOV) which is a rate of 156.5 per 100,000. **Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly now has the 3rd lowest rate of all Upper Tier Councils in England (under pillar 1 reporting C&IoS was 5th)** – only North East Lincolnshire (127.6) and Devon (149.3) have lower rates.
 - **205 deaths** have been registered for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly residents (up to and including the 26 June) which mentioned "novel coronavirus" (COVID-19); accounting for **6% of all deaths** over the period.
 - **Overall, there was 1 additional COVID-19 related deaths from the previous week (week ending 19 June)**.
 - **The only COVID-19 death in the latest reported week occurred in a care home**. The **cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 in care homes** that occurred up to and including 19 June stands at **68** accounting for **7% of all deaths** in care homes over the period.
 - The cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 **in hospital remains as at 119 deaths**, with a further 18 in the community/ at home.

Reopening of hospitality industry

I am delighted to say last weekend's partial reopening of the hospitality sector was a success in Cornwall and want to say thank you to businesses for their efforts in keeping customers

safe as they finally opened their doors after four months. Pubs, restaurants, accommodation providers and hairdressers were allowed to reopen from Saturday as the Government eased restrictions. Businesses had to put in place new Coronavirus safety measures before operating again, including asking customers to book ahead, follow social distancing and give contact details to help with the Government's Track and Trace system.

Over the weekend Cornwall Council officers patrolled seven town centres to give advice and support to reopening businesses and responded to questions from more than 100 pubs, restaurants and hotels. Public protection officers will continue to visit hospitality businesses over the next few weeks, and they are encouraging businesses to make contact if they have any questions about trading under the changing rules. More than 1,800 businesspeople have attended the Council's free Back in Business webinars for specific sectors which can be watched again and more sessions are being planned with dates to be announced. Free business advice in meeting the new legal requirements is available at www.businessregulatorysupport.co.uk/recovery or from the Council's Business Regulatory Support team. Businesses can also get more information on reopening from Cornwall Council's Back in Business Recovery Guide which covers topics such as working safely and limiting the risk of Coronavirus, cleaning and disinfection, food safety and health and safety.

Annual report

Colleagues, ordinarily the Council's Annual Report would have been published ahead of the Annual Council in May.

However, as we all know, the meeting didn't take place due to the social distancing restrictions and therefore we deferred publication of the Annual Council 2019-2020 until this week's council meeting.

I hope members and residents take a moment to read through the [Annual Report](#) as it chronicles our key achievements across the five Priorities for Cornwall during the last financial year. It is worth noting that this is the first digital only version of the Annual Report produced by the Council, which reflects our commitment to becoming paperless and achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

The infographic timeline spread across pages 8 and 9 shows just a few of the many accomplishments achieved by the Council during April 2019 and March this year. I pay tribute to all those involved in making 2019-20 another successful year for the Council. March also coincided with the outbreak of Covid19 and quite rightly the Annual Report reflects on the impact on Cornwall and reiterates our commitment to 'bounce forward' from the pandemic to tackle climate change and achieve social justice.

CorCare

Our Corcare team, part of Corserv Community Care have received further recognition for the work we did in collaboration with Cornwall Council, and other partners, to set up and run the hotel discharge lounges. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) have featured us for innovation, under the theme of collaboration - a brilliant achievement. The discharge lounges set up by Cornwall Council and the local health authority have been life-changing for many Cornish residents, allowing them to rest and recuperate in a safe and comfortable

environment. The lounges provide dedicated, fully-trained care workers deployed from Corcare, part of the Corserv Group, to support residents back home as soon as they can.

The Corcare team ensure the best possible personal care patient journey, working with multi-disciplinary, multi-agency teams, following already established frameworks. This has provided access to GPs, district nurses and nutritionists as well as helping to source the social care package to support the resident back to their home. Recently, residents have been supported by Occupational Therapists who have been working with the care teams and the local social work teams. Their work ensures people optimise their independence and return home with no ongoing care needs. This package of support reflects the focus on improvement in health and wellbeing. Due to the dedication of Stayathome, Council provider staff and Corserv Care staff at the lounge, many activities have also taken place to support mental and physical wellbeing. Residents have been able to video call and connect with relatives, as well as take part in activities such as gardening, a silent disco and VE day celebrations, which have all increased motivation and given confidence in returning home. These positive outcomes have continued to build stronger relationships with other local providers of health and social care, enabling joint learning to take place from real life cases, which will be used to further establish better ways of working as we move forward from coronavirus.

It has also captured the hearts of the local community as in many cases, residents arrived at the lounge without essentials such as pyjamas and slippers. After putting out an offer for donations on Facebook, the community offered so much support including items to clothe residents as well as keeping residents entertained with pen pal letters from school children, which has really kept spirits high.

Funding for projects that support suicide prevention

Community groups can now apply for funding for projects to support Cornwall's aim to prevent suicide, especially during the pressures of the lockdown. Cornwall Council and its partner NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group have provided over £70,000 of funding, and community groups can apply for up to £10,000 towards projects that either contribute towards people's mental health and well-being or directly work towards preventing suicide. Any community group, charity or organisation can apply for the funding and there is a particular focus on projects that aim to reduce suicide by middle aged men, by people in treatment services, and reducing self-harm. Anyone who is struggling with their mental health can find information on the support available on the council's website www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has also recently launched a new 24/7 open access telephone service for anyone worried about their mental health. Support is available to anyone, regardless of age, all day every day, by calling free on 0800 038 5300.

Important links

All coronavirus related enquiries or issues to our dedicated email address covid19@cornwall.gov.uk. This email address is monitored seven days-a-week.

Anyone who needs help can request a volunteer by ringing 01872 266988 or emailing requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk.

Find out more about the support available for businesses here: [Business Rate Support Council Tax Support](#) and [Growth Hub](#)

Please take care of yourselves,

Best wishes, Julian

Julian German

Hembrenkyas an Konsel

Konseler Kernow rag Pastel-vro An Ros

Leader of the Council