

Humanitarian Aid Position Statement

I would like to provide a specific update for Members on this important topic as it is quite intricate and everyone needs to know what is happening.

Client Groups

We know that nationally there are about 1.5 M people on the “Shielded” list. Within this, there is a smaller number of people identified as being “Extremely Vulnerable” (EVPS). These are the people who have received the special delivery. At the moment, we do not have the details from the NHS list as it is not “clean” data and the County Council who are the recipients in the national cascade cannot release it to us so we do not know the extent of the commitment. Whilst we do not have that information, we think it could be anything up to 4,000 in Bassetlaw. Some of these will indicate they do not need ongoing supplies. What we do not know is that we have about 12,000 over 70s within the district.

There are groups who are not currently classed as vulnerable but very soon could be this includes-

Current Food Bank clients;

New Universal Credit claimants who need support.

Others seeking general support who may be vulnerable and need a hand.

Given some of this uncertainty, the BCVS have been building on their own client group data and the Council is adding in new referrals. When we get the NHS data from the County, we will ensure a cross reference exercise is done to ensure there are no gaps, and any new clients added to the County’s to ensure they are fed into the food parcel analysis.

Supplies & Support Services

The nature of the support is not uniform either:

The EVP have had doorstep deliveries. We understand these will continue and be supplied from national resources. We also believe people can de register but our advice is for people to keep their special delivery.

From the work undertaken by BCVS and with support from the Council and calls and referrals to the district level, about 100 parcels have been delivered so far. The Food Bank and new Universal Credit claimants do not fall into this category and will need local support to supply them in the traditional manner, albeit on a larger scale. There has been donations from the two Morrisons stores and this should be weekly. These have been transferred residual Food Bank supplies in both Retford and Worksop. There will be a Red Cross donation of supplies coming Monday.

Unless there are more supplies this support will not be sustainable and therefore we will be working with Morrisons to see if they will continue with their generosity and for how long. It is hoped that the

national effort to release supermarket delivery slots will reduce the impact. We will be monitoring the local situation carefully.

We encourage any donations of non-perishable food to be made to the existing Food Bank collection points. We do know a number of these have been suspended but we will send you an update on known locations.

In terms of other support:

Medicines. There is a small-scale service that has been started up picking up prescriptions for people. A meeting is needed with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group about prescription charges – where they are due.

A member of our staff has already delivered 20 prescriptions across the district

There are a number of home shopping arrangements in place being coordinated directly by community groups. We continue to stress the importance of Safeguarding.

Befriending is the most easiest – it can be informal and there is a BT campaign at the moment encouraging people to keep in touch with people they know. For isolated people that are not friends or relatives people need to register as a volunteer with the Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum via the County Council website.

Staffing Resources

The capacity of BCVS is limited to its core staff and how many volunteers they can support. Some would be volunteers are dropping out when they know what they are being asked to do given their own circumstances.

Their infrastructure is also limited to four phone lines and the Council needs to augment this, particularly over weekends and the Bank Holiday, and steps are in hand to provide this cover.

Once the system becomes established there will be a need for more people to ensure that the various aspects of the support scheme – dog walking etc., delivering food, assisting people with both their medicines and any trips for medical purposes can be fulfilled. Staff who are being paid but cannot work from home will be asked to step in if necessary, particularly those from BPL as the sports centres are shut.

Information and Advice

We intend to write to all Over 70s (12,000) next week with information about our local support and the County Hub. We are aware that a number will not have internet access. We are however mindful of the need to manage expectations.

Customer service staff will again cover 01909 533533 and customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk over both Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00. We have a van and driver on standby with some food supplies if required.

We are looking at cover over the Easter period.

