

Overview & Scrutiny Board

16 February 2021

REPORT

Subject Heading:

Topic Groups Update

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

To update the Board on progress with its Topic Groups.

Financial summary:

None

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering
Places making Havering
Opportunities making Havering
Connections making Havering

[X]
[X]
[X]
[X]

SUMMARY

At a previous meeting, the Overview & Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a number of Topic Groups. This report updates the Board on progress with the other Topic Groups.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Board notes the current position with the three established Covid-related Topic Groups.**

REPORT DETAIL

1. Covid-19 Topic Group 1 comprises Councillors Michael White (Chairman) Philippa Crowder, Sally Miller, Nisha Patel, Christine Smith and Darren Wise.

The topic group has now held productive discussions with representatives from several local care homes and also a number of third sector organisations delivering care services on behalf of the Council. Feedback and comments received will now be discussed with a representative of Healthwatch Havering before the group compiles its report.

Focus - Review the impact of COVID on residential care homes and the third sector in Havering

- 2. Focus - Review the Council's response to COVID, focussing on its pandemic-flu plan and Command structure**

Covid-19 Topic Group 2 comprises Councillors Keith Darvill (Chairman) Linda Hawthorn, Ray Morgon and Christine Smith.

The Topic Group has met on a number of occasions, interviewing officers involved in the Council's command response to the pandemic. The Topic Group has established its preliminary findings and will be in a position to report formally to the Board at its meeting on 10 March.

The Topic Group has yet to receive feedback from external partners on the Borough Resilience Forum. It has also commenced a Member Survey in respect of the Council's emergency planning arrangements.

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3. COVID Topic Group 3 - Debt Recovery - comprises Councillors Graham Williamson (Chairman), Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone and Dilip Patel.

The Topic Group has now met with senior officers to discuss the position with debt recovery in light of the pandemic restrictions. The group will meet again early in the new financial year in order to assess at that point the overall situation with debt recovery and any ongoing impact on this of the pandemic.