



**Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board
30 September 2021**

ITEM 06

Report sponsor: Steve Caplan, Director of
Property Services
Report author: Darren Allsobrook, Team
Manager, Corporate Health and Safety

Work of the Corporate Health and Safety Team have done for the Council, it's Services and assets during the pandemic.

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the work of the Corporate Health and Safety Team during the pandemic.
- 1.2 The report and accompanying slide presentation describe the key dates, the role of the Corporate Health and Safety Team within the governance structures. Interpretation of national, industry specific and local guidance. The work undertaken, what difference this made and future challenges the Council may face.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the work of the Corporate Health and Safety Team supporting the Council through the pandemic.
- 2.2 To note the potential future challenges.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 Board members have requested a report on the work of the Corporate Health and Safety Team during the pandemic

Supporting information

- 4.1 On 23rd March 2020, the Prime Minister announced the first national lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Council response led by our Director of Public Health, ensured a collaborative approach across the council. The Corporate Health and Safety Team at the centre of this collaboration with other colleagues and services across the council moved to address the immediate, and long-term impacts on the services, assets, colleagues, and customers of the national lockdown. Slide 3.
- 4.2 One key role of the Corporate Health and Safety Team is as the source of expertise in interpreting, National, Service Specific and Local guidance see slide 4. This has required the team to work at pace, not only due to the amount of guidance published much of it changing daily, but addressing concerns and supporting services with clarification as at times there has been confusion and contradiction between guidance for example Government and industry specific.
- 4.3 The key to managing COVID-19 from an employer's point of view has been to ensure that employers have COVID-19 secure workplaces and demonstrate controls for work activities through risk assessments. Slide 5 and 6 outlines the work undertaken by the team during the pandemic and risk assessment being key. We have over 160 published COVID risk assessments for specific services, in addition another 40 plus assessments reviewed each term for schools supported by the council. Specific templates have been developed by the team for schools and for colleagues who were identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, Clinically Vulnerable and other colleagues who were identified as high risk such as Expectant Mothers and Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic colleagues.
- 4.4 Slide 7 highlights where the work of the CHST has made a real difference for the council, its services, and customers in ensuring services continue to be delivered, customers are safe when accessing those services and the wider impact on the city such as the culture and leisure offer and local democracy in running a COVID secure elections in May 2021.
- 4.5 Slides 8 & 9 describe some of the areas of risk as a result of the pandemic and how these are being addressed and future challenges as we move to a situation where the Health and Safety Executive require employers to manage coronavirus under existing health and safety legislation and mitigate against it as any other workplace hazard or occupational disease.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 This report is for information only and does not require public/stakeholder engagement.
- 5.2

Other options

6.1 Not applicable with this report.

6.2

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 Not applicable for this report

Legal implications

8.1 Ensure compliance with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. at 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and other associated health and safety regulations.

Climate implications

9.1 Nil with this report.

Other significant implications

10.1 Nil with this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)		
Background papers: List of appendices:	Power Point presentation	