

London Borough of Enfield

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting: 21st March 2022

Subject: Managing the Covid-19 pandemic: Interim Summary Report

Cabinet Member: Cllr Alev Cazimoglu

Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Purpose of Report

1. For Information

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. The management of the pandemic is central to the delivery of all Council Plan objectives.

Background

3. On 31st December 2019, China alerted the World Health Organisation (WHO) to dozens of cases of 'viral pneumonia' in the central city of Wuhan. The first death was reported on 11th January 2020 and 2 cases were confirmed in the UK on 31st January 2020.
4. On 26th March 2020, the first National Lockdown was declared across the UK. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to be felt and this report is designed to reflect on some key lessons learned for the local authority.
5. During the Covid-19 pandemic between March 2020 and February 2022 (two-year period), there were 684 excess deaths registered (this means 342 excess deaths per year). Therefore, 16% of the deaths registered during Covid-19 pandemic were excess deaths during each one-year period.
6. When meeting on 2nd June 2021 to set the OSC work programme for the operational year, it was agreed that a summary report be brought to the Committee with a commentary of how Covid-19 had impacted on the local authority and how we had responded with any key lessons learned. A report has been produced by the local authority that addresses these issues and is attached here.
7. The expectation at that point would have been based on us not still managing significant Covid-19 impact as we continue to do. The report presents a key overview and summary of lessons learned as we still manage the consequences of a pandemic that has not yet fully abated.

Main Considerations for the Panel

8. To note the content of the report.

Conclusions

9. The report findings demonstrate how the Local Authority and its partners showed tremendous resilience and determination to support residents in the face of an unprecedented public health challenge. The learning generated by the response will help inform preparedness for future emergencies and provides a resource for others to draw upon.

Report Author: Shaun Rogan
Date of report: 11th March 2022

Appendices

- A:** The Enfield Council report into the impact of COVID-19
- B:** Correspondence from the Local Authority to Government and other communications addressing aspects of the response to the pandemic
- C:** The 'Reuters Report' that featured significant reflections on the situation in Enfield and other boroughs
- D:** Terms of Reference for supporting internal/multi-partner boards that helped coordinate responses at various stages of the pandemic
- E:** Example of 'Enfield Stands Together' communications literature
- F:** Examples of 'COVID-19 Dashboard' produced by Public Health Team to support and inform decision making and information sharing
- G:** Summary of legislative change: Care Act Easements