

**Report to:** Public Engagement Board

**Date:** 16/11/2020

**Report of:** COVID-19 Programme Team

**RCG Lead:** Eleanor Roaf, Director Public Health Trafford

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**Report Title: Update paper on COVID-19 Engagement and Enforcement Groups in Trafford**

**Report Summary:**

This report outlines the progress made in community engagement and enforcement in the recent period in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommendations**

1. Note the content of this report by way of an update on the key weekly activities of the Community Engagement Co-ordination Group and Enforcement Group which support PEB in its statutory duty.
2. Consider ways in which members of the Board can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation including engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.

**Contact Officer:**

Name: Laura Hobbs, Programme Lead for COVID-19

Tel: 07973 639238

Email: [laura.hobbs@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:laura.hobbs@trafford.gov.uk)

## **1.0 Community Engagement**

- 1.1 To support the Public Engagement Board in its duty to communicate simple and clear preventative measures to our staff, residents and local employers a weekly Covid-19 Co-ordination Engagement Group and a weekly COVID-19 Enforcement group are in place to ensure national guidance, legislation and COVID-19 best practice is implemented across the borough.
- 1.2 Teams have been working hard to ensure there is clear messaging for staff, residents, business and local employers to reflect the national lockdown position which came into effect on Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> November.

## **2.0 Key updates from the Co-ordination Engagement Group:**

- 2.1 Environmental Health have been working with the Trafford Centre to ensure entrance to the Centre is well managed and long queues outside the building maintain social distancing, whilst customers inside the mall are compliant with COVID-19 regulations such as wearing face masks etc.
- 2.2 Comms was disseminated out in relation to bonfire night reminding that no official displays were allowed. Numerous reports were received about younger people setting off fireworks in parks. A “know where your children are” plea to parents is being prepared to facilitate the potential increase in gatherings in parks and house parties over the lockdown period.
- 2.3 Key Messages and information on COVID-19 has been developed for staff by the Public Health team to leverage the support of our 2,500 strong workforce and making sure ‘Every Contact Counts’.
- 2.4 Parks and play areas will remain open and signage has been put in place in a number of open spaces across the borough reminding of the COVID-19 good practice.
- 2.5 A Facebook live event took place where there was a Q&A session with Trafford’s Director of Public Health and Medical Director which was well attended by residents and members of the public.
- 2.6 An engagement event took place around Old Trafford with 15 local volunteers attended school gates and local Mosques to provide public health messaging and listen to community feedback. Consideration needs to be given to how we can better reach females and children within certain communities and how we ensure messaging is delivered via trusted voices (public health teams, community leaders, health professionals).
- 2.7 The team are reviewing video messaging and other materials on COVID-19 and working with the ICT team to build a COVID-19 landing page so there is a single point of access for up to date relevant information. Accessibility of information is key to our engagement strategy.

- 2.8 Mosque leaders continue to work hard to disseminate messages with their congregations via whatsapp messaging, radio systems, and youth volunteers particularly now congregations have been suspended in lockdown.
- 2.9 Stakeholder briefings updating on the national lockdown rules have been circulated by the Business, Community Safety and Partnerships and Communities teams.
- 2.10 Work with education partners is ongoing particularly in light of a significant increase in positivity rates in the schools and colleges – ensuring there is access to immediate public health advice and up to date messaging on websites is available.
- 2.11 Ongoing communications work for staff and partners to reinforce messaging around restriction measures, local and national rules and good COVID-19 practice to ensure clarity of messaging.
- 2.12 The programme team have been working with Kent and Medway Council to learn about their community champion programme with a view to rolling out something similar in Trafford.
- 2.13 The partnerships team have been successful in receiving lottery funding and have recruited hub co-coordinators and volunteers which the team will work with to strengthen engagement activity.

### **3.0 Key updates from the Enforcement Group:**

- 3.1 GMP undertook a number of visits of licensed premises and increased local patrols were sent out to respond to premises offering alcohol deals to get rid of stock prior to the national lockdown on Thursday 05th November.
- 3.2 The local lock down has meant shops are operating differently but many remain open with click and collect service operating – increased footfall outside of premises is expected and needs to be managed.
- 3.3 Business offering take away alcohol have put some pressure on the enforcement team to ensure compliance is maintained. Reports of local coffee shops selling mulled wine but without pre-order have been reminded of the national rules.
- 3.4 Prohibition notice have been served to a number of local business who refused to close during the lockdown (carpet right and a gym Altrincham).
- 3.5 Complaints about local barbers and beauty related businesses continuing to trade during lockdown have been addressed by GMP.
- 3.6 Reports of gatherings within residential premises continue to be attended by GMP and the Community Safety Team. An increase in house gathering is anticipated moving into winter and in light of 4 week national lockdown. This will be difficult to regulate.
- 3.7 Increased neighbour complaints are expected as more people work at home and have late night gatherings in their houses and consideration is being given to avenues for residents and members of the public to report on rule breaches.

- 3.8 Officers from Licensing, GMP and Environmental Health continue to visit town centres to check current legislation is being adhered to and businesses, licensed premises, and residents understand what is required of them and where outbreaks occur business owners and managers are clear on expectations.
- 3.9 Work with GMP and UK Border Control on individuals or families in breach of the quarantine rules returning from certain countries continues.

### **Recommendations**

1. Note the content of this report by way of an update on the COVID-19 engagement activity in Trafford
2. Consider ways in which members of the Committee/Board can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation including engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.