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**To:               Emergencies Board**

**On:               12 June 2020**

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**Report by:    Chief Executive**

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**Heading:      Update on COVID-19**

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## **1.     Background**

- 1.1    This report provides an update of the Council's current arrangements and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information is provided on the national position including the numbers of cases and deaths at both Scottish and UK levels. The recent publication of updated figures and analysis from the National Records of Scotland is included and continues to show that deaths from COVID-19 are currently slowing. A summary is also provided of policy and guidance updates that have been released over the past week.
  - 1.2    Section 4 provides an update on early indications of the economic impact that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown procedures that have been followed.
  - 1.3    Section 5 provides an update on the routemap for recovery including the potential impact of a statement made by the First Minister in relation to the possible move towards Phase 2 of the routemap for recovery and the current progress in relation to Children's Services Phase 1 service restart plans and the Spaces for People funding process.
  - 1.4    Section 6 highlights the support being provided for communities with updated information in relation to Care Homes and Care at Home Services and changes to the position and expectations on Shielded residents announced this week and the support being provided to some of the most vulnerable residents in Renfrewshire.
  - 1.5    Section 7 provides a workforce planning update for the Council. It confirms the current position in relation to PPE; employee testing procedures and the impact of absence on the availability of employees.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Emergencies Board:
- (a) Note the current national and local situation with regard to COVID-19 and the impact on communities, businesses, the Council and its partners
  - (b) Note the response measures being put in place by the Council and partners as set out in this report
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## **3. National Situation**

### **Numbers of Cases**

- 3.1 Across the UK and in particular in Scotland in the past week there have been positive indications of the ongoing successful suppression of the virus due to the actions taken during the lockdown. Worldwide however it is clear that the virus still poses a significant threat and the numbers of cases and deaths sadly continue to increase significantly in other countries.
- 3.2 Currently there are 291,409 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in hospitals in the UK up from 281,661 reported on 5 June 2020. In Scotland there are now 15,682 confirmed hospital cases (up from 15,553). Of these, 3,995 cases are within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area (up from 3,961). In GGCHB area there were 272 people in hospital (down from 317) (fewer than 5 in intensive care) as either confirmed or suspected cases.

### **Numbers of Deaths**

- 3.3 Worldwide it is very sad to note that there have now been over 419,950 deaths due to COVID-19. At a UK level, reports are indicating that there have now been 41,279 deaths across the UK (up from the 39,904 deaths reported on 5 June 2020). The UK still ranks second for overall numbers of recorded deaths, behind the United States where over 115,200 deaths have been recorded (348 per million population).
- 3.4 When considering the number of deaths in relation to population size (removing countries with very small populations) the UK now also ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> with 608 deaths per million population, having overtaken Spain as well as Italy and behind only Belgium with 832 deaths per million population and a population of just over 11.5 million people. France which is the closest in population size to the UK ranks 6<sup>th</sup> with 449 deaths per million population having now been overtaken by Sweden.
- 3.5 At a Scottish level the latest National Records of Scotland report shows that at 7 June 2020, there had been a total of 4,000 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up 89 from 3,911 deaths registered up to 31 May 2020.
- 3.6 However, the National Records of Scotland analysis also provides continuing indicators of progress in how the country is responding to the outbreak:

- Of the total number of deaths registered in the week from 1 to 7 June 2020, there were 89 where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, a decrease of 42 from the previous week. This is the sixth weekly reduction in a row.
- The proportion of all deaths involving COVID-19 has also decreased for the sixth week in a row – having reduced from 12% in the previous week to 8% in the week from 1 – 7 June 2020. At its peak in the week to 26 April 2020 COVID-19 deaths accounted for 36% of all deaths
- The proportion of all COVID-19 deaths which took place in care homes initially rose each week and represented 59% of all COVID-19 deaths in the week to 3 May 2020. While this has reduced each week since, in the latest week to 7 June 2020 deaths in care homes still represented 47% of all COVID-19 deaths.
- The number of deaths in care homes also reduced for the fourth week in a row – down to 42, 27 fewer than the previous week.
- When looking at all deaths with COVID-19 registered to date there is little change from last week:
  - 47% relate to deaths in care homes
  - 46% were in hospitals
  - 7% of deaths were at home or non-institutional settings
  - 76% were people aged 75 or over

3.7 The National Records of Scotland information also provides additional detail to understand the position and changing impact of the outbreak in Renfrewshire. This week, the data shows a continuation in the suppression of the virus at a local level:

- In Renfrewshire, a total of 198 people have died with COVID-19 since the outbreak of the virus. 96 have died in care homes, 93 in hospital and 9 at home or other non-institutional locations.
- The number of COVID-19 related deaths recorded in the week to 7 June 2020 was 4, the same as the previous week. (Figure 1: Appendix 1)
- Similarly, in the week to 7 June 2020, COVID-19 related deaths represented 10% of all deaths recorded in Renfrewshire. This was also the same as the previous week (Figure 2: Appendix 1)
- NRS data shows that one death with COVID-19 recorded in Renfrewshire in the week of 1 to 7 June 2020 was in a care home. However, this death took place at the end of May and has been previously reported by the HSCP.
- The COVID -19 related death rate for all of Scotland has sadly reached 7.3 per 10,000 population (an increase from 6.9 per 10,000 population last week).
- The death rate in Renfrewshire reflects this and has also risen during the past week to 11.1 per 10,000 population (from 10.6 the previous week). This means Renfrewshire still has the fifth highest death rate in Scotland. Inverclyde remains the area in Scotland with highest COVID-19 related death rate. (Figure 4: Appendix 1)
- The proportion of all COVID-19 deaths that have occurred in care homes in Renfrewshire was 48.5%, down slightly from 49% the previous week and

slightly closer to the average across all of Scotland's care homes which had increased from 46% to 47% by 7 June 2020. (Figures 3 and 5: Appendix 1)

3.8 At both a Scottish and UK Government level, the policy context in relation to the response to COVID-19, continues to develop at a rapid pace. Changes to existing policies, the introduction of new processes and announcements on future developments, are all being closely monitored. Since the last Emergencies Board meeting on 5 June 2020, the following policy changes have been announced:

- The Scottish Government confirmed this week that people who are shielding will be advised to continue to do so until 31 July 2020. Advice will be provided to allow people in this group to choose whether they wish to go outdoors to exercise from 18 June, while maintaining strict physical distancing. The support currently in place for those who are shielding, in terms of free grocery boxes and priority access to online supermarket delivery slots, will continue throughout this time.
- As of Monday 8 June, residents and visitors entering the UK are subject to new measures due to coronavirus. Under these rules people arriving will:
  - need to provide journey and contact details when they travel to the UK
  - not be allowed to leave the place they are staying for the first 14 days they are in the UK except in very limited situations. This guidance applies to people returning to, or coming in, to Scotland.
- An expert advisory board is to be established by the Scottish Government to drive progress towards a fairer, more equal Scotland in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The group will listen to and learn from people with lived experience of poverty and inequality and membership will draw on expertise from equality and disabled people's organisations, housing and homelessness bodies, town centre and regeneration groups, and anti-poverty campaigners. The group will be jointly chaired by Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell and Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville. Members will include Emma Ritch of Engender, Jon Sparkes of Crisis, and the Scottish Refugee Council's Sabir Zazai.
- The first two-monthly report to Scottish Parliament on the use of the emergency powers contained within the Coronavirus Act 2020 and Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 was published this week, covering the reporting period up to 31 May 2020.

3.9 Guidance Updates:

- Updated advice for people shielding has been published to support people to continue to shield until 31 July 2020. Support information for people shielding is also provided and will continue until 31 July.
- Guidance on Public Health Checks at Borders has been published by the UK Government with measures introduced from 8 June 2020. Subsequently The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were introduced to the Scottish Parliament on Monday 8 June 2020.
- The World Health Organisation has updated their advice over the weekend to recommend that non-medical face coverings should be worn on public transport and in some enclosed work environments, healthcare workers should wear medical masks when providing any patient care and people over 60 and those with underlying health conditions should wear medical masks when social distancing cannot be achieved.

- Several guidance documents have been published to assist education authorities with the preparation of local plans for the planned blended model of education to be in place by 11 August 2020. Guidance has been produced to support teachers and other professional practitioners in preparing their curriculum offer, for and during the Recovery Phase, and to help local authorities, early learning centres and schools continue to support children and young people's learning during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Guidance for local authorities and education appeal committees on temporary arrangements for placing requests and appeal hearings due to COVID-19 has been published. The paper details the emergency regulations which temporarily amend existing duties to give education authorities and education appeal committees additional flexibility when dealing with appeals during the outbreak, and to ensure that placing request and appeal timetables work in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance is in line with the decision made by the Emergencies Board on 7 May 2020 to hold placing requests and appeal hearings remotely.
- Advice for people with specific medical conditions has been published, to offer information, and support for people in the current crisis. These conditions include: cancer; diabetes; heart disease; IBD; chronic kidney and liver disease; dermatological; neurological; (specific) ophthalmic; respiratory and rheumatic conditions; chronic pain; and rare diseases. HR are working to ensure that relevant employees and managers are aware of this updated guidance.

### 3.10 Funding announcements:

- £300,000 from the £350 million communities funding to support people and communities affected by COVID-19, is being given to support young carers across Scotland. Young Scot will receive £200,000 to provide online subscriptions and e-vouchers for young carers. Meanwhile £100,000 will go to expanding the "*Time To Live*" small grants scheme.
- Small businesses which share properties but do not pay business rates are now eligible to apply for grants to help with the impact of COVID-19. The extension to the Small Business Grant Fund will apply to firms occupying shared office spaces, business incubators or shared industrial units and who lease the space from a registered, rate-paying landlord. Separately, eligibility has also been extended to companies occupying multiple premises with a cumulative value of more than £51,000. Eligible businesses will be able to apply to their local authority for grants of up to £10,000.
- It was also confirmed on 8 June 2020 that the Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant schemes will close for new applications on 10 July 2020. Figures up to 2 June 2020 showed that £824.541 million had been distributed to 72,622 businesses across Scotland through the schemes, but that new applications have slowed in recent weeks. In making the announcement, Finance Secretary Kate Forbes said that it was essential that funds don't sit in schemes that are attracting few applications and that remaining money can be re-routed to help businesses in other ways.

### 3.11 Following agreement of CoSLA Leaders, all local authorities are now submitting a data return on a weekly basis. The data includes a range of indicators already collected and reported for other national monitoring purposes. Work is underway by the Improvement Service and SOLACE to analyse these returns. Appendix 2 provides a copy of the data return submitted by the Council to COSLA on 5 June

2020. Due to the data verification process and timescale for submitting the return the information reported in Appendix 2 may be different from similar data contained elsewhere in this report which is more current.

## **4 Economic Impact**

- 4.1 As the lockdown is beginning to ease in Scotland and the immediate impact of the virus, in terms of health, seems to be suppressed within the community, increasing focus is being placed on understanding and mitigating the ongoing impact of the virus and the necessary lockdown restrictions on the economy.
- 4.2 Before the COVID-19 pandemic began NOMIS data based on December 2019 data returns showed that the Renfrewshire economy included:
- 93,000 economically active residents; including about 4,000 unemployed
  - Gross weekly full-time average earnings of approx. £625 per person
  - 4,600 private businesses
  - GVA of approx. £3.4 billion
- 4.3 The largest sectors of the Renfrewshire economy by number of employees are listed below. Between them these 6 sectors account for about 2 out of every 3 jobs in the area:
- Manufacturing
  - Retail
  - Transport / logistics
  - Hospitality
  - Public Health
  - Public Administration
- 4.4 Various pieces of analysis have been undertaken, mainly at a national level, to try to predict the impact on the economy from the current pandemic.
- 4.5 KPMG have provided an analysis of GVA impact at local authority level across the UK. For Renfrewshire they estimate that GVA could fall by almost 12% in 2020. This compares to a Scottish average of 10% in the same study. In their analysis only 4 Local Authorities are predicted to fall further than Renfrewshire – these are South Ayrshire, Angus, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. However, the same study also predicts a significant “V-shaped” recovery with GVA bouncing back in 2021 to grow by just over 13% in Renfrewshire. Only Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire have higher predicted levels of growth for 2021.
- 4.6 Glasgow City Region’s Intelligence Hub has also done some analysis of possible impacts. This analysis has been undertaken at the city-region level as they are currently unable to disaggregate the analysis to individual local authorities. They have examined various scenarios for where the regional economy could end up in 2020 post COVID-19 and believe the number of jobs lost could be between 60,000 and 100,000 across the City Region. The highest predicted level would equate to about 1 in every 8 jobs in Glasgow City Region being lost. They have highlighted sectors at particular risk as including retail, arts & entertainment, hospitality and construction.

- 4.7 Officers are at an early stage of preparing an Economic Recovery Plan for Renfrewshire. Initial discussions have been held with the Renfrewshire Economic Leadership Panel (made up of local businesses and public agencies) and currently a survey is being undertaken with up to 10% of businesses to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on the local economy and also how support could be provided via the Council and its partner agencies to these companies during the recovery phase. This information will be used to start a dialogue with the Economic Panel about revisions that should be made to the 10-year Economic Strategy.
- 4.8 Currently, officers are examining various options in terms of developing a specific business support offer and conducting a re-evaluation of employability support for individuals made redundant and seeking new opportunities. This will be informed by a national approach being led by COSLA who are also gathering views on an “ask” of national government in terms of what may be required to fund such approaches.
- 4.9 It is intended that a report will be submitted to the Leadership Board in September 2020 outlining this new approach.
- 4.10 Within Renfrewshire the initial data coming through on the impact of the lockdown on unemployment is therefore of concern. Emerging data suggests a rapid and prolonged increase in unemployment which will affect local communities differently depending on the nature of the local labour market as sectors will experience different outcomes.
- 4.11 The change in unemployment claimants figures (those who are looking for work) published by NOMIS for Renfrewshire between March and April 2020 shows a 66% increase in claims (2,660 additional claimants - split equally between men and women) and with adults, rather than young people currently most affected.

	Claimant numbers	Of which male	Of which female	Aged 18-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
<b>March 2020</b>	4015	2655	1360	745	2250	1000
<b>April 2020</b>	6675	4390	2290	1130	3845	1670
<b><i>difference</i></b>	<b><i>+ 66%</i></b>	<b><i>+ 65%</i></b>	<b><i>+ 68%</i></b>	<b><i>+ 52%</i></b>	<b><i>+ 71%</i></b>	<b><i>+ 67%</i></b>

- 4.12 These figures reflect the numbers of individuals in Renfrewshire claiming benefit due to unemployment and who are actively looking for, and available for, work. These figures usually represent around 90% of the official unemployment rate (which hasn't been updated since December 2019) with the other approximately 10% being mostly those who don't claim benefits.
- 4.13 Unemployment claimant figures are expected to grow significantly over the next 4 months as furloughed funding support from the UK Government is tapered off from August 2020. The next report with figures for May is due on 16 June 2020. At the moment it is estimated that around 780,000 staff are furloughed in Scotland (pro rata this could mean as many as 25,000 for Renfrewshire). Potentially, 1 in 5 might

not to return to work. If these figures were realised, then that would mean an additional 5,000 unemployed locally. This would be over and above the 6,675 figure reported by NOMIS for April 2020 (as employees currently furloughed are excluded from these figures).

- 4.14 Another indication of the economic pressures facing the community comes from the Universal Credit caseload figures provided by the DWP which also increased significantly between March and April this year with provisional figures showing a 49% increase, moving from just over 8000 cases to just under 12,000 cases. This was the single biggest monthly increase in these figures since Universal Credit went live in Renfrewshire in September 2018. While Universal Credit can be paid to working families in the form of income support or housing benefits, at the same time, between March and April the Council's Housing benefit caseload remained relatively unchanged with only a marginal decrease of about 2%. This indicates that these working age customers are likely to be new claimants and not those in the process of switching from Housing Benefit (legacy benefit) to Universal Credit.
- 4.15 Increasing numbers of Universal Credit applications are also predicted for May and June 2020 based on a pattern of increased awards for Council Tax Reduction. Council Tax Reduction provides support for Council Tax to customers and applications are made directly to the Council, often supplementing Universal Credit applications. Normally Council Tax Reduction caseload is relatively static however it has grown by 7.5% since the start of April and significant numbers of applications are continuing to be received.
- 4.16 Early indications are that so far the changes in the labour market brought about by COVID-19 have had the biggest immediate impact on those on the lowest incomes and in the most precarious, least secure jobs – temporary jobs and those on zero hours contracts. It is also expected that those becoming unemployed or displaced in the labour market as furlough comes to an end are in jobs likely to disproportionately impact on young people, women, those with disabilities and minority groups.
- 4.17 Additionally, however, there is also expected to be a rise in the numbers of new unemployment claimants over the next few months that come from more experienced and skilled staff as businesses find themselves unable to resume operations at full capacity after the current government furlough support period ends. The recent announcement from Rolls Royce, Inchinnan is an early example of this with the potential for up to 700 jobs being at risk.

## **5 Recovery – Phase 2: Living with COVID-19**

- 5.1 On 8 June 2020 the First Minister announced that there were strong indications of the virus being controlled within the community, and if this were to continue to be the case there should be optimism about the next review date on 18 June 2020 allowing for movement towards elements of Phase 2 of the routemap for easing lockdown being announced.
- 5.2 These steps will only be taken if current indications that the virus is suppressed continue, the Trace and Protect programme is continuing to operate effectively and the NHS is continuing to cope well. At this stage it remains unclear which elements of the Phase 2 lockdown plans previously reported to Board will be



implemented, however it is clear from the statements made by the First Minister that the Phase 2 planned measures may be introduced on a phased basis over a period of time rather than all being implemented immediately.

- 5.3 Some of the measures that might be announced for introduction after 18 June 2020 include people being able to meet family and friends outside and in larger groups than currently. People may also be able to meet people from another household indoors. In both scenarios, physical distancing and appropriate hygiene will need to be maintained. The decisions taken in relation to this will also bear on the types of public services that the Council and partners may be able to restart.
- 5.4 Remote working where possible will remain the default position throughout Phase 2 and for all employees wherever possible. Public transport will increase but will still be limited due to physical distancing requirements. Travelling at peak times will be discouraged and it is anticipated that businesses and employers will be asked to create or facilitate flexible work patterns to support employees in avoiding peak travel wherever possible.
- 5.5 Indoor non office-based workplaces including factories, warehouses and on-campus lab research may be able to restart, where appropriate arrangements for physical distancing can be put in place. Smaller shops may also reopen along with outdoor markets and there is the possibility of pubs and restaurants partially opening in outdoor spaces. This will require support from the Council's Licensing and Regulatory services - particularly in relation to Environmental Health and Trading Standards.
- 5.6 Professional sport may resume and for local communities, playgrounds and sports courts may be able to reopen with physical distancing arrangements in place. This will impact on RLL and Environment and Infrastructure Services.
- 5.7 For all Council services there is the potential for a general scaling up of public services from Phase 1 levels. Increased outdoor work may be possible in relation to maintenance and construction activities with some additional non-essential repairs work also being possible – in particular allowing for the preparation of properties for rental. Places of worship may reopen for private prayer. Marriages and civil partnerships may be able to take place with limited numbers of attendees. A phased resumption of visiting to care homes may start and in relation to housing there may be opportunities to restart allocations and moving people into new lets.
- 5.8 Currently advance preparations are beginning to be made across all services to consider how to support local businesses and the potential restart of public services in Phase 2 on the basis of these early indications and further information will be brought back to future meetings of the Board as further government announcements are made to clarify specific opportunities and timescales to restart services and anticipated guidance is issued in relation to specific areas of activity.

#### **Phase 1 Update: Children's Services**

- 5.9 During the remainder of June, staff in early years centres and schools are planning for children and young people to return to face to face teaching and learning in August 2020. Until the end of term, the children of key workers and vulnerable

families are now being cared for in their own school environment and, where possible, early years centre.

- 5.10 The Scottish Government has indicated that all schools will open from 11 August 2020. This will require an alteration to the previously agreed school holiday calendar in Renfrewshire. In order to achieve this a brief consultation exercise with staff, parents and pupils will be conducted before the end of June.
- 5.11 The health, safety and wellbeing of children, young people and employees is the first and highest priority. In order to ensure this, and to comply with Scottish Government guidance, a model of blended learning will be implemented with children and young people spending part of the week in their establishment and part at home. An assessment of the space available in each building has been conducted to ensure maximum use of all available resources can be achieved.
- 5.12 The proposed blended model will vary between sectors (early learning, primary and secondary) in order to meet the unique context and requirements of each age and stage of learning. To support family childcare arrangements, wherever it is possible, siblings will be in school at the same time. However, this will not prove to be achievable in all circumstances.
- 5.13 In early years establishments the pattern of attendance will vary depending on the setting. The Scottish Government is expected to publish further guidance on 15 June 2020. This will form the basis for further planning and details will be issued in due course.
- 5.14 In primary schools, approximately half the children will attend on Monday and Tuesday with the other half on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will then be available for enhanced cleaning, to allow staff agreed non class contact time and to continue to prepare for and support learning at home. When not in school children will be supported in their learning at home.
- 5.15 In order to enable delivery of the broadest range of curriculum options, each secondary school is working towards a model to maximise time in school for each child. To ensure compliance with government guidance, use of classroom space and ways of reducing movement between classrooms are being assessed. These constraints mean new timetable designs are being developed in order to deliver five days of face to face teaching for pupils across each two-week period.
- 5.16 It is recognised that nurturing wellbeing will be an important requirement for all children and young people as they return to school in August. Enhanced arrangements for those with additional support needs will be established in each school. In particular, enhanced transition arrangements will ensure children are able to make the move back to school in as positive a way as possible.
- 5.17 Special consideration will require to be given for children and young people needing specialist support in Riverbrae and Mary Russell schools or who are supported in mainstream settings. Staff will work with families to ensure this support is appropriate.

- 5.18 Over the period of school holidays in the summer, childcare provision for the families of key workers and vulnerable families will be available from hubs which will be established in three broad geographical areas. An online application process has been established in order to manage the registration process. These hubs will create a friendly environment providing a range of physical and leisure activities throughout the day supported by community learning and Renfrewshire Leisure staff. In addition, there will be provision for a small number of children with additional support needs with appropriate support in place.
- 5.19 Planning is also underway to provide childcare for the children of key workers during the period of time when they are not in school from August 2020 onwards. Further details of this provision will be issued in due course.

### **Phase 1 Update: Spaces for People Fund**

- 5.20 The Councils approach to accessing and using the Scottish Governments Spaces for People Funding for temporary cycling infrastructure was outlined to the Emergencies Board at its meeting on 29 May 2020. Since then a lot of work has been undertaken to develop the detailed maps and proposals that require to be submitted in support of each application. Work has also gone on at a national level to ensure all local authorities are able to bid for funding. Councils are working together, sharing plans and learning from each other with the Improvement Service and the Society of Chief Transportation Officers of Scotland facilitating working groups and technical sessions. So far, around a third of Councils including Renfrewshire, have been awarded funding. As previously reported, there is no end date to the funding and Renfrewshire is progressing a number of funding opportunities.

### **Temporary footway widening around busy amenities**

- 5.21 An initial application for £37,000 for temporary infrastructure funding was accepted by Sustrans and has been awarded to the Council. Since the initial application was made, this bid has now increased to £100,000 and final confirmation is awaited on the outcome of this revised bid.
- 5.22 This £100,000 application will allow for physical distancing measures to be taken forward in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew and Elderslie. Precise locations have been selected on assessment of the local environment, in terms of available amenities, current footpath width and obstructions on the footpath which make physical distancing around busy amenities more challenging.
- 5.23 The works at these locations will range from the removal of pedestrian guardrails and banning of parking to allow for the footway width to be extended, and the installation of temporary barriers to assist the public in maintaining physical distancing around these locations. It is anticipated that Sustrans will confirm the revised bid amount by the start of the week commencing 15 June 2020 with works commencing within a 2-week period thereafter in line with delivery of the new barriers to be installed.
- 5.24 As this fund does not have a closing date, other locations across Renfrewshire can be considered at a later date with further applications for funding to implement similar measures.

### **Cycling Infrastructure on Arterial Routes**

- 5.25 The main focus in relation to arterial routes will be on the creation of temporary cycling infrastructure on routes in and out of towns and villages where there is sufficient road space to give over to cycling infrastructure. This will have the benefit of supporting people in travelling to and from work locations and will also be used to trial the possible introduction of more permanent plans in the future.
- 5.26 To date there are a number of locations identified which will be the subject of an application for funding due to be submitted on 15 June 2020. There are around 14 different routes connecting towns and villages being looked at initially.
- 5.27 The interventions are being designed on a site by site basis with each location requiring its own specific solution. For some this will mean parking restrictions being required, physical barriers being installed, extensive lining and in some cases consideration of shared cycle and bus lanes may be an option. Again, the list above is not exhaustive and can be added to at a later date.
- 5.28 In order to implement the proposals that are awarded funding, it is anticipated that there will be a 5-day consultation period where concerns can be raised with officers in Environment & Infrastructure then determining the specific arrangements taking into consideration any objections that may be raised.

### **Supporting Schools Reopening**

- 5.29 Early work has started to focus on the ways in which this fund can support the return to schools in August. Development of proposals has already commenced for routes between Houston and Bridge of Weir for Gryffe High School. The proposals being taken forward for the arterial routes will also align with a number of the secondary schools to allow pupils to cycle safely.
- 5.30 These proposals will continue to be formalised with a view to having the bid for supporting schools ready for submission in early July.

### **Keeping Public Transport Safe**

- 5.31 Engagement has taken place with SPT and McGills regarding physical distancing measures at bus stops. A priority list of bus stops has been developed with joint visits arranged to identify the measures required at each location and these will be submitted to Sustrans for funding over the next 2 -3 weeks.

### **Supporting Local Businesses**

- 5.32 A number of local businesses have expressed interest in how the Council can support them in expanding their premises outside to use the exterior space around premises for food and drink. A number of Council services are engaged in this process and will continue to support businesses with their reopening plans including submitting applicable bids to support pedestrian and cycling movements.

## **6 Support for Communities**

### **Care Homes**

- 6.1 Renfrewshire has a mixture of residential care homes and extra care housing directly operated by the Health and Social Care Partnership; nursing homes and a smaller group of residential care homes operated by the independent sector.

- 6.2 As in previous reports to the Emergencies Board the data available is based on self-reporting by all 22 care homes and discussions with the Care Inspectorate, which are held weekly. Sadly, 111 people have been reported by care homes as dying with COVID-19 since 18 March 2020 – there have been no additional deaths reported since the last report on 5 June 2020. In line with the last report 3 care homes continue to report residents with symptoms of COVID-19, or have confirmed cases, with a total of 4 residents currently reported as symptomatic or confirmed.
- 6.3 The extension of testing for all Renfrewshire care home residents and staff has continued to be rolled out, providing a fuller understanding of the level of infection present in the homes. Whilst the HSCP has been proactively encouraging and carrying out testing, testing is voluntary. Testing has now been offered to all residents and staff across the residential and nursing care homes in Renfrewshire and has been completed where consent has been given. At the time of writing 935 residents have been tested. A further programme of weekly testing in care homes began on 9 June 2020.
- 6.4 Extra Care Housing will be testing in the coming week. The frequency of retesting in relation to staff within care homes is now being considered at national level to ensure a consistent approach. Resident testing continues to take place following resident consultations with GPs and individual requests for testing.
- 6.5 On 8 June 2020, the NHS GGC Director of Public Health wrote to all Care Homes in Renfrewshire with an update on arrangements for contact tracing and testing in care homes. The letter advised that a new version of the outbreak toolkit for care homes had been developed. The toolkit now includes a checklist to enable care homes to identify any newly confirmed cases so, if appropriate, they can refer those cases to the contact tracing team. It also highlights how weekly testing can be accessed for all asymptomatic staff in Care Homes who have not previously had a positive test, with a range of supporting information.
- 6.6 In Renfrewshire, there are 3 HSCP-operated care homes and 4 HSCP-operated extra care units. All resident testing has now been carried out at all 3 care homes and there are currently 2 suspected positive cases in the resident group and, one previously registered death. The 4 extra care units which have a similar vulnerable resident population to the residential care homes will also be tested as part of the precautionary measures.

### **Care Homes Oversight**

- 6.7 As reported to the Emergencies Board on 5 June 2020, the Scottish Government has indicated that there is likely to be a public inquiry into the national response to the coronavirus pandemic. It is anticipated that within this process there will be a focus on people who have been discharged to care homes. The HSCP are continuing to review and clarify the local information on individual admissions to care homes during the period of the response to the pandemic, matching this to the testing information and hospital held records.
- 6.8 To date this work has focused on the nursing homes within Renfrewshire and at this stage of the work there is no link evident between the Care Inspectorate standard gradings and the level of outbreak or deaths within care homes. As part

of the national guidance tests were carried out on patients within hospital settings at an earlier point, while two negative tests for the virus prior to discharge was introduced in late April 2020. As noted above testing of all residents and staff in all care homes is completed, where residents have agreed to be tested. The work to date has identified 28 placements from hospital to the independent sector nursing care homes in Renfrewshire in the period 1 March until 31 May 2020. As previously indicated to the Board at the point of placement people were medically fit for discharge and the receiving units had no reported infections. As noted above, further work is ongoing to clarify and fully verify the information for all care home placements.

- 6.9 As previously reported, a local multi-disciplinary team (MDT) comprising of key clinical and care leads, including Public Health and the Local Authority's Chief Social Work Officer convenes daily. This team complements the already close working relationship between the HSCP, Chief Social Work Officer, Public Health team and the Care Inspectorate.

### **Care at Home Services**

- 6.10 At present, Renfrewshire HSCP is supporting approximately 1,600 service users through its internal and external Care at Home services.
- 6.11 Appropriate PPE is worn by staff when supporting service users in their homes, with all appropriate precautions being taken to maintain safe and effective care delivery. Access to testing is available for eligible people and staff who are symptomatic or have household members who are symptomatic.
- 6.12 At the time of writing, sadly 15 Care at Home service users have died since 18 March 2020, with the deaths reported as being related to COVID-19. With no further deaths reported in the last week or since 22 May 2020. Like care homes the numbers of people reported by providers as showing symptoms of COVID-19 does vary from day to day as people are tested or recover. Numbers reported remain small relative to the wider population and at the time of writing 4 service users have been confirmed as having COVID-19 and another 4 people are currently being reported as having COVID-19 like symptoms.

### **Shielded and Vulnerable Residents**

- 6.13 People who are shielding are being advised by the Scottish Government that they should continue to do so until at least the end of July 2020. They can however, if they choose, go outdoors to exercise from 18 June 2020 while maintaining strict physical distancing.
- 6.14 Those affected will receive letters from the Chief Medical Officer explaining that the decision on outdoor exercise has been taken after careful consideration by clinical advisors. Prevalence of COVID-19 has decreased and the evidence now shows that the risk of outdoor infection is very low if people stay two metres apart. The exercise can be a run, wheel, walk or cycle but those shielding should not meet people from other households.
- 6.15 In all other respects, the advice for those who have been advised to shield has not changed as there remains a risk of infection in indoor and crowded places where physical distancing may not be possible. This means that they should also not be shopping. Consequently, the support currently in place for those who are

shielding, in terms of free grocery boxes and priority access to online supermarket delivery slots, will continue to be available throughout this time.

- 6.16 To date the local helpline has received a total of 6,575 calls in relation to shielding enquires and over the lockdown period the following support has been provided:

	Total	Previous	Change since last week
<b>Total number of individuals on shielding list in Renfrewshire</b>	6,180	6,170	10
<b>Total number of individuals on shielding list contacted</b>	5,919	5,774	145
<b>Number of individuals requiring food delivery only</b>	1,776	1,758	18
<b>Number of individuals requiring pharmacy delivery only</b>	142	137	5
<b>Number of individuals requiring food and pharmacy</b>	130	128	2
<b>Number of individuals requiring other services</b>	18	17	1
<b>Number of individuals in need of no services</b>	5,304	5,160	144
<b>Number of individuals supported through Test &amp; Protect</b>	1	0	1

- 6.17 Group 2 vulnerable residents have also made a total of 933 calls through the national helpline, with the overall level of support provided through the Local Assistance Team to vulnerable people in this category, outlined in the table below:

	Group 1 Shielded	Group 2 Helpline	Other Vulnerable Groups	National Brakes Deliveries (Group 1 only)	Total Supported
<b>Food</b>	532	1253	829	1374	Food – 3,988
<b>Medicine</b>	272	470			Medicine – 742
<b>Other</b>	18	167			Other – 185

- 6.18 The initial crisis response phase of assistance is now complete. The Local Assistance Team has made contact with the majority of people on the local shielding list – over 96% and in the past week only a further 11 names were added to the list of people being asked to shield. Where contact has not been made directly by the team it is being checked through the HSCP with GP's.
- 6.19 Over recent weeks the focus of the Local Assistance Team has been on conducting additional welfare calls to all of the Group 1 Shielded and Group 2 vulnerable people being supported by the Council, seeking to ensure that they are connected with relevant services and support that is available from mainstream services, partners and the volunteers and third sector agencies working with the now established neighbourhood hubs. As a result of these welfare calls very significant numbers of people have confirmed that they no longer require the crisis food support that they previously received and have been removed from this service. The reduction in numbers supported, of around 1,200 people so far means that the employees and services redeployed into providing this crisis support can now begin to be stood down and restart their normal duties as and when the Scottish Government phased routemap allows.

- 6.20 Consistent messages have been received from the people coming off the service about the quality of the service and how much they appreciated the support provided – indicating it made an enormous difference to their situation as the lockdown was implemented.
- 6.21 During the welfare calls it is clear that some people that have been receiving the crisis support have additional needs that mean that they are not currently in a position to manage without the ongoing practical support they have been receiving. In these cases the services have been continued as the Local Assistance Team look to identify appropriate mainstream and ongoing support that will better meet their future needs.

### **Test and Protect**

- 6.22 The Test and Protect programme has been rolled out across Scotland with numbers still being relatively low. On 10 June 2020, the First Minister announced that by 7 June 2020, 681 people had tested positive for COVID-19 and 481 had had their contact tracing completed. A total of 741 people were traced as a result of being a contact of someone who had tested positive. As the programme has just been introduced, data collected may include old cases or individual cases that have been tested a number of times.
- 6.23 The figures are currently only available at a national level, however, it is expected local Health Board information may become available in the coming weeks.
- 6.24 With regard to support, there have been 3 referrals to the national assistance helpline from within the NHSGGC Health Board area with only one being for a Renfrewshire resident received on 10 June 2020. For the 2-week self-isolation period, this person will get a support package once a week and deliveries of prepared meals 3 times a week as they currently have no access to assistance from family or friends.

## **7. Support for Employees**

### **Sourcing and Stocks of PPE**

- 7.1 There are sufficient supplies for the next 7 days to support the current service profile in the HSCP and other frontline services. The Corporate PPE Group will continue to monitor supplies and associated impacts across the workplace generated from the relaxation of lockdown rules.
- 7.2 All guidance continues to stress that physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene, are the most important and effective measures to adopt to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

### **Staff Testing**

- 7.3 Testing arrangements have become an important element of maintaining resilience across the workforce supporting key workers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or live with people who are, to get tested early. If the early testing proves negative, this facilitates an earlier return to work for the employee than would be experienced under existing self-isolation arrangements without testing. This in turn supports services to maintain higher levels of available staff resource to continue to meet the significant demand for services.



- 7.4 As previously reported, NHSGGC has already established its own system of testing which as at 2 June 2020 has facilitated 152 HSCP staff to be tested, with 41 testing positive for COVID-19. Of the 110 staff who did not test positive, this process has allowed 82 to return to work and 35 have moved to general absence.
- 7.5 In addition to this, staff testing is also happening routinely across Renfrewshire Care Homes. At the time of writing, all 212 staff working at our 3 HSCP-operated Care Homes have been tested. 199 staff have tested negative, and we are awaiting the remaining tests results.
- 7.6 At present, there are a total of 63 HSCP staff unavailable to work due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, family contact or actual symptoms.
- 7.7 To date, 65 non-healthcare Council employees have been tested for COVID-19. 8 employees have tested positive, 54 employees have tested negative, 1 test returned as inconclusive and 2 employees are awaiting test results. Of the 63 employees who have received test results, 56 have returned to work and 7 are currently recorded as sickness absence.
- 7.8 Further to the introduction of the Government's Test and Protect Programme highlighted in the previous report, there have been no recorded cases of non-healthcare Council employees being asked to self-isolate by NHS contact tracers.

#### **Staffing Update**

- 7.9 Amongst Renfrewshire Council employees there are currently 48 employees self-isolating either because they have symptoms; or because they have other people in their household experiencing symptoms; or because they are following government and health guidance. (This is a decrease from 109 reported on 5 June 2020). Of the 48, 10 are currently working from home. The decrease in cases is due to on-going work between HR&OD and Service Managers facilitating a return to work from self-isolation. Whilst the majority of employees returned to work after the appropriate self-isolating period, a small number of employees have moved to the "at risk" category as detailed in paragraph 7.11.
- 7.10 The 48 are split across Services as follows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
Chief Executive Services	2
Children's Services	2
Communities, Housing and Planning	14
Environment and Infrastructure	16
Finance and Resources	2
Health and Social Care Partnership	12
<b>Council Total</b>	<b>48</b>

- 7.11 The number of employees in the at-risk category and unable to perform frontline duties is 1,070, up from the figure of 1,053 reported on 5 June 2020. Of these 392 are currently working from home. Where employees are not able to carry out their normal duties from home, options for deployment on a home working basis continue to be actively considered and put in place.

- 7.12 As noted in Section 6 of this report On 8 June 2020 the First Minister confirmed that people who were considered most vulnerable to Coronavirus and who have already received a letter advising them to shield for a period of 12 weeks up until 18 June 2020, must now continue to do so until the end of July 2020. An e-mail has been sent to employees providing a link to the updated shielding advice. It also outlined that employees advised to shield should continue to do so, and if they receive a letter they should contact their manager who will be able to provide appropriate support and guidance.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – although at this stage not quantified, the Council will experience a wide range of significant financial pressures arising from the impact of the pandemic on the population as well as the economic and social disruption caused by the associated restrictions being deployed by national governments. Significant financial pressures will emerge in a wide range of forms from loss of income, exceptional service costs, significant increase in demand for services, the need for additional and new interventions, urgent and immediate support arrangements and services from the Council to help individuals, families and businesses across Renfrewshire as well as the Council's workforce. The Scottish Government has provided a range of immediate funding announcements to provide specific support via local authorities to both individuals and businesses as well as a degree of general funding to assist local authorities in managing immediate financial pressures. Engagement will continue between COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding further funding as the period of emergency extends, however notwithstanding, the Council will experience significant financial impact and disruption that will require it to draw heavily on all its financial reserves and which is likely to take some time to recover
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – the Council's workforce represents a major part of the local population and as such is being impacted directly by the spread of confirmed cases, but much more significantly by the public health directions for self-isolation given to those displaying symptoms and those with family members displaying symptoms as well as those in the at risk groups instructed to pro-actively implement strict social distancing arrangements. Full support and communication are being provided to all staff members to ensure they remain fully informed of the developing situation and where appropriate and practical, are being supported to work safely at home and or safely return to active work once recovered or free of recommended self-isolation periods. The impact of these factors will increase exponentially over coming days and weeks and therefore the scale of availability across the Council's workforce will come under unprecedented pressures. Working closely with national government, partners and trade unions the Council will by necessity be required to actively manage and redeploy staffing resources to meet the most critical services over this exception emergency period.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**  
Covid-19 will impact on the operations of Council partners and on services to the community. This paper highlights the work being undertaken to mitigate this impact as far as possible and maintain essential services for the safety and wellbeing of the community.
4. **Legal – N/A**
5. **Property/Assets – N/A**
6. **Information Technology –** ICT are working to ensure staff have the capability to work from home wherever possible to reduce social contact in line with government and health guidance
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.
8. **Health & Safety –** Advice and guidance is being given to protect the health and safety of employees and service users when carrying out priority services for the Council in line with government and health guidance
9. **Procurement – N/A**
10. **Risk –** Due to the severity of the global pandemic and Covid-19, there is a risk to the delivery of the services with staff levels being reduced. This is being closely monitored by the Emergency Management Team. Business Continuity Plans have been reviewed and the risk has been added to the Corporate Risk Register.
11. **Privacy Impact - None.**
12. **COSLA Policy Position – Not Applicable**
13. **Climate Risk – Not Applicable**

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#### **List of Background Papers**

None

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**Author:** Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

**Email:** [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1 - Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Renfrewshire

Figure 1 - Renfrewshire, Weekly COVID-19 Deaths

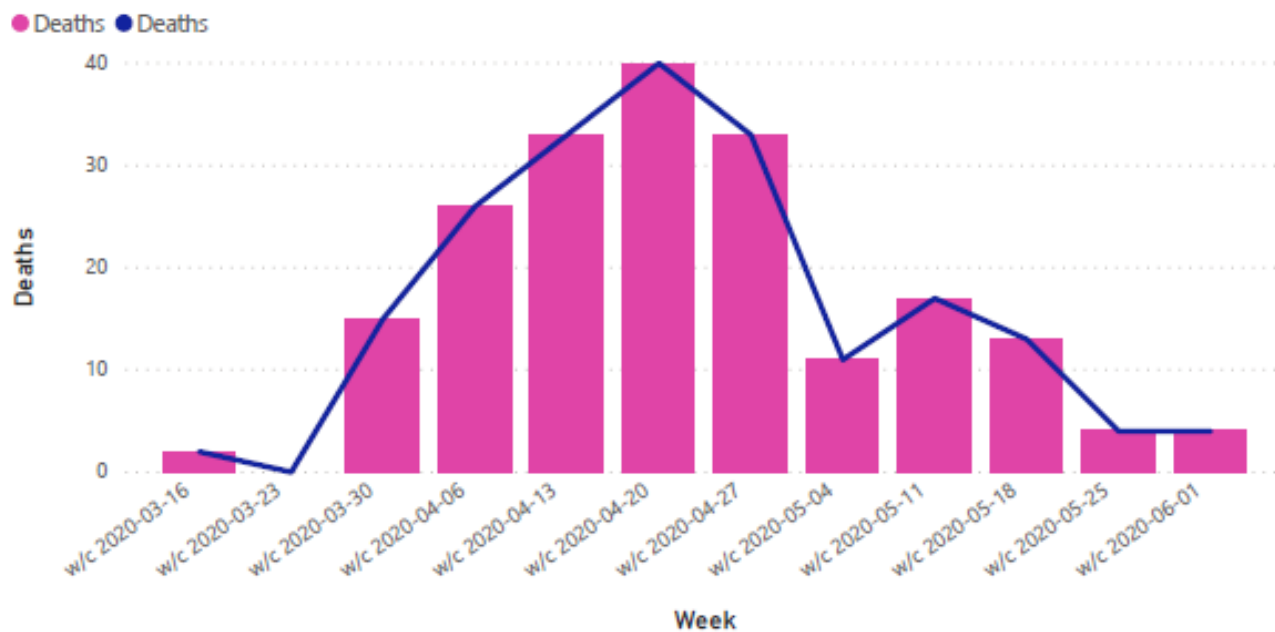
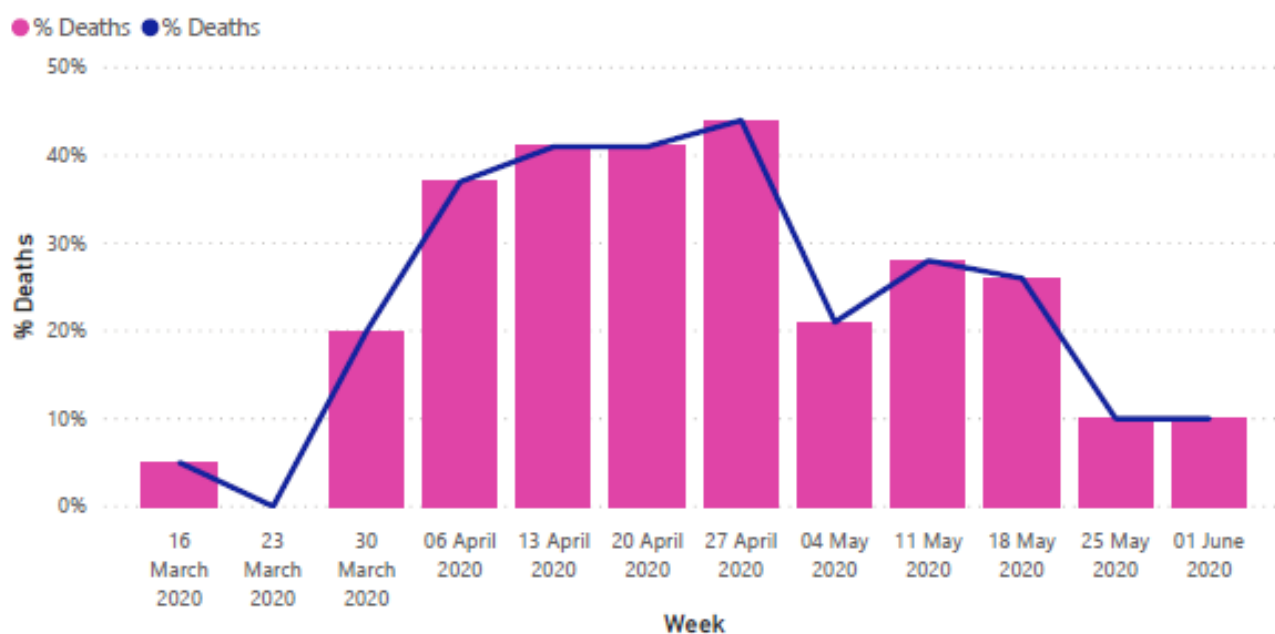


Figure 2 - Renfrewshire, Weekly COVID-19 Deaths as % of All Deaths



Deaths recorded since the 18th March 2020

Source: National Records Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

Appendix 1 - Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Renfrewshire

Figure 3 - Renfrewshire, Location of COVID-19 Deaths

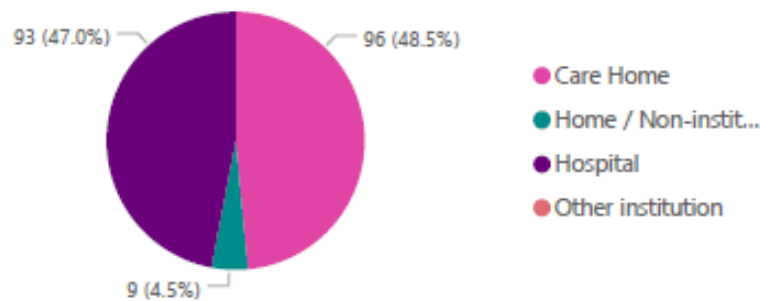


Figure 4 - COVID-19 Deaths Per 10,000 pop by Local Authority

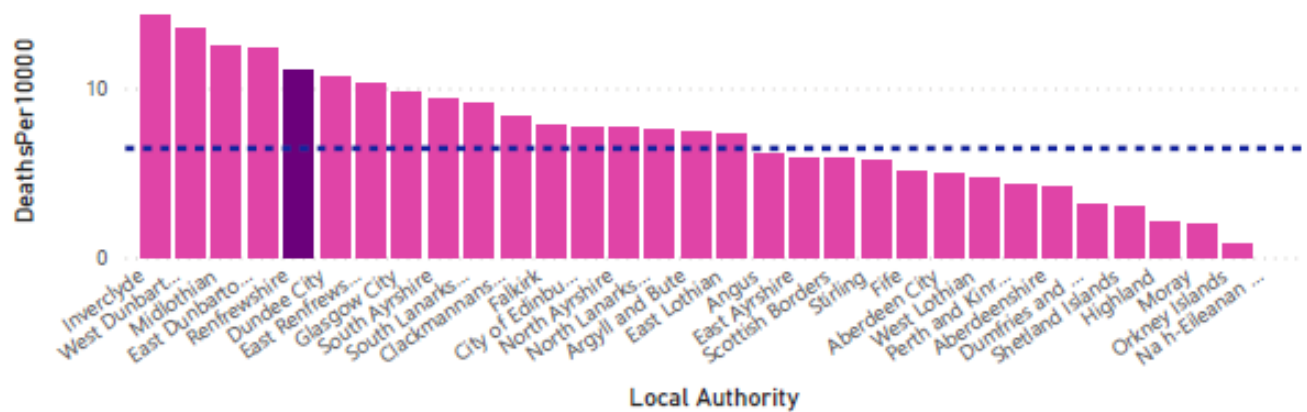
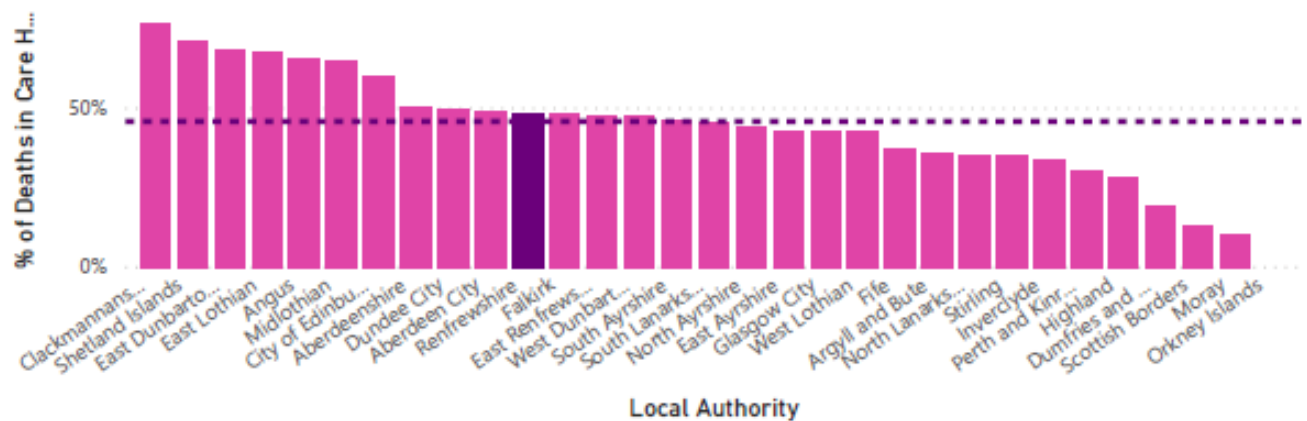


Figure 5 - % of COVID-19 Deaths in Care Homes by Local Authority



Deaths recorded since the 18th March 2020  
Source: National Records Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

## Appendix 2: Local Government Data Dashboard - submission 5 June 2020

Ref	Indicator	Value	Data as at date	Comments
S3	Total number of individuals on shielding list in contact with LA	5770	1/06/20	
S5	Number of individuals assessed to be in need of food delivery but not pharmacy	6	1/06/20	This shows number of new individuals for week 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May.
S7	Number of individuals assessed to be in need of pharmacy delivery but not food	4	1/06/20	This shows number of new individuals for week 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May.
S9	Number of individuals assessed to be in need of both food and pharmacy delivery	0	1/06/20	This shows number of new individuals for week 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May.
S12	Number of individuals who received other services	0	1/06/20	This shows number of new individuals for week 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May.
NS1	Total number of individuals calling Wellbeing line prior to helpline set up in LA area	6278	4/06/20	
NS2	Total number of individuals calling helpline in LA area	892	4/06/20	
PP1	How many children (including unborn babies) were added to the child protection register in the last week?	0	3/06/20	
PP5	How many children with child protection plans were seen face to face by a professional (education/health/social work) in the last two weeks?	86	3/06/20	
AB5	Overall % of staff on Sickness and Special Leave	14.5%	29/5/20	
R1	Total Number of Deaths Registered	1130	31/5/20	194 Renfrewshire residents had a death registered which mentioned COVID-19, up to 31 <sup>st</sup> May
F9	Net Council Additional Costs Financial Projection (Costs + Lost Income - Reduced Costs)	TBC	N/A	
CH2	Number of teaching staff physically working in schools/hubs or LA ELC settings today	125	3/06/20	

Ref	Indicator	Value	Data as at date	Comments
CH5	Total number who physically attended today (excluding those that only attended for a free school meal)	356	3/06/20	
FSM1	The total number of children and young people for whom vouchers, direct payments or home deliveries have been provided for	7,622	3/06/20	
BG1	Numbers of Coronavirus Business Support Fund grant applications	2,670	2/06/20	This includes both small business grants and retail, hospitality and leisure grants.
BG2	Number of Coronavirus Business Support Fund grants awarded	2,023	2/06/20	As above.
BG4	Total value of Coronavirus Business Support Fund grants made	£22,897,500	2/06/20	As above.
H7	Total number of Homeless applications received in the month	78	31/5/20	
H20	Current tenant arrears - end of period	£2,299,400	31/5/20	
HSCP1	Total Projected Additional HSCP Expenditure	£26,919,519	27/5/20	
HSCP7	Total all categories delayed discharges	18	1/6/20	
ASP1	Number of Adult at Risk / Adult Protection Referrals over the last week	20	3/06/20	
ASP2	Number of Adult Concerns (from Police Scotland) over the last week	32	3/06/20	
ASP3	Number of adults that were subject to an adult support and protection investigation over the last week	3	3/06/20	