

To: Emergencies Board

On: 7 August 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Update on COVID-19

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the Council's current arrangements and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information is provided in Section 3 on the current position including the numbers of cases and deaths within Renfrewshire and at a UK and international level.
- 1.2 Section 4 provides an update on the current policy and guidance position – in particular the most recent Scottish Government 3 weekly review of progress and the decision to reimpose lockdown arrangements in Aberdeen to combat a local outbreak of infections while Section 5 updates the Board on the current position with Council and partner services ongoing recovery arrangements.

Key Messages

- 1.3 There remains clear evidence of success in suppressing the impact of the virus since the peak of the pandemic. No COVID-19 confirmed or suspected death has been recorded in Renfrewshire in the last 4 weeks. Similarly, across Scotland there has been no new death from confirmed COVID-19 for 4 weeks.
- 2 No deaths from COVID-19 have been reported in Renfrewshire Care Homes since 10 June 2020 and no care homes have reported residents with COVID-19 since 19 June 2020. No Care at Home service users have died with COVID-19 since 9 May 2020.
- 2.1 The position in world terms is less positive and it is clear that there remains an ongoing risk presented by the pandemic that will impact on communities in Scotland if current measures to track and reduce transmission are not maintained.

- 2.2 This has been illustrated this week by the Scottish Government imposing a local lockdown in Aberdeen to control an outbreak where a cluster of 54 cases have been identified linked to 20 pubs and restaurants.
 - 2.3 Specific Scottish guidance for Shielding has been paused with shielding residents now asked to follow the same guidance as the general population. This allows shielded residents to return to school, or to work, with appropriate medical advice being followed, in line with the guidance for all residents.
 - 2.4 All Scottish schools are to reopen to children and young people on 11 August 2020 and to be fully reopened by no later than 18 August 2020 – in Renfrewshire all schools will fully return by 14 August 2020.
 - 2.5 Non-essential offices are to remain closed until at least 14 September 2020, with working from home remaining the default position where possible, even after this date.
 - 2.6 Council officers are continuing to review and update local contingency plans for a range of different scenarios based on increased data around the impact of the virus and the experiences of other areas in Scotland, the UK and elsewhere.
 - 2.7 While there is still uncertainty over the dates for when remaining services will be able to reopen, plans are being made for the restarting of relevant RLL services in line with the timetables and guidance set out by the Scottish Government.
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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 and recovery measures being put in place by the Council and partners as set out in this report
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3. Current Position

- 3.1 Across the UK and in Scotland during the past week there have been continued positive indicators of the successful suppression of the virus due to the actions taken during the lockdown period. For 4 weeks up to 4 August 2020 no confirmed positive COVID-19 deaths have been recorded in Scotland. Worldwide however, it is clear that the virus still poses a significant threat and the numbers of cases and deaths continue to increase significantly in some countries.
- 2.8 This has been brought home to the UK and to Scotland with the need to impose local lockdown arrangements in the North of England and in Aberdeen in order to control the local outbreaks which have been expected and experienced as universal lockdown arrangements have been relaxed.
- 2.9 In Renfrewshire, while a local outbreak has not yet been experienced, Council officers are continuing to review and update local contingency plans for a range of different scenarios based on increased data around the impact of the virus and the experiences of other areas in Scotland, the UK and elsewhere.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 contains a number of graphs that provide context; illustrate the evolving pandemic and highlight the key points below:

Local

- No COVID-19 death was recorded in Renfrewshire in the week to 2 August 2020. With no COVID-19 confirmed or suspected deaths of Renfrewshire residents recorded now for 4 weeks (Appendix 1: Figure 1)
- No deaths from COVID-19 have been reported in Renfrewshire Care Homes since 10 June 2020 and no care homes have reported residents with COVID-19 since 19 June 2020. No Care at Home service users have died with COVID-19 since 9 May 2020.
- Since 1 June 2020 overall numbers of deaths in Renfrewshire have been at or below the 5-year average. This is a significant reduction from the peak recorded during the week to 27 April 2020 when almost 60 deaths above average levels were recorded in Renfrewshire. (Appendix 1: Figure 2)
- The location of deaths has changed compared to recent years, with fewer deaths than normal happening in hospital and more deaths than normal happening in other locations. This is consistent with the picture across Scotland. (Appendix 1: Figures 3 – 6)

National

- New cases identified in the UK peaked in May 2020 at around 6,000 cases per day and since then numbers identified have declined steadily till June when around 550 new cases per day were being identified in the UK. Since the middle of June, the number of new cases per day has begun to increase again and currently over 800 cases per day are being identified. (7 day moving average)
- When comparing the rates of confirmed positive COVID-19 deaths across the UK over the past 5 months, Scotland reduced to a relatively low level of 0.16 per 100,000 population during July (Appendix 1: Figure 7)
- New cases identified in Scotland peaked, in late April and early May at just over 270 new cases per day. Since then cases identified have declined significantly reaching a low of around 9 new cases per day in July (7 day

moving average). Like the UK however, there has been a recent increase in new cases being identified over the last week. So far this is still within expected variations, with currently around 29 new cases being identified per day across Scotland. (7 day moving average) (Appendix 1: Figure 8)

- As predicted, there have been some localised outbreaks taking place in Scotland, most notably associated with a contact centre in Lanarkshire and currently ongoing, in Aberdeen, where 191 contacts have been traced in a cluster of 54 cases related to more than 20 pubs and restaurants. There was suspicion that there might be an outbreak in Renfrewshire at St Mirren FC last week, but this was subsequently found not to be the case.
- The Scottish Government has imposed a local lockdown in Aberdeen lasting for at least the next 7 days: asking everyone not to travel to Aberdeen; closing all indoor and outdoor hospitality from 5pm on 5 August; re-imposing a 5-mile leisure travel ban for all residents; and telling residents not to enter each other's houses.
- While these events and clusters of cases are to be expected, they have contributed to recent small increases in hospital admissions and intensive care cases and reinforce the need for caution in dealing with this virus and the need to maintain and enforce stringent physical distancing, hygiene and test and protect processes wherever possible.

International

- Worldwide the pandemic is still growing. Over 18.7 million cases have now been recorded, affecting 213 countries, and with 31 countries that have recorded increases of over 100 cases per 100,000 population in the last 14 days. (Appendix 1: Figure 9)
- This is driving an ongoing and continued increase in mortality and numbers of new cases being reported worldwide (Appendix 1: Figures 10 and 11)

Numbers of Cases

- 3.3 Currently there have been 307,184 hospital confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK. In Scotland there have been 18,781 confirmed hospital cases, 267 are currently in hospital of which 3 are in intensive care. Of these, 5,019 cases have been within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area. 15 new cases were identified in the GGCHB area overnight from 4 to 5 August 2020.

Numbers of Deaths

- 3.4 Worldwide there have now been over 705,000 deaths due to COVID-19. At a UK level, there have now been 46,299 deaths. The UK now ranks fourth for overall numbers of recorded deaths, behind Mexico, Brazil and the United States.
- 3.5 The National Records of Scotland report (5 August 2020) shows that at 2 August 2020, there had been a total of 4,208 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up 7 from 26 July 2020.
- 3.6 In Renfrewshire, a total of 206 people have died with COVID-19 since the outbreak of the virus. 99 have died in care homes, 98 in hospital and 9 at home or other non-institutional locations. This has not changed for 4 weeks.

4 Policy and Guidance Updates

- Specific guidance for Shielding has been paused with shielding residents now asked to follow the same guidance as the general population. This allows shielded residents to return to school, or to work, with appropriate medical advice being followed, in line with the guidance for all residents.
- All schools are to reopen to children and young people on 11 August and to be fully reopened by no later than 18 August 2020
- Non-essential offices are to remain closed until at least 14 September 2020
- A local lockdown has been imposed in Aberdeen to control an outbreak where a cluster of 54 cases have been identified linked to 20 pubs and restaurants.

Statement from the First Minister 30 July 2020 on Routemap

- 4.1 On 30 July 2020 the First Minister made a statement on the 3 weekly review required by law on the routemap for the phased relaxation of lockdown requirements. The First Minister noted that at this stage it was not being proposed to progress from phase 3 to phase 4 of the routemap as the virus is still considered a significant threat to public health. The First Minister highlighted that this will potentially continue to be the case even beyond the next review point in 3 weeks time.
- 4.2 That said, the First Minister highlighted the very significant progress that has been made in controlling the spread of the virus within Scotland due to the controls put in place and reiterated the ongoing need for the general population and businesses to continue to follow the guidance in relation to use of face coverings; avoiding crowded places; cleaning of surfaces and hands; two metre social distancing; and self-isolation and testing if experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- 4.3 The First Minister reflected on the fact that over a number of recent weeks some significant changes have been made to relax the guidance people are being asked to follow and to open up services and businesses at this stage the impact of these changes has not had time to be fully understood. She reiterated the need for caution and the objective to ensure a sustainable recovery if at all possible – in particular the priority to ensure a safe return to full time education for children and young people. As a result the changes being made over the next 3 weeks will be minimal:

Shielding

- 4.4 As expected, the decision was taken to pause the specific advice for shielding residents from 1 August 2020 meaning that from this date shielding people should follow the guidance for the general population. This pause means children who have been shielding can return to school and adults can return to work with appropriate medical advice being followed, but they should continue to work from home wherever possible in line with the guidance for the general population. Should circumstances change, this advice will change too.

Schools and Childcare

- 4.5 The First Minister highlighted a moral and educational imperative to get children back to school and reflected that a key reason for caution is to support schools to successfully, safely and sustainably reopen. In this regard it was confirmed that

schools should reopen for all children and young people between 11 August 2020 and no later than 18 August 2020. It was left to individual local authorities to determine whether this should be on a phased basis and further details on the arrangements planned for Renfrewshire are noted in Section 5 of this report.

- 4.6 The First Minister also referenced relevant updated guidance in relation to physical distancing of adults from children, hygiene, ventilation and cleaning requirements. Also the public health measures in place – including test and protect, fast priority access to testing, and an enhanced surveillance programme for schools. It was also confirmed that the Scottish Government have published updated guidance for childcare providers which doesn't represent return to normality, but does outline the easing of some age appropriate restrictions which should result in more access to stable childcare arrangements.

Non-Essential Offices

- 4.7 The First Minister highlighted that non-essential offices must remain closed until at least 14 September 2020 and possibly for longer and that the current default position of working from home would remain in place - and is likely to continue even after non-essential offices are allowed to reopen, at some point after 14 September 2020 with relevant physical distancing arrangements in place.

4.8 Future dates summary

The First Minister outlined a number of expected and indicative dates for some other services to reopen.

4.9 Monday 3 August 2020

- Routine eye care services
- Counselling services – essential services (eg drug and alcohol)
- Sports coaches – able to work with more than 4 households in a single day

4.10 17 August 2020:

- Wider dental care including aerosol procedures (e.g. high-speed drill)

4.11 24 August 2020 (indicative):

- Live events / concerts outdoors
- Organised outdoor contact sports for people of all ages
- Some indoor venues – bingo halls etc
- Funfairs and travelling funfairs
- Driving lessons

4.12 14 September 2020 (indicative):

- Sports stadia with a limited numbers of spectators - some professional sports events may take place before then to 'test' how this goes.
- Indoor sports courts
- Indoor sports classes for children – this will be kept under review to consider if it can be earlier
- Indoor soft play facilities
- Cultural/arts venues
- Gyms and swimming pools – FM sought specific clinical advice around the risk due to the nature of these activities. Indicative date is currently

reopening from 14 September 2020 but this will be kept under review and may seek to accelerate to the end of August.

Statement from the First Minister on 5 August 2020 announcing Local Lockdown in Aberdeen

- 4.13 In a statement on 5 August 2020 the First Minister confirmed that 54 cases of COVID-19 had been associated with a local outbreak cluster in Aberdeen. 191 close contacts have been contacted and this number is expected to increase in the coming days.
- 4.14 The First Minister said the situation should be the “biggest wake-up call” since the first days of the pandemic and confirmed that further steps were being taken to limit the outbreak. Steps being taken have been agreed between the Scottish government, the local health team and Aberdeen City Council:
- People should not travel more than five miles for leisure purposes
 - Travelling for work or education is permitted, but other travel is not advised
 - Do not travel to Aberdeen
 - Do not go into each other’s houses (with exception of extended household groups)
 - All indoor and outdoor hospitality in city to close on 5 August, which will be enforced if necessary
- 4.15 These Aberdeen restrictions will be reviewed in seven days' time but may be extended beyond a week if necessary. A list of the 20 licensed venues identified as being involved in the outbreak will be published in order that people who have visited these places recently can be aware and vigilant about symptoms.
- 4.16 The First Minister and the Interim Chief Medical Officer each took the opportunity to reinforce messages around the importance of the use of face coverings; maintaining 2 metre physical distancing; avoiding crowded places; cleaning and hygiene and getting tested and isolating if symptomatic. It was stressed that these messages apply for all and that the current situation in Aberdeen could arise anywhere in Scotland.

Other Policy and Guidance Announcements since 17 July 2020

- 4.17 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 17 July 2020, the following policy changes have been announced:
- The period of time a person must self-isolate if they display symptoms of Covid-19 has been increased from seven days to ten days.
 - Quarantine restrictions on people arriving from Spain and Luxembourg have been reinstated following increases in infection rates in both countries.

4.18 Guidance Updates:

- There has been a suite of additional guidance issued for the childcare sector, covering early years and childcare, childminding, outdoor childcare providers, and childcare for school-age children.
- Guidance for the retail sector was updated in respect of close contact services (such as barbers, nail bars and spas).
- Guidance for the manufacturing sector was updated in relation to workforce planning and to provide updates to operational checklists intended to give businesses greater clarity on what protective measures they should take.
- There is new guidance for the events sector to support the restarting of businesses operating in that sector.

4.19 Funding announcements:

- An additional £20m for the Education Recovery Fund was announced and is intended to cover the additional costs of facilities management, cleaning, school transport and other practical work to support the return to school.
- The funding of £45m to support teacher recruitment has been increased to £75m to enable the recruitment of additional teaching staff.
- Additional details on the current allocation of these Education funds are included in section 5.10 of this report.
- An additional £50m has been allocated to extend the principles for social care sustainability payments to social care providers until the end of September. This will support local authorities, IJBs and social care providers to cope with financial challenges relating to COVID-19. The HSCP is awaiting confirmation of Renfrewshire's exact share and any supporting guidance around its allocation.
- A £14 million Hotel Recovery Programme has been announced by the Scottish Government. These grants are aimed at securing up to 3,000 jobs at some of Scotland's larger hotels until summer 2021. The fund will be administered by the Enterprise Agencies and Visit Scotland. Applications for up to £250,000 in funding support can be made by hotels from the end of August 2020.
- A £10m fund for the events sector was announced on 28 July 2020. Direct funding will be available not only to the organisers of cultural, sporting and community events but to businesses in the supply chain. Further details and guidance on the fund and how it can be accessed are expected to be issued shortly.
- A £4m Museums Resilience and Recovery Fund has been launched to allow staff to return from furlough and to enable the wider opening of museums and galleries when guidance permits. However, it has been confirmed that the eligibility criteria do not support applications to this fund for RL facilities.

Actions for Economic Recovery.

4.20 Targeted measures to build a stronger, fairer and greener economic future for Scotland in the wake of coronavirus (COVID-19) were announced by the Scottish Government Economy Secretary, Fiona Hyslop on 5 August 2020.

4.21 The Government response to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery report and the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board report which have previously been highlighted to Members of the Emergencies Board, acknowledges the scale of the

challenge facing Scotland's economy as result of COVID-19, but also recognise this as an opportunity to do things differently and to rebuild a stronger, fairer and greener economic future. The Scottish Government's focus will be on protecting jobs, creating jobs, ensuring quality jobs and supporting skilled jobs.

4.22 A number of key actions are included in the Government's response many of which are of direct interest to Renfrewshire:

- investing at least £50 million to support up to 20,000 young people into employment, including the introduction of a Scottish Job Guarantee
- embedding Foundation and Graduate Apprenticeship places as part of wider college and university provision
- extending Fair Start Scotland services to March 2023 providing support for unemployed people with disabilities, health conditions and other barriers to access work
- introducing a COVID-19 Transition Training Fund to support individuals facing redundancy and unemployment in those sectors and regions most exposed to a downturn providing opportunities to upskill and transition into employment
- maximising help for those facing redundancy through the Scottish Government's PACE support programme
- elevating Scotland's "Technology Ecosystem" to a level that increases the rate at which profitable, high growth tech businesses are generated and updating the 2017 Scottish Digital Strategy to ensure that the most excluded can benefit from the opportunities of digital connectivity
- providing an additional £38 million support package for early stage businesses, to be implemented by Scottish Enterprise in partnership with private investors
- making it easier for SMEs to compete for public sector contracts and supporting SMEs to make greater use of digital technology
- inviting leaders from business and other organisations to work with senior Civil Servants to ensure key Scottish Government policies take better account of the priorities of businesses, including secondments in and out of government
- creating a "Culture Collective" to harness and maximise the contribution of Scotland's creative workforce
- accelerating plans for community wealth building to retain spend within local economies to aid local job creation; drawing expertise from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies; and rolling out this model in a number of additional areas
- ensuring Colleges and Universities are at the centre of economic recovery;
- asking each Regional Economic Partnership to lead on and deliver an action plan for economic recovery and renewal
- making an initial investment of £10 million in Mission Clyde in 2020/21, as a first step to regenerate the Clyde as an engine of sustainable and inclusive growth for the city.
- introducing Regional Land Use Partnerships from 2021, to maximise the contribution land plays in regional economic development and meeting climate change goals.
- using the Government's 'Green Growth Accelerator' to unlock additional investment for infrastructure projects that support the transition to a net zero economy

- completing a review of the Government's Town Centre Action Plan to develop a deliverable vision for towns, learning the lessons from COVID-19
- delivering the £1 million a year Climate Action Towns initiative to help Scotland's small towns play their part in climate action, taking into account differing local circumstances
- undertaking a comprehensive review of national planning policies and the extension of permitted development rights, removing the need to apply for planning permission for priority areas of development, to support economic recovery

5 Recovery Update: Living with COVID-19

- Schools in Renfrewshire will reopen on a phased basis up to 14 August 2020.
- Planning is ongoing in Renfrewshire Leisure to make arrangements to support the restart of services and facilities as soon as guidance allows, in a safe and sustainable way
- There have been no COVID-19 deaths reported in care homes in Renfrewshire since 10 June 2020 or care at home services since 9 May 2020.

Children's Services

Schools Recovery Plan

- 5.1 On 30 July 2020, the Scottish Government announced that schools and early years centres will reopen for all children and young people full time from 11 August 2020.
- 5.2 In Renfrewshire, staff will return for two in-service days on 10 and 11 August 2020. These two in-service days will be primarily used to allow staff to prepare for children and young people returning.
- 5.3 Children and young people will return to school on a phased basis from Wednesday 12 August to Friday 14 August 2020. All schools will follow a sector specific model for this phased return to ensure a consistent approach. Details of this were shared with parents and carers on 31 July 2020:

Nurseries (Council-run early learning childcare centres and classes).

- From Wednesday 12 August – children receiving an additional year at nursery and four-year olds
- From Thursday 13 August – three-year olds (in addition to children above)
- From Friday 14 August – under three year olds who have been allocated a place to start in August (in addition to above)
- *Private partner nurseries will share their plans for return directly with parents.*

Riverbrae and Mary Russell schools

- Wednesday 12 August – Primary pupils return to school
- Thursday 13 August – Secondary pupils return, meaning all pupils are back

Primary schools

- Wednesday 12 August - P1 and P7 return
- Thursday 13 August - P2, P3 and P4 return to school (in addition to P1 and P7 above)
- Friday 14 August - P5 and P6 return to school, meaning all pupils are back

Secondary schools

- Wednesday 12 August - S1 and S6 return to school
- Thursday 13 August - S4 and S5 return to school (in addition to S1 and S6 above)
- Friday 14 August - S2 & S3 return to school, meaning all pupils are back.

- 5.4 Detailed guidance has been issued by government to support schools and early years centres in their planning for the new session. This guidance focuses on key scientific and public health advice; operational support for schools and nurseries; wellbeing of children and young people; and contingency planning for specific groups of children. To further support schools and early years centres, context specific guidance to Renfrewshire has also been developed and shared.
- 5.5 Meetings have taken place with headteachers and heads of centres to ensure all necessary supports are in place to ensure our children, young people and staff are able to return to schools safely. Further meetings are planned throughout the days and weeks ahead.
- 5.6 The safety and wellbeing of everyone within our school community is our biggest priority and we will continue to follow all guidance to ensure everyone feels safe, confident and welcomed when in our schools and nurseries. This year's return to school may look and feel different. We appreciate the months spent in lockdown won't have been easy for parents or pupils and we are conscious of the need to help support children and young people back into school and nursery. There will be an increased focus on health and wellbeing across the curriculum for children and young people and all establishments have made this a priority in their plans for the year ahead and we will use a package of existing education programmes to help with this.
- 5.7 A range of measures are also in place within each of our schools and nurseries in line with Government guidance and while each school and nursery is different, there are standard measures in place for everyone:
- Robust hygiene and cleaning procedures have been introduced across all nurseries and schools. This includes regular hand washing and cleaning surfaces and equipment throughout the day. All nurseries and schools will be cleaned at the end of the school day. A day cleaner will also be appointed to every establishment to support cleaning throughout the day.
 - On arrival into nursery and school, children will wash their hands before they settle into the centre, classroom or learning space. We will also ask that children and young people to wash their hands before they leave home in the morning. In secondary schools, this will involve the use of hand sanitisers.
 - As per Government guidance, children do not have to physically distance while in nursery, school or on school transport. However, we will encourage physical distancing where possible to further minimise any risk. In addition, we will avoid bringing children together in large groups such as school events or assemblies. Physical distancing will be in place between staff and between staff and pupils where possible. Visitors coming into nurseries and schools will also be restricted.
 - Lunch times may be staggered, where possible, to reduce children queuing in large numbers. During August, we will serve packed lunches with the aim

of introducing hot meals in September once schools have established routines in place.

- Home to school transport provided by the council will continue as normal for eligible pupils. Pupils do not have to be distanced and they will not need to wear face coverings. However, no food or drink should be consumed while on a school bus. For children travelling on public transport, they should continue to follow Scottish Government guidance on face coverings and physical distancing.
- Schools will have been in touch with parents regarding arrangements for school uniforms as normal. If parents are in doubt about details, they have been asked to contact their school direct or visit their school's website.

5.8 To further support learning, a significant number of additional teachers have been recruited to work across all schools in Renfrewshire.

5.9 The corporate health and safety team have supported the education team to ensure all risk assessments have fully taken into account scientific advice and the schools guidance documents published by the Government. Engagement with union representatives will take place before risk assessments are agreed and signed off.

5.10 To support schools and nurseries return on a full-time basis in August, the government announced a £130m funding package which will be phased over the school academic year. This includes:

- £75m for additional teachers – of which £45m has been allocated with Renfrewshire receiving just over £1.5m
- £5m for additional support staff of which Renfrewshire will receive £169,440
- £20m to support cleaning, transport and PPE
- £30m to allow authorities to access further resources where they can demonstrate additional costs are being incurred
- The cleaning and additional costs funds, and the remaining £30m of the additional teachers fund have yet to be allocated, but early indications are that the Council can expect broadly similar percentage allocations to those received to date.

5.11 Central and school communications have been shared with school staff, parents and the wider school communities. All necessary information is on the Council website. There has also been a remote meeting with parent council chairs.

5.12 There will be continued dialogue with headteachers and school communities over the weeks ahead to ensure that all appropriate support is being put in place to allow schools and nurseries to return safely and thrive in the future.

Renfrewshire Leisure

5.13 The Scottish Government's update on 30 July 2020 confirmed indicative dates for a number of Leisure services and facilities to begin to reopen as set out in Section 4 of this report – with the precise timeline dependent on maintaining low levels of

virus in the community as well as ensuring that all social distancing and hygiene protocols are followed.

- 5.14 Renfrewshire Leisure is working with Renfrewshire Council's education services towards the recommencement of its Active Schools programmes from the start of the new school term, as well as working with local sports clubs and teams to make earliest possible use of courts and pitches available after confirmation that these services and activities can commence from specified dates in August.
- 5.15 Renfrewshire Leisure anticipates being able to announce the reopening of the Heritage Archive Centre within the next few days. Access will be on a pre-booked appointment basis only and follow stringent social distancing and hygiene protocols.

Health and Social Care Partnership

Care Homes

- 5.16 There have been no deaths from COVID-19 reported in Renfrewshire Care Homes since 10 June 2020 and no care homes have reported residents with COVID-19 since 19 June 2020. All care homes are providing weekly testing to their staff through the Government Social Care Portal.

Care Home Oversight

- 5.17 Oversight arrangements continue to operate as previously reported. An update report was presented to Renfrewshire's Integration Joint Board on 31 July 2020 on the impact of the pandemic on local care homes and copies of this report can be made available to elected Members for information.

Care Home Visits

- 5.18 At the last Emergencies Board, Members were updated on national guidance setting out how care home visiting may be re-introduced on a phased basis while minimising the risks to residents, staff and visitors. These plans included preparations for moving to Stage 3 of visit arrangements.
- 5.19 On 23 July 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport advised that the Scottish Government are currently reviewing arrangements for moving to Stage 3 and that as part of this review they are examining information on virus prevalence, care home participation in the staff testing programme and data on COVID-19 cases in care homes. Care homes have been asked to place preparations for Stage 3 on hold until further guidance is received. In the interim, care homes will continue with the current arrangements already in place to support visitors outside and support essential visits which allow people to visit loved ones in their final days and in other exceptional circumstances.

Care at Home Services

- 5.20 At present, Renfrewshire HSCP is supporting approximately 1,600 service users through its internal and external Care at Home services. No service user has died with COVID-19 since 9 May 2020.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the Council is experiencing significant financial pressure 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 and services and facilities are reopened on a phased basis, however notwithstanding, the Council will experience significant financial impact and disruption that will require it to draw heavily on all its financial reserves and from which it is likely to take some time to recover. Current outcome estimates indicate a full year impact in 2020/2021 of up to £55M for the Council, with comparable additional funding announced of around £9.5M to begin to address this impact. This financial position will continue to be subject to ongoing review and updating, for example in line with the changes being planned in relation to the operation of schools in August. Additionally, as outlined previously to the Board, a report outlining recommended changes to the Council's financial strategy in response to the COVID19 impact is scheduled to be presented to the September Council meeting.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – the Council's workforce represents a major part of the local population and as such has been 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. Working closely with national government, partners and trade unions the Council has been required to actively manage and redeploy staffing resources to meet the most critical services over this exceptional emergency period and will continue to do so as the Council moves forward through the Government's phased routemap to reopen services and facilities.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – COVID-19 has impacted on the operations of Council partners and on services to the community. This paper highlights the work undertaken to mitigate this impact as far as possible, to maintain essential services for the safety and wellbeing of the community and to reopen services as partner organisations and the Council are able to do so following the Government routemap.
4. **Legal** – N/A
5. **Property/Assets** – Initial planning for the phased reopening of non-essential office accommodation in line with requirements for physical distancing and to protect employees, members and customers has indicated that the capacity of some office buildings will be around 25% of previous normal occupancy levels. The use of property and assets will be prioritised to support essential services, necessary access to equipment and facilities, customer demand for necessary face to face service provision and the welfare of employees. Adjustments to physical assets will be required in the form of physical screens and the implementation of one-way access and egress arrangements required to ensure the safety of employees, members and customers using facilities.

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. There will be an ongoing requirement to support employees with appropriate equipment and training to allow them to continue to work flexibly and from home as a default wherever possible.
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 up to date government and health guidance. As services are prioritised and planned to restart or reopen appropriate health and safety assessments are being carried out to ensure that working processes and procedures have been updated, cleaning arrangements and equipment are reviewed and relevant training, guidance, and where required PPE have been provided to ensure that employee and customer safety is maintained.
9. **Procurement** – As the lockdown period progressed the availability of some key materials and PPE supplies was under pressure across all UK organisations. Procurement teams are maintaining ongoing monitoring of the supplies of these products and operational services will ensure appropriate levels of stocks are maintained to meet the future needs of their services as the phased reintroduction of services and facilities proceeds in line with the Government routemap.
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 or access to facilities or equipment restricted. 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. As services are prioritised and planned to restart or reopen appropriate risk assessments are being carried out to ensure that working processes and procedures have been updated to ensure that employee and customer safety is maintained.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable
13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable

List of Background Papers

None

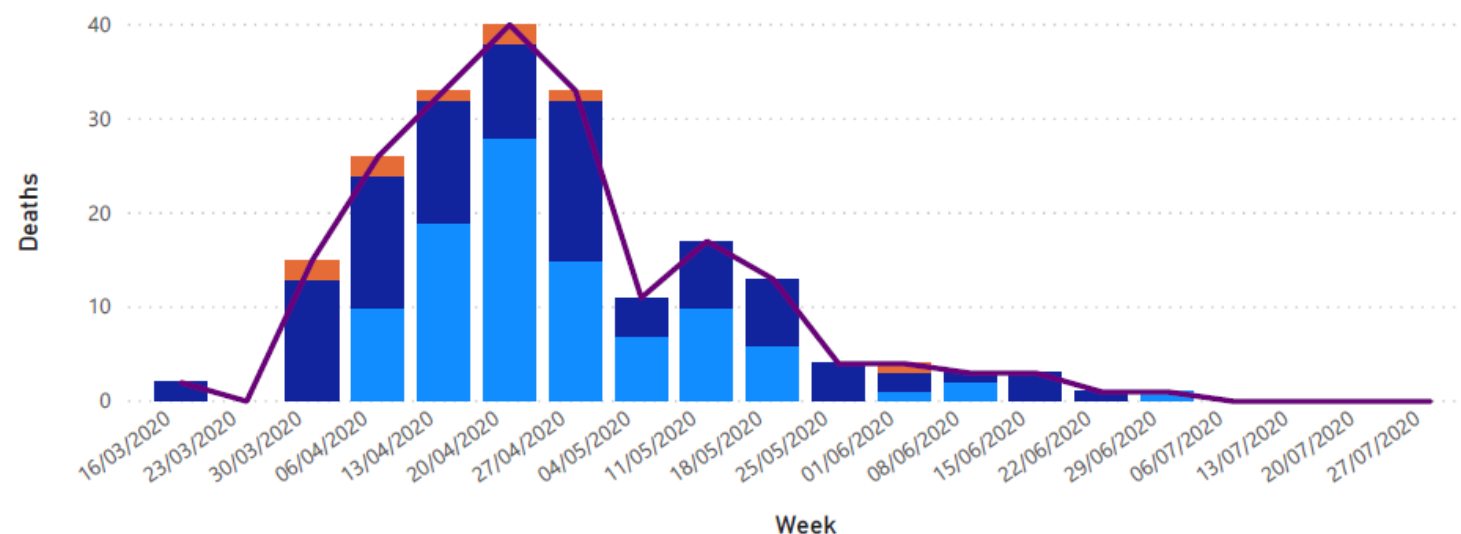
Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 1 - Renfrewshire, Weekly COVID-19 Deaths, Number and location

Location ● Care Home ● Hospital ● Non-institution/Home ● Deaths



Location	16/03/2020	23/03/2020	30/03/2020	06/04/2020	13/04/2020	20/04/2020	27/04/2020	04/05/2020	11/05/2020	18/05/2020	25/05/2020	01/06/2020	08/06/2020	15/06/2020	22/06/2020	29/06/2020	06/07/2020	13/07/2020	20/07/2020	27/07/2020	Total
Care Home	0	0	0	10	19	28	15	7	10	6	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	99
Hospital	2	0	13	14	13	10	17	4	7	7	4	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	98
Non-institution...	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	2	0	15	26	33	40	33	11	17	13	4	4	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	206

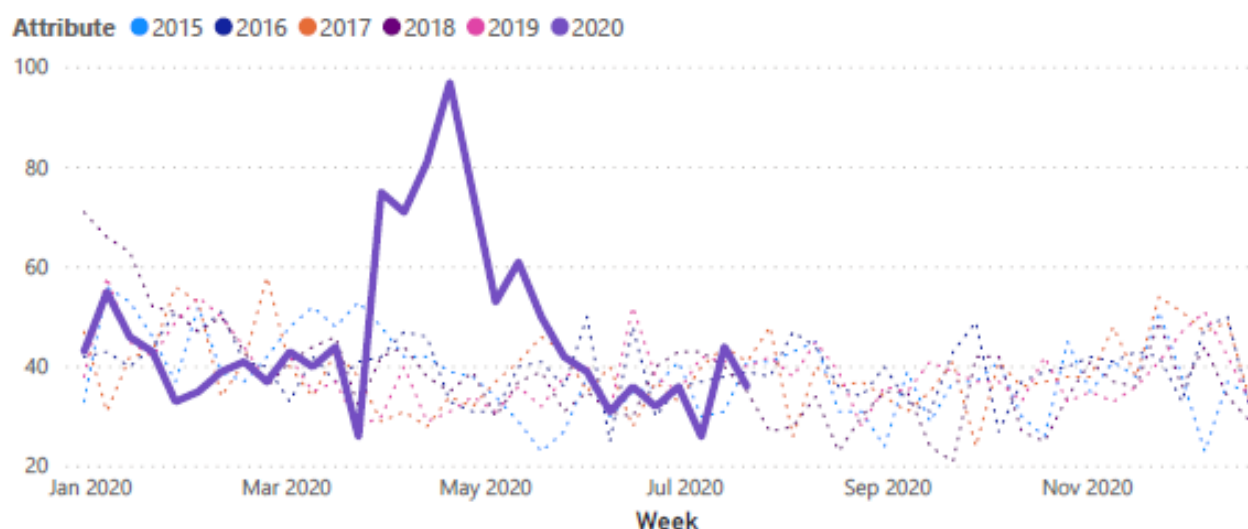
COVID-19 related deaths were first reported in Renfrewshire in the week commencing 16th March 2020. Weekly deaths increased rapidly and reached a peak of 40 deaths in the week beginning the 20th April 2020. They then fell rapidly throughout the rest of April and into May, reaching levels consistently below 5 deaths per week by June. No deaths have been recorded in the last four reporting periods.

It should be noted that these figures from the National Records of Scotland are based on residency in Renfrewshire, irrespective of the location of death.

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

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

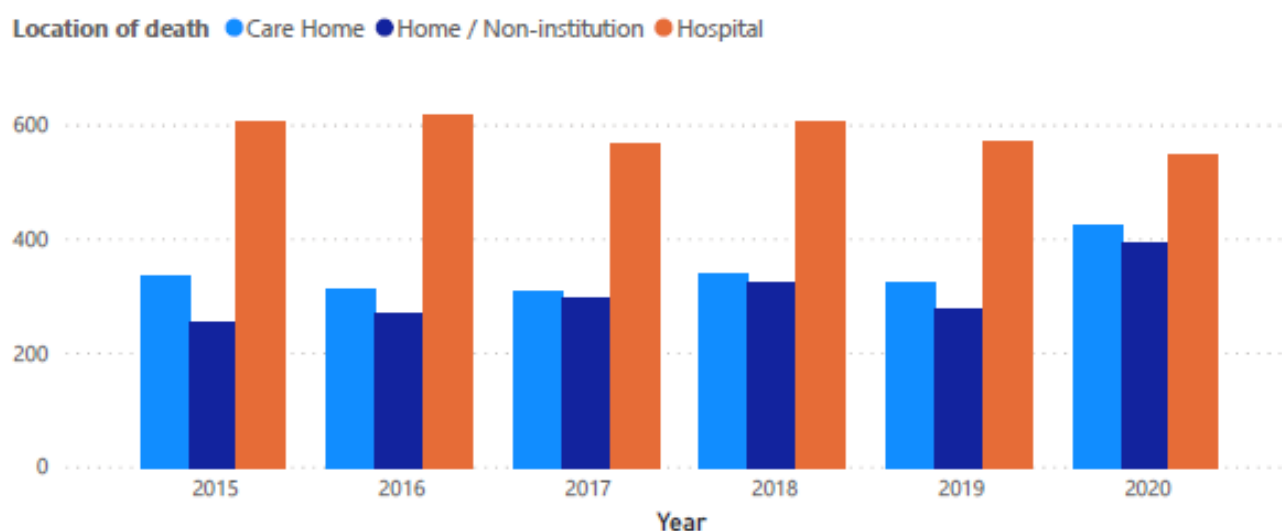
Figure 2 - All Deaths in Renfrewshire by week (equivalent date 2020)



Over the period from the week beginning the 30 March 2020 to the week beginning 18 May 2020, Renfrewshire recorded 'excess deaths', that is deaths beyond the range predicted by previous years.

The graph above shows all deaths occurring in Renfrewshire in 2020 in the context of deaths recorded in the previous 5 years. It should be noted that outwith the peak period of the pandemic, rates have been at or lower than those experienced in previous years.

Figure 3 - Total Deaths in Renfrewshire by location, weeks 1-30 (01 Jan - 26 Jul 2020)



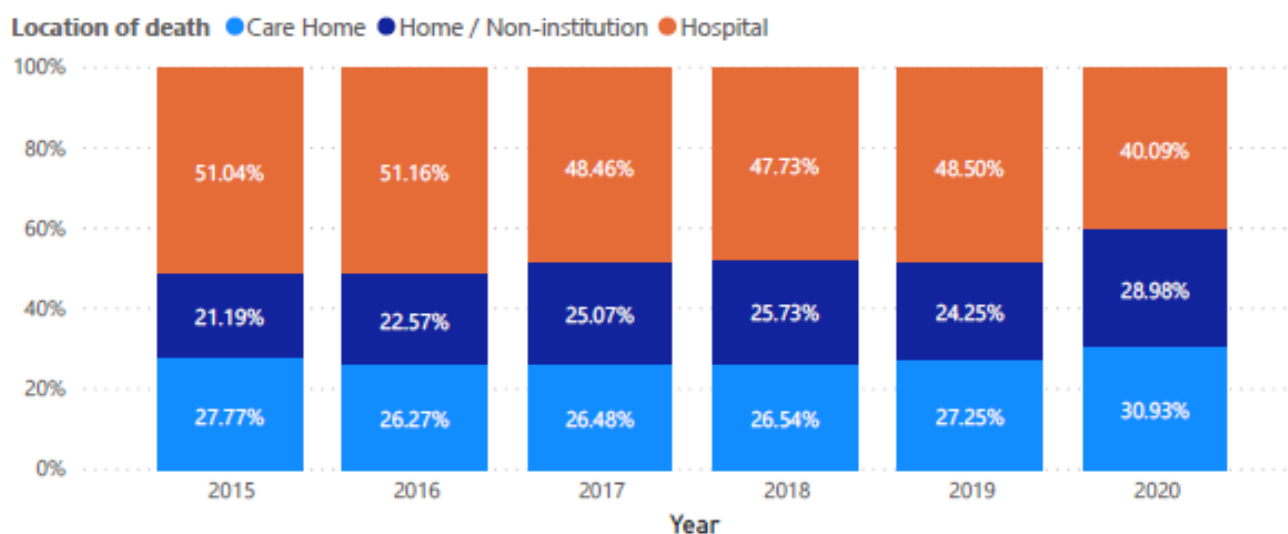
This is further illustrated by considering the total deaths recorded so far this year against the same period in previous years.

Recorded hospital deaths are actually lower than previous years with the increases in deaths occurring at home or in a care home setting

Source: National Records Scotland

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

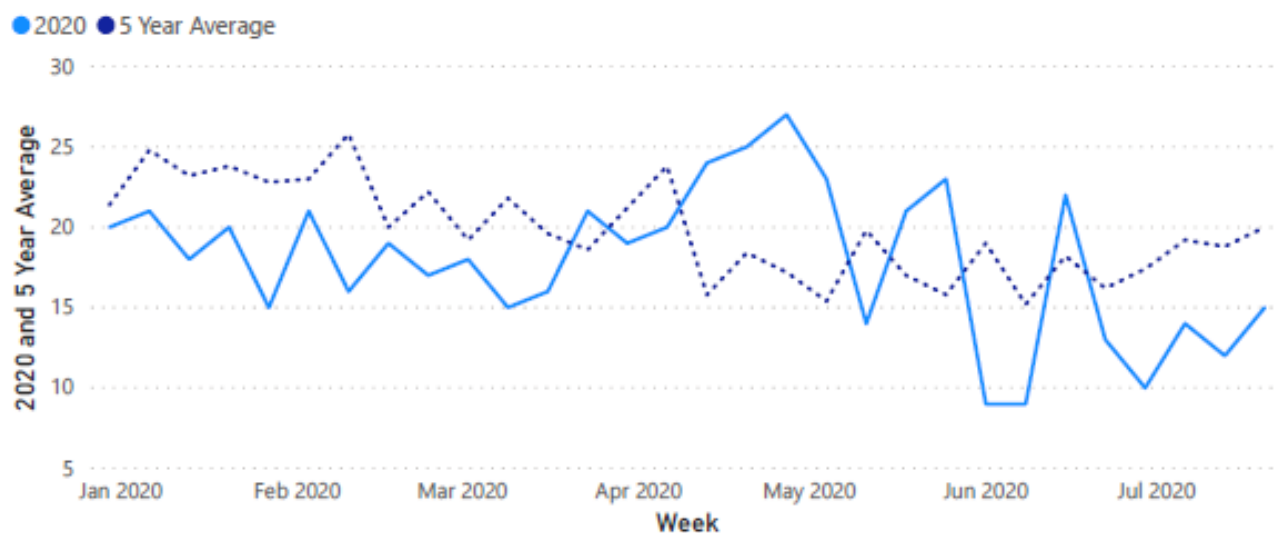
Figure 4- Total deaths in Renfrewshire by location, weeks 1-30 (01 Jan - 26 Jul 2020)



Source: National Records Scotland

This is also true proportionately, with the percentage of hospital deaths significantly reduced in 2020 when compared with each of the previous five years, with the rates of home and care homes deaths increased.

Figure 5 - All deaths recorded in a Hospital setting in Renfrewshire, weeks 1-30

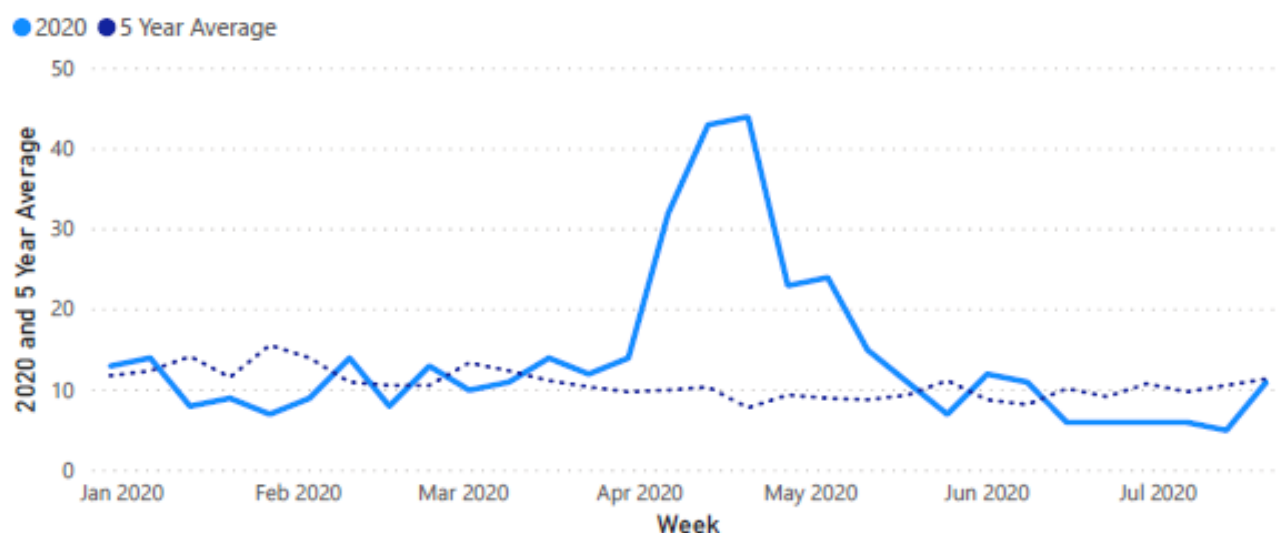


Source - National Records of Scotland

Weekly data for Renfrewshire shows that all deaths in a hospital setting have been below expected levels for significant parts of the year to date. This balances the excess deaths experienced over the peak of the pandemic and has resulted in 57 deaths fewer than expected this so far year.

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 6 - All deaths recorded in a Care Home setting in Renfrewshire, weeks 1-30



Weekly data for all deaths in a care home setting in Renfrewshire show deaths at levels at or slightly below levels expected outwith the peak of the pandemic. The peak in excess deaths is more pronounced than in a hospital setting, leaving an increase of 94 deaths above the level expected.

Figure 7 - Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths per 100,000 population in the UK

Month	Rate England	Rate Scotland	Rate Wales	Rate NI
March	4.06	0.84	2.16	1.11
April	38.80	25.04	26.61	16.69
May	18.95	17.17	13.77	9.72
June	7.81	2.36	5.39	1.53
July	4.13	0.16	1.62	0.26
Total	73.75	45.58	49.54	29.31

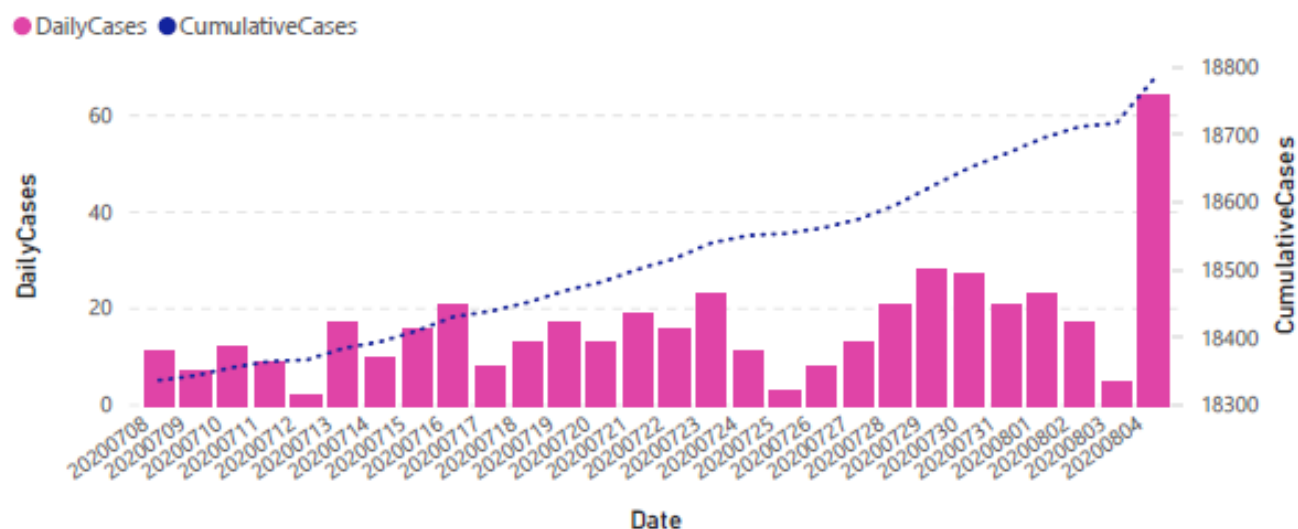
Source: ONS

The table above illustrates the relative COVID-19 death rates in the four nations of the UK.

Rates peaked in April across the UK and July has seen the lowest rates during the pandemic. COVID-19 deaths in Scotland have been at the lowest rate in the UK during July.

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 8 - New confirmed COVID-19 cases in Scotland - Last 4 weeks (from 04 Aug)

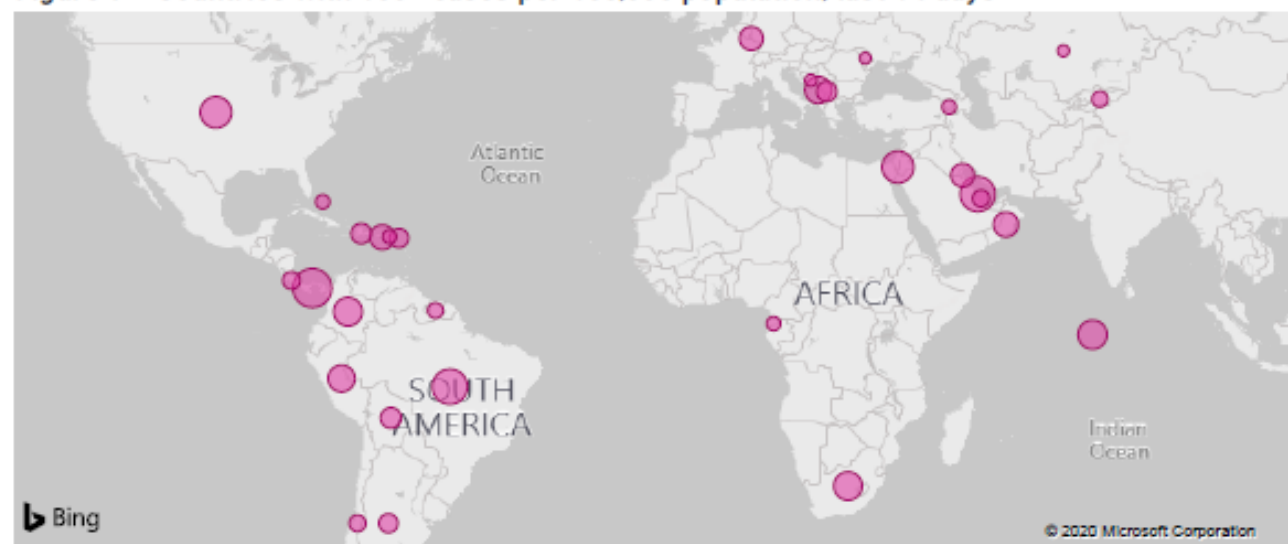


Source: Public Health Scotland

While the number of new cases identified each day is greatly reduced, new cases continue to be identified regularly across Scotland.

The graph above shows the number of new cases identified by testing in Scotland for the last four weeks from the 4th August against the cumulative total of cases identified throughout the pandemic. The recent spike in cases in Aberdeen is reflected in the latest figure.

Figure 9 - Countries with 100+ cases per 100,000 population, last 14 days

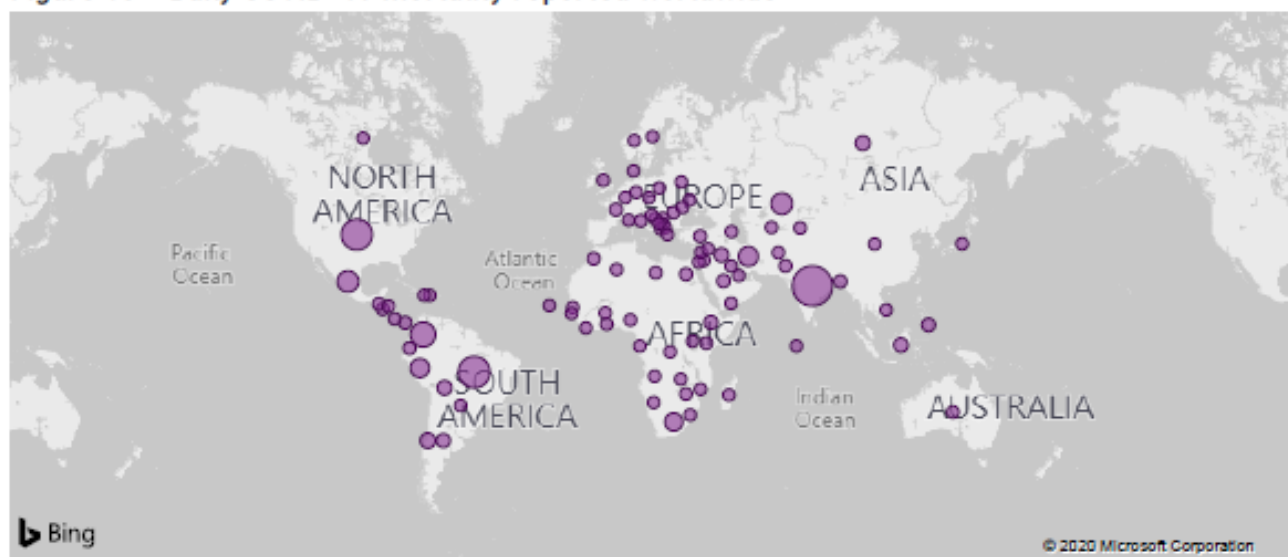


Source - European Centre for Disease Control/WHO

The map above shows the countries recording more than 100 cases per 100,000 population in the last 14 days and illustrates that outbreaks remain on a global scale with the Middle East, Central America and the Balkans reporting significant increases. Significant numbers of new cases continue to be reported around the world with 31 countries reporting more than 100 new cases per 100,000 of population in the last 14 days as at the 4th August 2020.

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 10 - Daily COVID-19 mortality reported worldwide

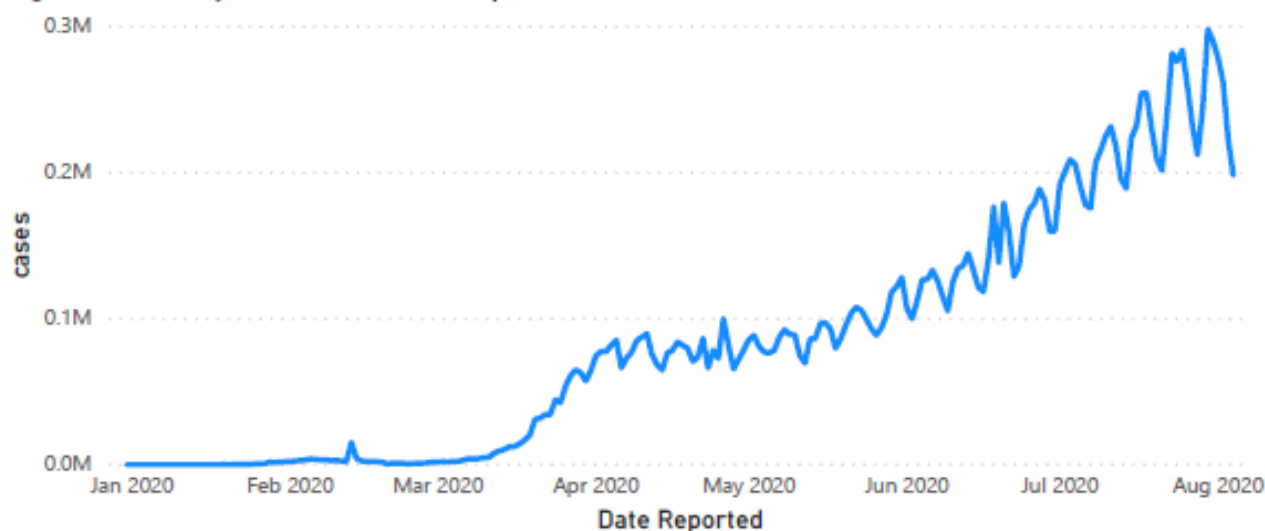


Source: European Centre for Disease control/WHO

The continuing escalation of cases unfortunately translates into continuing wide spread mortality across the world.

The map above illustrates where deaths were reported on the 4th August.

Figure 11 - Daily COVID-19 cases reported worldwide



Source: European Centre for Disease control/WHO

While the distribution of cases is becoming more geographically dispersed, the overall number of daily cases reported worldwide continues to grow. The graph above shows the total new cases reported each day so far in 2020 showing a steady acceleration of the number of new cases worldwide.

Increases may relate to the expansion of testing programmes over time as well as the spread of the virus but the figures highlight the scale of the pandemic globally.