

SHORT REPORT	
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>Lead Office</b>	Nicola Plant, Service Manager
<b>Date</b>	28 May 2020
<b>Decision</b>	To note the current position .



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Covid-19 generated an unprecedented demand on the PPE supply chain and a slow down in manufacturing in affected countries. This report provides an overview of PPE supply management by the council.

## 2. KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 A government supply route was established to support emergency requirements. This operates via Local Resilience Forums. Sandwell has been receiving PPE drops from the government via the West Midlands and Warwickshire LRF. The content and quantity of these drops have been varied and there have been disparities between supply and demand.
- 2.2 The supply is aimed at two broad categories: Social Care and Primary Care. Local authorities are required to manage the PPE needs for social care and Clinical Commissioning Groups manage the supply to primary care.
- 2.3 At the beginning of April, 90% of the supply was provided for social care with 10% allocated to primary care. This has recently changed and from the beginning of May the allocations changed to 75% to social care and 25% to primary care.
- 2.4 Stock levels are monitored and returns on stock and usage levels are provided three times per week.
- 2.5 There have been some challenges with the government supply of some items relating to expiry dates and CE markings. The council has been actively working with the LRF to seek the correct assurances on these items prior to usage.
- 2.6 We have based our management of PPE supplies on the three strand approach set out in the governments Covid-19 PPE Plan; Guidance, Distribution and Future Supply. Our approach is:-
- i. Guidance: providing advice and guidance to ensure staff and providers are clear who needs PPE and when based on national clinical guidelines. This

ensures workers on the frontline are safe but also makes sure PPE is only used when clinically necessary and not wasted.

- ii. Distribution: establishing a PPE store from which PPE is distributed where it is needed.
- iii. Future supply: forecasting future demands and working with procurement, the LRF and neighbouring authorities to develop future supply chains.

2.7 The largest items of PPE demanded are face masks and gloves with an average daily distribution (from 06/05/2020) of over 500 masks and over 3000 gloves. The majority of these supplies have been distributed to the Adult Social Care sector, internal and external including residential, nursing and domiciliary care providers. Some provision has also been made to Funeral Directors, Children's social care and school services to meet urgent need.

2.8 The national benchmark for PPE supply is to have sufficient supplies to meet 7 days usage. Currently, based on average and forecast usage the council supplies exceed this benchmark. It is therefore considered we currently have sufficient supplies of PPE to meet our needs.

2.9 Systems are in place to monitor and manage the fluctuating demand on PPE stock levels which can be affected by a number of issues such as levels of transmission and changes to guidance on the usage of PPE.

2.10 Over recent weeks the council has established a strong supply chain and will continue to utilise the relationships that have been established to respond to demand in this area.

2.11 PPE will continue to be an issue over coming weeks and the Council will do whatever it can to ensure that sufficient supply is available to meet demand.

### **3. Next steps**

3.1 We continue to develop our own supply chains for PPE and are working with both Wolverhampton and a consortium co-ordinated by Birmingham City Council to secure supply routes.

3.2 As easement progresses we are aware that there may be further demands on the supply chain for PPE as other services start to operate and we will continue to monitor this.