

Community Champions Briefing Notes - 21.10.20

I hope you've had a good week. After a couple of weeks of gradually increasing numbers, we did have a bit of a jump this week and our rate per 100,000 people went over 200 for the first time. This is in line with the general increase being seen in many areas of the country. Other West Midlands areas above 200 include Birmingham, Walsall and Sandwell.

Thanks to those who could join us on the Zoom call on Wednesday evening. We had a good discussion about the work of the voluntary and community sector and preparations to support the most vulnerable in our community. There weren't any slides this week but some useful information to share:

Where can I find out more information about support for the vulnerable?

The best place to start is the council's ['Here to Help'](#) page, which covers a whole range of different subjects.

Some people wanted to know about how to give (financially) direct to food banks, rather than collecting food.

You can give straight to Helping Hands, the biggest food bank in Solihull, at <https://renewal.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/fund/qtsdqw0o>.

You can also use Tesco vouchers to support the Trussel Trust (visit <https://secure.tesco.com/clubcard/donate-to-charity> to find out more).

Food banks are building up the stocks ready for the winter, so all donations (of food and money) are very welcome. Helping Hands provides a useful [shopping list](#) of what's most needed.

NB: there are other food banks in Solihull, so do support your local organisation if that's more appropriate.

We were told about a new booklet that's coming out with some tips for vulnerable residents about how to look after themselves this winter.

The booklet will be available from mid-November and will be automatically delivered to the elderly and vulnerable. If you'd like copies, please email communitychampions@solihull.gov.uk explaining how many you need (allowing for the automatic distribution) and where you'd like them sent.

The question was asked about having access to more data, to better understand the picture.

The best available data is available through the Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire dashboard, which you can view at <https://coventry-city-council.github.io/covid-19/dashboard/#cases>.

Halloween

With half term comes Halloween and, usually, the trick and treating season. This year, we're discouraging activities that might involve going door-to-door because of the increased risk of transmission, particularly to those who are vulnerable or shielding. Our guidance statement, together with a host of resources from the NHS, is on the Champions' [resources page](#). The NHS resource contains three folders with a range of different materials that can be used for posters, social media, etc.

Drop and Collect testing

From next week we will be offering a drop and collect testing service, where a testing kit is brought to your door and then collected later. Initially, this will be focused in the north of the borough, where case rates have been highest recently and to enhance access to testing in that area. An FAQs document is on the Champions' [resources page](#), providing more information.

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