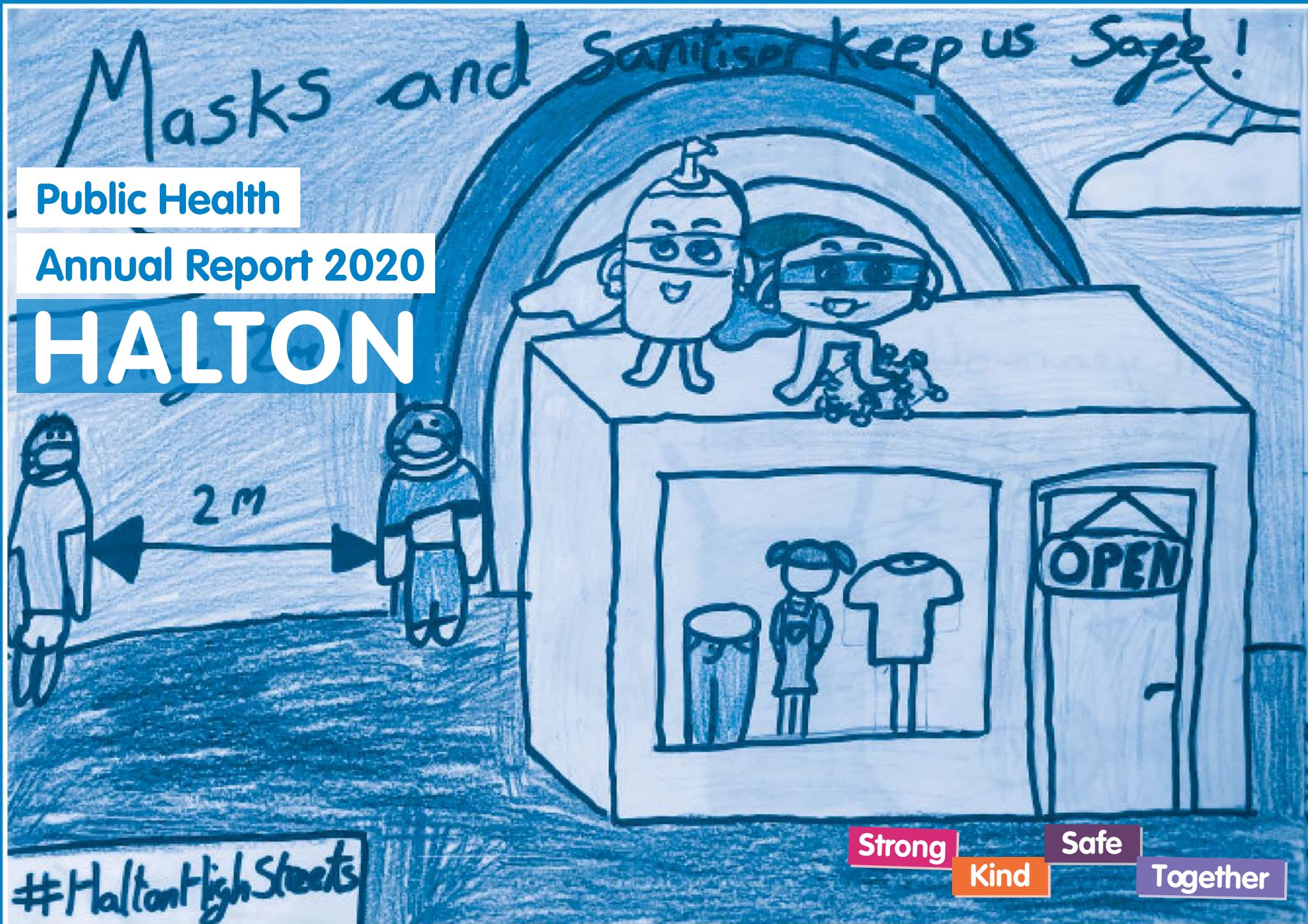


Public Health

Annual Report 2020

HALTON



Strong

Kind

Safe

Together

Acknowledgements

This year's public health annual report is very different in that the contribution to looking after the health and wellbeing of our Halton community has been an effort of many thousands of people. The majority of whom will be the unsung heroes who in their own way made a big difference to a friend, neighbour, colleague, team, resident or business by helping out in the best way they could during the most challenging of times.

In the report, we have provided a snapshot of just some of the work, challenges, issues and outcomes that tell the story of Covid-19 in Halton.

To everyone in our local public services, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. To our local community, we would like to say that we are proud to serve you. Together we will overcome Covid-19 and look forward to a brighter future. We've got this Halton.

Public Health Team – Halton Borough Council
public.health@halton.gov.uk or 0151 511 5200.



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Foreword

Eileen O'Meara, Director of Public Health and Health Protection



Welcome to the Halton Public Health Annual Report for 2020/21.

It will come as no surprise that the focus for this year's report is Coronavirus. We take a look back over the last year and reflect on the challenges that the whole community faced. We also want to recognise the strength and resilience of people in Halton during these very difficult times.

Whilst in Public Health we are constantly preparing for pandemics, I could never have imagined one on this scale with such far reaching consequences. I have been very fortunate to be the Director of Public Health in such a cohesive borough with engaged and supportive elected Members and a strong, dynamic Senior Management Team.

I have been backed by talented and highly skilled teams in Public Health, Infection Control, Environmental Health, Health Protection and Health Improvement that have enabled us to prevent, identify, track,

trace and contain the virus by offering expert guidance, contacting those infected, getting people tested, managing outbreaks and helping people to self-isolate.

We have worked together to ride the waves of successive challenges with Halton's engaging Communications Team, tenacious Adult Social Care Team, diplomatic Children's Services and meticulous Emergency Planning, all backed by flexibility and support from the Communities and Environment Division.

There has also been fantastic joint working with our NHS colleagues in Halton CCG, Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust, Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust, St Helen's and Knowsley Hospital Trust and in the community through Halton Voluntary Action and local pharmacies.

I have also benefited from CHAMPS (Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative) through the shared learning, insight and wisdom of my fellow Directors of Public

Health and the tireless work of the CHAMPS support team. Not to mention the North West Public Health England Team.

As I write this in early June 2021 the number of infected cases is very low in the Halton area, we have a high vaccination rate and very few people are being hospitalised. Thankfully, we have had no recorded deaths in the last few weeks. Whilst I am grateful for this respite, we must continue to be vigilant about the threat from new variants and the potential for further spread of disease.

Our work continues to evolve and we are cautiously optimistic as society gradually opens up. We have come through this last year by working together and I'm sure we will face the next twelve months in much the same way. Thank you to everyone for playing your own part in helping to deal with the pandemic and continue to stay safe and look after each other.

E O'Meara

Cllr Rob Polhill,

Leader of the Council during 2020-21



Stay at home

April, May, June 2020

Many times over the past year, I felt as if all I was able to share was doom and gloom about Coronavirus. These messages were not easy to give and I'm sure not easy to receive. However, I was keen to always give you even the hardest messages as straight and clear as possible – I think Halton people appreciated that.

At the beginning of the crisis, we really didn't know what to expect. We very much relied on our public health experts as data and scientific evidence wasn't widely available in the early days, and we had to make the best possible judgements we could, given the information we had at the time.

During this uncertain and confusing time, I saw true dedication to public service and such professionalism from so many people across the Council and the wider community. There was very much a 'can do' attitude and this has continued throughout – truly amazing efforts. I do hope that everyone, particularly those who were on the frontline in caring roles and our key and essential workers, take some time for themselves to reflect, adjust and renew. I will forever be in your debt for supporting our local community in Halton so well through the Coronavirus pandemic.



'It has been a real privilege to help John during the pandemic and we now catch up every week. We've become good friends and I enjoy hearing how things are growing in John's garden.' CATHERINE, LOCAL VOLUNTEER

'Catherine has helped me right from the first lockdown in 2020. We started chatting on video call regularly and in January when my brother (Robert) sadly passed away, Catherine helped me to go to the cemetery where he was laid to rest. Catherine has helped pick up medicines, shopping and recently we've started a garden, growing herbs, lettuce, carrots, potatoes and more. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Catherine.' JOHN, HALTON RESIDENT



Strong

Safe

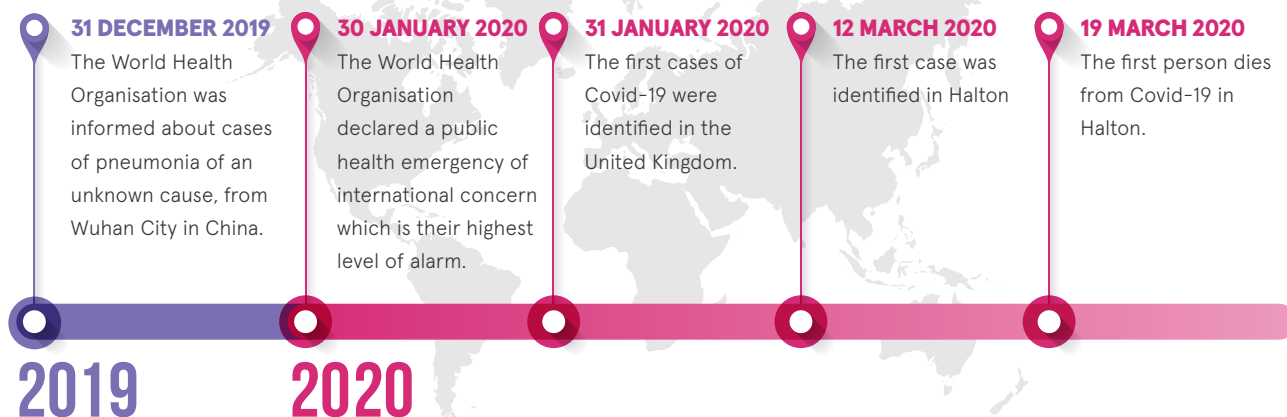
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What is Coronavirus (Covid-19)?



Key Dates - Covid-19



Covid-19 has affected us all in different ways. Since the beginning of the pandemic the Council has put in place many localised systems to reduce transmission of the virus, minimise its impact and protect the health of our communities. The Public Health Team have provided expert advice and guidance to the Council, partner organisations and the wider community throughout the pandemic. Identifying outbreaks, clusters of cases and situations of concern remain key priorities within the team.



The first national lockdown

On the 23 March 2020, the Prime Minister told us all to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. This presented a huge challenge in keeping Council services running, serving our local community and keeping our staff and customers safe.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

“Covid-19 tested our emergency plans and systems. One key area of work was to ensure people in the community were looked after and the most vulnerable were protected. ‘We’re all in this together’ approach is how we work at Halton Borough Council.”

Michelle Cotgreave
Principal Emergency Planning Officer

Shielding

One of the first priorities was to protect those most vulnerable to Covid-19.

Nearly 9,000 people needed to be shielded in Halton. Within days of the Government's 'Stay At Home' message, staff worked with partner organisations to set up a Shielded Hub, matching requests for help with people in need.

We delivered food, medicine and support to people who had to stay at home. Every single request for help was met. In April alone, 184 food parcels were given to local people and with the help of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, 96 people had their prescriptions delivered.

In total, during the year, 684 food parcels, 300 medication deliveries and over 15,000 Covid support calls were made or received.



Putting hands up to help – our wonderful local volunteers

People in Halton very much wanted to help. Our local Voluntary and Community Action (VCA) team had lots of people registering on their [volunteer portal](#). In June alone, over 100 tasks were completed for people in need such as shopping, help with gardening, walking the dog, repairing things in the home, even helping with getting information about a beloved football club.

Over the year, close to 1000 tasks were recorded by the VCA team with so much more being support given by neighbours, friends and family. Many people have formed lasting friendships from this experience and our local volunteers continue to help make life better in Halton. Thank you.



We need PPE!

Much practical action was needed with increased demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) nationally and limited supply locally.

The DCBL Stadium in Widnes was designated as a local PPE hub, one of the first in the region, which helped to manage demand and supply for PPE locally.

We delivered PPE to staff in care homes, supported living housing and community workers such as Social Care and other critical frontline staff.

So many local businesses, schools and organisations donated equipment to the hub – thank you!



Support for new and adapted businesses

Many local businesses had to adapt fast and some local people started new businesses delivering meals and other supplies to those who didn't want to leave their homes. This meant extra calls to our Environmental Health Team who oversee food safety, giving advice and certification to businesses to ensure good hygiene and food preparation practices were being followed.



“ Our residents said.....

“All the help was professional and outstanding, you wouldn't think we were in a pandemic, thank you to all the staff.”
MARGARET, WIDNES. “

“ Our volunteers said.....

“The app is a great tool for volunteering – easy to use and good that you can choose when you're available to help.”
KIM, VOLUNTEER IN RUNCORN. ”

Being there for Care Homes

Care homes support our most vulnerable residents and were facing a situation like no other before. Covid-19 was an evolving situation, pathways and guidance changed with very little notice and complex plans with new working practices needed to be implemented quickly.

Halton has 25 care homes with nearly 700 residents and 68 supported living properties that are home to around 200 people. A dedicated and professional workforce of carers and support staff look after people to the highest possible standards. We recognised that the lack of PPE was worrying and our care staff were exhausted and scared.

Building on a good foundation of well-established and good working relationships, our Adult Social Care and Infection Control Teams worked closely with all of our care home staff to ensure stringent infection prevention and control measures were in place, offering a 24/7 service to advise, guide, action and listen every step of the way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our key workers in care homes and domiciliary care for their hard work and extraordinary commitment to looking after local people.



Supporting schools with their biggest challenges

One of the biggest impacts of Covid-19 in Halton was the enforced closure of schools for the majority of children.

Alongside formal teaching, schools also provide trusted information, practical items, nutritious meals, access to technology and a range of other vital support services. The biggest challenge was to ensure all of this continued when most children weren't able to go to school.

Free school meals had to be adapted with deliveries of healthy, nutritious packed lunches and/or vouchers that could help to pay for extra food at home. Teachers had to adapt their lessons to home learning as well as continue to provide in-school teaching for children of key workers. We have nearly 20,000 children of school age in Halton and our Head Teachers and their staff have shown incredible creativity and commitment to continuing to teach them throughout the pandemic. Thank you.



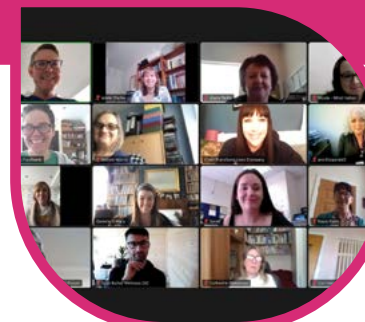
Keep calm and keep delivering services

In the early stages of the pandemic, many of our commissioned services either stopped or had to be delivered in different ways.

Our partners stepped up with new and innovative ways to ensure people could access essential help and support.

For example, our specialist Substance Misuse Service reviewed how it offered support and made 24,126 successful contacts by phone, 1,003 by video and 1,565 Covid safe face to face visits.

All services put in place business continuity plans to keep staff and service users as safe as possible and ensure people could continue to access the vital help and support that they needed.



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Cllr Margaret Horobin,
Mayor of Halton during 2020-21



Stay strong

July, August, Sept 2020

As we moved into the summer months of 2020, thankfully, the cases of Coronavirus began to reduce and people were able to do more activities particularly outdoors.

One of the few joys of the last year has been walking around my local area and noticing the rainbows in honour of our NHS and frontline workers. Bright rainbows were painted on driveways, pinned to trees, lamp posts and railings and even printed on t-shirts, all lovingly drawn, painted and coloured by children across the Borough.

These rainbows gave us all a sense of hope and recognised the value and sacrifice of doctors, nurses and all the health support staff as well as our own frontline staff and key workers. The Thursday nationwide applause was a highlight of the week as so many of us banged our spoons and pans, it felt good to be a part of a united 'us'.

The resilience and courage shown by people was remarkable and there are so many volunteers who we will never know or see who gave their time to keep us safe. I will always be proud to have been the Mayor of Halton for 2020-21 – the year when we stood together against Covid.



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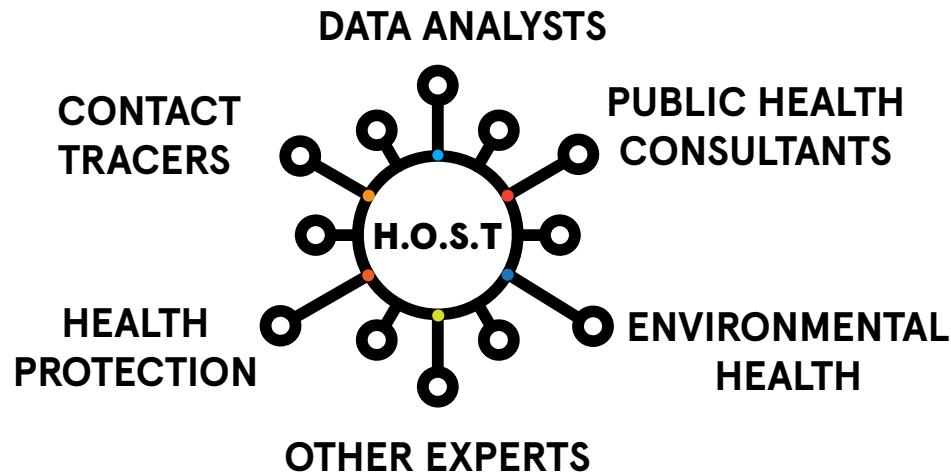
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Halton's Outbreak Support Team (HOST)

In July 2020, Halton's Outbreak Support Team was formed. The team consists of a range of different skill sets including Public Health Consultants, Data Analysts, Environmental Health, Health Protection, Contract Tracers and other expertise.

Working as a collaborative team enabled us to identify outbreaks and situations of concern early and use co-ordinated and rapid containment measures where necessary.

We have worked with local authorities across Cheshire and the wider region, sharing intelligence about positive cases and their contacts. Providing expert public health advice, support and guidance to schools, businesses, care homes, local cases and their contacts has been crucial in managing our response to the pandemic and protecting the local community.



Got Covid-19 symptoms – please get a test!

Tests for Coronavirus became widely available during the summer, giving us a powerful tool to control the virus.

We learned more about the symptoms and people were able to recognise these and get a test. Initially, people had to travel to Haydock to get a PCR test and we worked closely with our NHS colleagues to set up two local sites. We were very aware that lots of people had real challenges accessing testing so it was vital to get a local offer in both Runcorn and Widnes.

The first testing sites in Halton were at The Brindley Car Park in Runcorn and at the old Police Station/Magistrates Court on Kingsway, Widnes.

“Getting robust outbreak plans that could work in our care homes was one of our biggest challenges in the early days of the pandemic. Everyone gave their time, commitment and expertise so freely and generously to make sure we had everything covered.”

Sue Wallace-Bonner
Operational Director, Adult Social Services

Contact tracing – a local approach

In response to the introduction of testing and to ensure preparedness ahead of a potential rise in cases during the autumn, local contact tracing was set up.

The Council felt it was important to have this local activity in addition to the national NHS Test and Trace Service. Working together gave us a better chance of reaching people and reducing the spread of the virus.

We devised a localised script which was shared with many of our neighbouring authorities.

Contact tracing is one of the ways we protect the public from infectious diseases. If a person tests positive for COVID-19, we speak to them in order to identify anyone who has had close contact during the time they were considered to be infectious and then attempt to find these people as soon as possible.

By using our local knowledge we have successfully been able to contact and support cases and contacts who have been classed as hard to reach by the national team. Since the start of the pandemic, we have attempted to contact over 33,000 people including positive cases and their contacts – nearly a third of the whole population in Halton.

We believe that having our localised approach and detailed knowledge of our community has helped reduce the spread of the virus.



Self-Isolation

Self-isolation is a critical element of reducing the spread of Covid-19. During our contact tracing calls, we encourage people to share any concerns they might have about self-isolating and if they have any additional support needs.

If someone is at considered to be a higher risk or needs extra support, we make a follow up call to see how they are and address any challenges.

Halton provided an innovative and supportive approach to self-isolation with several grants available to those in need. Real practical help was also on offer such as collecting shopping and medication and referring people to specialist organisations such as mental health support or bereavement services.

Over 2020-21, around £300,000 had been granted to local people who were self-isolating to help with costs when they weren't able to work and had no or very little income.

Throughout the pandemic, we have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and signed up to be part of a pilot project they were introducing to encourage people to maintain their 10 day self isolation. The project involved sending motivational texts and reminders giving information and support at various points over the 10 days. Following on from this, we introduced local texts to residents who were self-isolating on day 4 and 10 ensuring that relevant and timely support information was delivered.

We also developed a 10 step guide to help people prepare in the event that they needed to self-isolate – www.halton.gov.uk/selfisolation

Self-Isolation Plan 10 days, 10 ways



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Cllr Marie Wright,
Portfolio Holder for Health



Stay safe

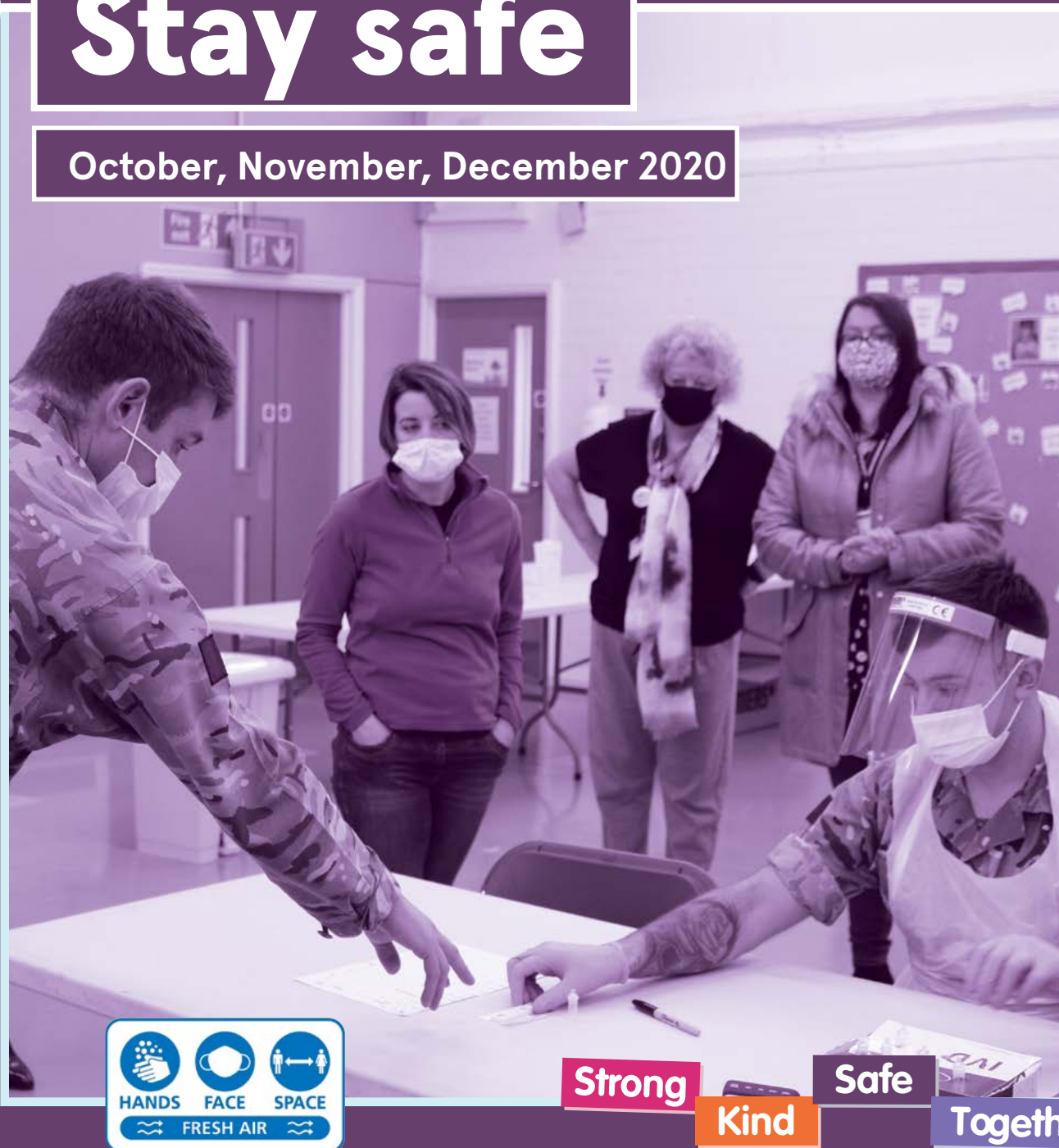
October, November, December 2020

In December 2020, we set up two 'no symptoms' Community Testing Centres at Grangeway, Runcorn and Ditton, Widnes with the help from the Army and thanks in particular to No.2 Company Coldstream Guards. Staff from many teams worked hard to get everything ready to welcome the public. I went along to be tested and was pleasantly surprised at how quick and simple having the test was.

Getting tested ahead of seeing family and friends or going to work really helps to put your mind at rest. If everyone did it, then we'd all be able get back to all the things we love. I had only seen my three children and five grandsons at my front gate and I was desperate to hug them all and the only way that would happen was if everyone took the test regularly and the numbers came down.

As I write this, we have just been given the OK to see more of our family and friends. 17 May 2021 was a very emotional day for me, I had hugs off my family and it's a day I will never forget.

We've done really well in Halton. Let's continue to follow the Hands, Face, Space message and hopefully a hug will be once again part of our daily lives.



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Challenging autumn term for schools

During the autumn term Halton was placed into local Tier 3 and a second national lockdown came into force in November. Despite these major challenges, our early years settings, schools and colleges remained open with many teachers, school and nursery staff going to extraordinary lengths to keep children and colleagues as safe as possible. Head Teachers and school staff also took on additional roles as contact tracing started to take place in school.



The Department of Education (DofE) set up a helpline to support schools with outbreaks. Locally, the Council facilitated a health conference for Head Teachers with contribution from experts including a Consultant Microbiologist, a leading local Infection Control expert, Outbreak Prevention and Control staff, Public Health and School Nursing. Regular ongoing support and advice was also given to schools.

Our local Head Teachers and school staff have showed their usual community leadership, care and sheer determination to keep educating all of our local children during the pandemic. Thank you.

Navigating tiers and supporting local businesses

On 14 October 2020, Halton Borough Council as part of the Liverpool City Region authorities were placed into tier 3, the highest tier of national restrictions at that time. We know that guidance and rules changed often and this did cause some confusion for public and businesses. Despite these challenges, our local businesses managed to achieve a high level of compliance.



Enforcement of rules for businesses

In the few cases where compliance was not met, we worked closely with Cheshire Constabulary to ensure consistent and proportionate enforcement of the rules. Early in November the country was placed in a second national lockdown and many local businesses had to close their doors once again.

As in the first lockdown most businesses did their best to follow the rules, however, the Council did have to use one prohibition notice to ensure compliance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our local business community for their extraordinary efforts and commitment to keeping services in line with all the guidance and to operate as safely as possible.



“ I feel enormously privileged to work in Halton and I have been very proud of staff across all sectors of Education for the care, hard work and resilience they have shown since March 2020. We have seen school leaders and staff set aside their own anxieties and personal circumstances to support others.

Ann McIntyre

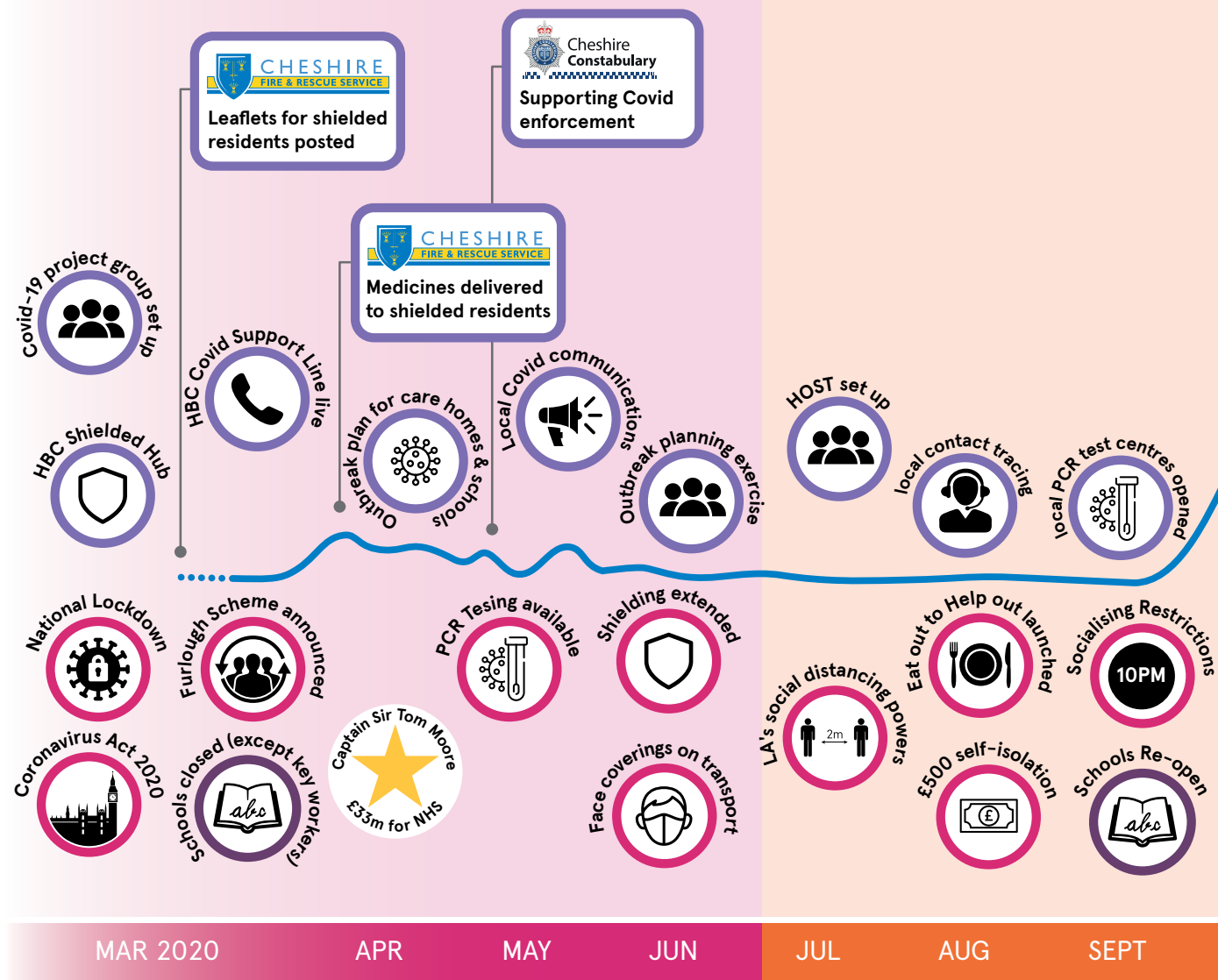
Operational Director for Education, Inclusion and Provision

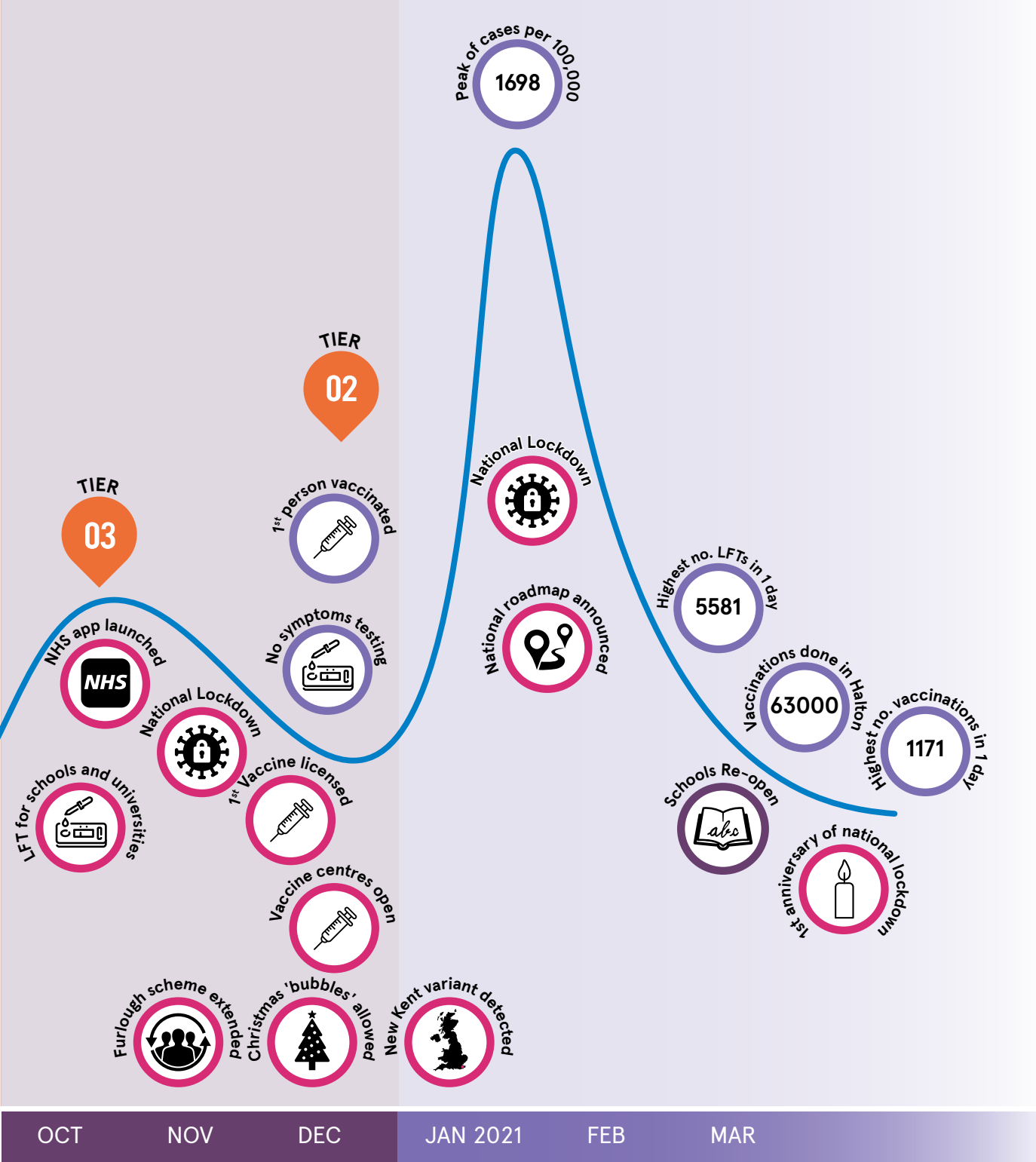
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Timeline

March 2020 – March 2021

At each stage of the pandemic, there have been many national, local and individual actions all making a difference and helping to reduce the number of Covid-19 cases and protect our local community..





KEY

Positive Cases

Local interventions

National interventions

Schools

Local Restrictions Tier Rating

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Difficult lead up to Christmas

On 2 December 2020, the national lockdown was replaced with a new strengthened system of tiers. Halton was placed in Tier 2 as cases had thankfully been reducing in our area.

The rules were a challenge to enforce due to confusion around the requirements, in particular for hospitality businesses to only serve alcohol with a substantial meal. As we headed towards Christmas case rates started to rise again and many local businesses really struggled to keep going. Staff were furloughed once again and the outlook for the New Year was concerning for everyone.



The Army arrived – ‘no symptoms’ Community Test Centres opened

With little notice, Council staff once again rose up to a new challenge of getting ‘no symptoms’ Covid-19 Community Test Centres up and running in less than two weeks. The Army had been in Liverpool supporting with the pilot testing project and came to Halton to help us. We welcomed the first members of the public on Monday 14 December 2020.

In the two weeks before Christmas, thousands of local people came forward for ‘no symptoms’ testing. Many were grateful to have a way to help them keep family and friends safe especially if they were planning to form a Christmas ‘bubble’ to spend Christmas Day with loved ones.

From December to March 2021, nearly 60,000 tests were done at the Community Test Centres. This community action almost certainly helped to reduce the spread of the virus locally and will have helped to save lives. Thank you.

Testing helps:

- ➔ To keep number of cases low in our local area
- ➔ To detect any new variants of concern quickly
- ➔ To feel safer if we’re visiting family and friends
- ➔ To keep colleagues and workplaces safe
- ➔ To stay on track with relaxing of lockdown measures

“Being able to reliably test our residents and visitors really helped us to reconnect family and friends and enable that most human of needs, to spend time with those we love.”

Care home manager, Runcorn





Covid-19 vaccine – the news we all hoped for

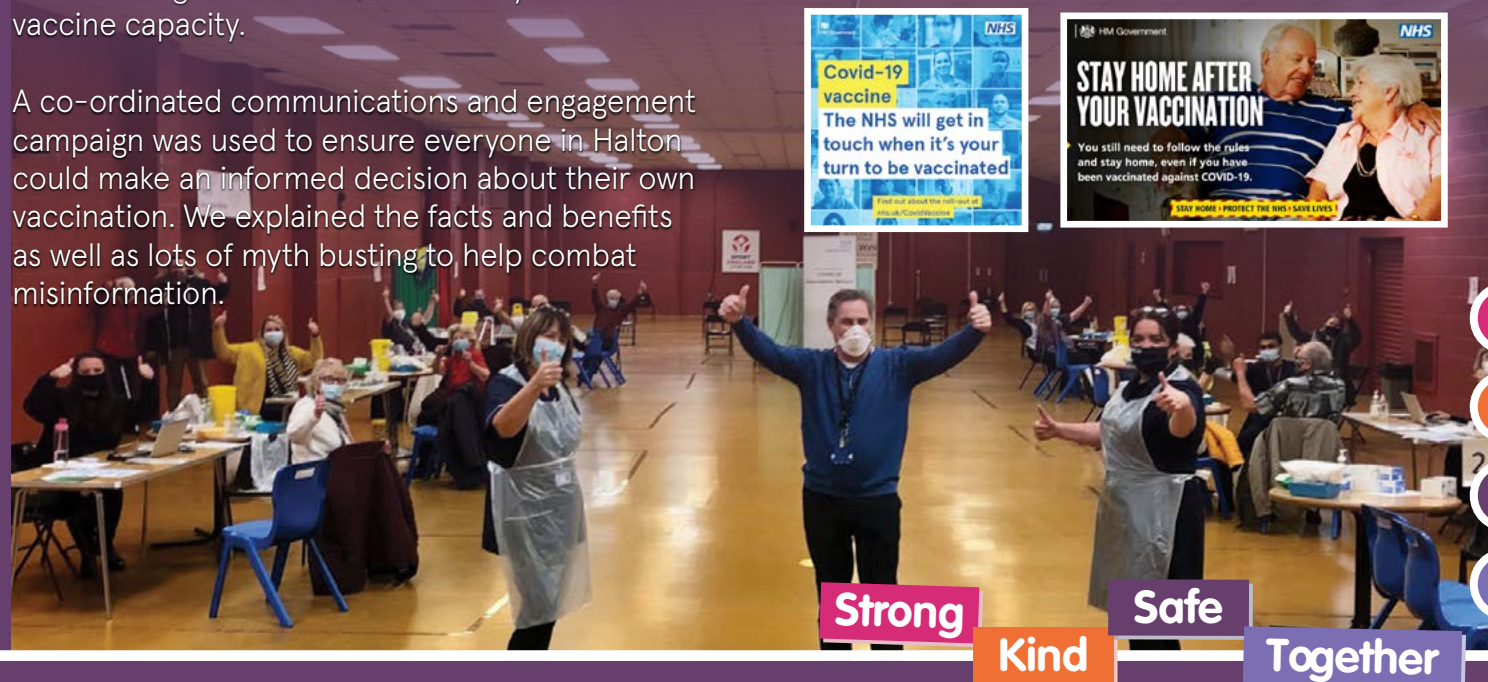
The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Halton was delivered by Widnes NHS Primary Care Network at Widnes Rugby League Stadium on 15 December 2020.

In advance of the first licensed vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech), preparations were made to ensure that as many people as possible were vaccinated as soon as possible, according to the priority risk groups identified by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Coordination between the Council, CCG, GPs, Social Care, Pharmacy, Hospital and Voluntary Services was integral to the strategy. Halton was one of the first locations to provide a drive through vaccination service for the top two priority groups. The Oxford Astra Zeneca (AZ) Vaccine was licensed on 30 December 2020 and due to the easier storage conditions, it massively enhanced vaccine capacity.

A co-ordinated communications and engagement campaign was used to ensure everyone in Halton could make an informed decision about their own vaccination. We explained the facts and benefits as well as lots of myth busting to help combat misinformation.

Local vaccination centres for Halton residents included:

- ➔ Widnes Rugby League Stadium
- ➔ The Brindley Theatre in Halton
- ➔ Halliwell Jones Stadium
- ➔ Local GP Practices
- ➔ Local Pharmacies
- ➔ Cheshire and Merseyside Mass Vaccination Centre (The Totally Wicked St Helens Rugby League Stadium)
- ➔ Orford Jubilee Hub in Warrington



Cllr Joan Lowe
Chair of the Policy &
Performance Board



Hope for the future

January, February and March 2021

As we headed into 2021, sadly we started the year with a peak in cases following the Christmas holidays and the emergence of the Alpha variant. This dramatic rise pushed our local hospitals to their limits.

Thankfully, there was hope in all of this darkness with the start of the vaccination programme and our most elderly and vulnerable residents were rolling up their sleeves to get their jabs. Our care homes have felt some of the harshest effects of the pandemic but have been truly heroic in their kindness, support and sheer grit and determination to keep their residents safe, healthy and connected to their loved ones through these most trying times.

The vaccination roll out continues with great success. We can already see its impact of the reduction in the number of people needing to go into hospital for Covid-19 treatment.

Having a safe and effective vaccine for all is truly a blessing we're all grateful for and gives us much hope and optimism for the coming year and beyond.



Reasons for hope!

January marked the peak of the pandemic. Our team continued to provide companion calls for those feeling the effects of self isolation. The Council also lead a 'pen pals' project to tackle social isolation and connect the old and young alike. Many local school children sent letters to residents in our care homes which was a much needed boost when opportunities for visits was so severely reduced.



We also encouraged everyone to take part in physical activity no matter what your ability or starting point. Our Leisure Centres ran many online classes and there was even a challenge to 'pimp my walking frame' and channel the spirit of Captain Sir Tom Moore who got out in his garden to raise over £33million for NHS.



This was a busy time for the Public Health Team as there were many outbreaks in settings and incidents to respond to – 44 during the year with the bulk of these in December and January. With a multi-disciplinary approach, the Public Health Team co-ordinated the management, investigation and control of outbreaks.

We continue to:

- assess the risk to the public from an outbreak
- ensure that the cause, vehicle and source of outbreak is investigated
- implement control measures
- manage communications regarding the outbreak
- proactively engage with businesses and offer advice on staying Covid secure.

Supporting local businesses

Alongside the one to one advice and support to help local businesses, webinars were also created with various Council teams and the Halton Chamber of Commerce. The webinars were aimed to provide advice and support including:

- ➔ Grants available to businesses and how to apply
- ➔ How to prevent outbreaks and work safely within the relevant guidelines
- ➔ What to do in case of an outbreak or guidance on how to manage a case or suspected case
- ➔ Testing options available and how to access support in training and implementation
- ➔ Mental health support for organisations

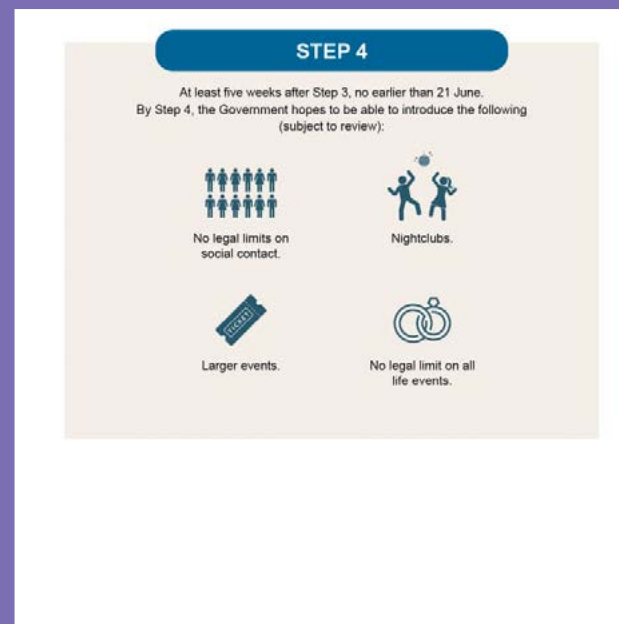
“It has been a herculean effort from all system partners including our local population and wider stakeholders in delivering the vaccine programme. It's been a huge privilege working on such a momentous programme of work and starting to vaccinate local people against Covid-19 was a wonderful moment. Seeing all the volunteers helping at the vaccination centres and to see our most vulnerable residents coming out of their homes and rolling up their sleeves for their jabs made us all feel proud to be part of a truly incredible local effort to protect the whole community. Please do get your vaccine when called for it, it's one of our best defences against Covid-19.”

Leigh Thompson
Chief Commissioner
Halton NHS CCG

Road map out of lockdown

In February, the Government announced the roadmap out of lockdown and beyond.

As we moved into spring, it was possible to start planning the re-opening of services and businesses and many Council teams were working out how to deliver in person services in a safe and Covid secure way. Our Leisure Centres, Libraries, Children's Centres and so many more were keen to welcome people back. Local businesses were contacted to offer a range of Covid testing options for their staff and customers. Close contact businesses such as hairdressers and beauticians were targeted first to support them to reopen safely.



Welcoming people safely back to #HaltonHighStreets

Following long periods of time when many shops, salons, traders and hospitality venues were forced to close, the easing of restrictions has offered a much needed boost to our high streets. Over the course of the pandemic, over 20,000 jobs were furloughed leading to a reduction in income for many people.

Keeping the high streets and businesses Covid-safe remains critical to keeping them open. Funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund, has enabled the Council to put in place practical measures such as 2m distance signage, marketing assets for businesses to use in their venue and provide a Covid safe toolkit. This was supported by a public information and reassurance campaign to welcome the community back safely.



Strong

Kind

Safe

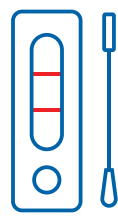
Together



WE'VE BEEN HERE TO HELP...

8595
COVID-19 RELATED
CASES DEALT WITH
THROUGH OUR
SUPPORT LINE

£23.7M
WORTH OF GRANTS
PAID TO
2458
BUSINESSES



NO-SYMPTOMS TESTING

41,836

NO-SYMPTOMS SMART TESTS
(AS OF 12 FEB)

166 HOT MEALS EVERY DAY TO VULNERABLE ADULTS

679
EMERGENCY FOOD
PARCELS SUPPLIED

364
COMMUNITY SHOP
FOOD PACKAGES ORGANISED

8052
'SHIELDED'
INDIVIDUALS
CONTACTED

**DAILY BRIEFINGS
FOR SCHOOLS
ON CURRENT
GUIDANCE**

**HALTON CARERS CENTRE
HAVE HOSTED 167
ONLINE SUPPORT
& TRAINING SESSIONS.**

THESE HAVE INCLUDED
YOUNG CARERS GROUPS,
ADHD PARENTS, MENTAL
HEALTH CARERS & ALL CARERS.
AS WELL AS **6348** INBOUND/OUTBOUND
WELLBEING CALLS TO REGISTERED CARERS.



**OUR
HOME LIBRARY SERVICE
HAS DELIVERED 700 BOOKS;
186,802 ARTICLES, NEWSPAPER
& MAGAZINES READ VIA
OUR PRESSREADER.**

KEPT PEOPLE ACTIVE

1742
INFANT FEEDING
SUPPORT CALLS
SUPPORTED NEW MUMS

To all of our staff, partners and volunteers who are
working around the clock to support our community

... we still are if you need us!



SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY FUND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDSENTIAL
DURING THE SUMMER
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

34,168
ONLINE HITS

17,702
RECORDED
ATTENDANCES;

15,082
MEALS PROVIDED

9494
FOOD & ACTIVITY
BOXES DELIVERED

HOT MEALS
OFFERED EVERY DAY TO
VULNERABLE CHILDREN
& CHILDREN OF
KEY WORKERS
IN SCHOOL



5177
VISITS TO OUR
MENTAL HEALTH
INFOPOINT

259
RESPITE PLACEMENTS
TO SUPPORT CARERS AND
742 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT
ISSUED TO HELP MAINTAIN
PEOPLE'S
INDEPENDENCE AT
HOME

WE CONTINUED TO
MAKE SOCIALLY
DISTANCED VISITS TO
FAMILIES WHERE
THERE ARE CONCERNS
ABOUT DOMESTIC
ABUSE AND ALCOHOL

100%
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
FULFILLED

**WASTE
COLLECTION**



9,500 TONNES
OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS
AND 3,300 TONNES
OF GENERAL WASTE
DEPOSITED AT OUR HOUSEHOLD
WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

4,900 TONNES
OF GARDEN WASTE
COLLECTED (UP OVER 840
TONNES ON LAST YEAR)

2,629,927
BLACK AND BLUE BIN
COLLECTIONS

“
3 MILLION
PAGES VIEW ON
WWW.HALTON.GOV.UK
110,000 VISITS
TO COVID-19
ADVICE PAGE
”

“
SOCIAL CARE SERVICES MAINTAINED
ESSENTIAL
FACE TO FACE
SOCIAL CARE VISITS,
WHERE REQUIRED
”

4 WEEKS

TO RENOVATE AND OPEN THE 60-BED LILYCROSS CARE FACILITY
TO FREE UP HOSPITAL BEDS



PARKS
AND OPEN SERVICES
KEPT OPEN AND
MAINTAINED



{ HELPED SMOKERS QUIT ONLINE }

www.halton.gov.uk | 0151 907 8363

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Strong

Kind

Safe

Together

Looking after our staff

David Owen

Halton UNISON Local Government Branch Secretary

Being kind, working

From the first few weeks of the pandemic and the initial lockdown, Trade Unions in Halton Borough Council have worked closely with Senior Management, Public Health Leadership, Health and Safety Officers and the Employee Relations/Welfare Team. This was a clear decision made early on to best protect Union members in the most effective and professional way possible, using the collected knowledge and expertise from many different work areas to defend worker's health, capacity and rights.

The commitment, dedication and skill shown by all staff during the public health crisis has been awe-inspiring and is a unique tribute to the training and organisation that has been developed within the Authority.

Primarily in care settings, but also throughout both private and Council maintained work sites across Halton, so many workers have given everything they can; people who not only have responsibilities for those under their care at work, but also in their own homes, often before and after a tiring shift. They are ordinary people who have shown extraordinary courage with hidden kindnesses and personal support for those they care and grieve for. Many workers in Halton continue to be affected by Covid-19, both physically and psychologically, which is a challenge we will all have to work together to manage in the future. Others are simply exhausted and shall need the support and well-being provision they deserve. Trade Unions in Halton will be central to that effort, which is where we should be.



together



Summary

David Parr OBE, DBA (Hon), LLB
Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council

Looking back to March 2020, it quickly became apparent that what we were facing was going to push our people and services to their limits and beyond. Every single Council team had to adapt and learn a completely new way of working – fast! Whether that was our Social Care Teams working out ways to support our vulnerable residents, or our waste refuse crews being able to safely pick up the waste and recycling. We asked a large number of staff to turn their spare rooms, dining tables, kitchens and sheds into places to work from and asked them to learn and adapt to use new technology to keep our services running.

Coronavirus has not only been a health crisis but has touched all of our lives in some way. Our thoughts are with every single person in Halton who has lost loved ones or who might still be facing other struggles in their lives due to Covid-19. Please do ask for help and support, there are so many good people and organisations who would love to help if possible – more information is available via our website www.halton.gov.uk. There is also continuing help for anyone testing positive for Coronavirus and is needing to self-isolate.

Never have I been more proud to be the Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council. I will never be able to thank, staff in our local health services, schools and colleges, Council and partner organisations and the people of Halton, enough for their truly remarkable and selfless contributions. Your strength, dedication, commitment and resilience is truly amazing. Special thanks must also go to Eileen O'Meara and her dedicated Public Health Team for their extraordinary efforts and expert professional advice given to the Council and within the community during the past year.

One year on, we are looking forward and working hard to develop plans and services that will allow a return to a 'new normal' and we are looking for every opportunity to take Halton forward and support all our residents. There are still challenges ahead but I am confident that we will overcome these challenges together to give everyone who lives and works in Halton the best chance of a happy and healthy life.

We've got this Halton.

Strong

Kind

Safe

Together



Recommendations for 2021



Halton should continue to work as one whole system on our Roadmap to Recovery.



Halton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy should be revised to reflect the impact of Covid-19 on health inequalities.



Halton should continue to find innovative ways to connect with the local community and protect them from infectious diseases.



Halton should build on the joint working with the voluntary sector to deliver community based messages and encourage grassroots projects to improve health.



Halton should continue to monitor infections, be vigilant to new variants and encourage the whole population to be vaccinated with a particular emphasis on hard to reach or reluctant cohorts.



Latest Coronavirus Information

Please find the latest local Coronavirus rules and advice – hbcnewsroom.co.uk/coronaadvice/.

Local Covid data – hbcnewsroom.co.uk/coronaadvice/#coviddata.

Testing

Information on where to get Covid-19 tests in Halton plus frequently asked questions – www.halton.gov.uk/smart.

Support for businesses to offer range of testing options for staff and customers – www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/smartbusiness.aspx.

Vaccinations

Information about Covid-19 vaccines and how to book yours – www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/.

Self Isolation Support

10 days, 10 ways – information and support for people who need to self-isolate – www.halton.gov.uk/selfisolation.

Financial Support

Halton Borough Council has a number of financial support schemes for people affected by Covid-19 – please find all the information here – hbcnewsroom.co.uk/coronaadvice/#Support.

Emotional Support

Please visit our Mental Health Info Point for information and support regarding emotional and mental health including grief, bereavement, anxiety, trauma and crisis – www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/live/mentalhealth/mental-health-signpost.aspx.

Please also visit our **website** www.halton.gov.uk or telephone us on **0303 333 4300**

Strong

Kind

Safe

Together



Memorial

During the past year, we have lost many loved and valued members of our local community. Covid-19 has devastated lives and taken its toll on many family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. Our deepest sympathy goes out to anyone grieving for a loved one.

We hope that you can find solace and comfort from those around you in Halton. This is a strong and kind community that looks after each other through the toughest of times.

Please remember, we are here for you if you need us.

Strong

Kind

Safe

Together