

Health and Wellbeing Board
Covid-19 Residents Survey Findings

6 January 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. To note the initial findings from the Covid-19 residents survey.
2. To utilise the findings from the Covid-19 residents survey within recovery planning and service restoration.

1. Background

- 1.1 The period since the start of the pandemic has been unprecedented with major disruption to the lives of many. The aim of the survey is to explore some of the impact of COVID-19 on people living and working in Warwickshire and their thoughts about the next few months of recovery.
- 1.2 The COVID-19 recovery survey took place between August and September 2020 and was hosted on Warwickshire County Council's Ask Warwickshire consultation hub. The survey received 2,510 responses. Data on the diversity of respondents was also collected as part of the survey and more detailed information on this will be provided in the presentation at the January board.

2. Key findings

- 2.1 Most respondents felt they had enough information to protect themselves from COVID-19 although around 1 in 5 respondents were either unsure or didn't feel they had enough information.
- 2.2 Around a quarter of respondents indicated they were either extremely or very worried about the impact COVID-19 was having on their lives.
- 2.3 Employment:
 - Just under 1 in 5 respondents in employment had been furloughed. Around one third of these respondents remained on furlough.
 - An increase in work related stress was reported by half of respondents in employment.
 - Improvements in work-life balance for some were offset by a similar proportion of people reporting a decline in work-life balance.
 - Improvements were least likely to be seen in the area of combining paid work with childcare responsibilities; 20% of respondents saw an improvement compared to 40% who felt it was worse.

- Catching COVID-19 from a workplace setting was a higher concern for respondents than the loss of a job, increased hours or more working from home.

2.4 Testing:

- Most respondents reported knowing the symptoms of COVID-19 and most respondents said they knew what to do if they developed symptoms. Just over 6% of all respondents said they did not know.
- More than 1 in 4 respondents reported they did not know how to obtain a test for COVID-19. This was slightly higher for older people aged 75+
- Around 15% of respondents indicated they would not be able to self-isolate if asked to do so. A similar proportion reported they would not get support from their employer if they were asked to self-isolate at home.
- The proportion of respondents who felt they would not be able to self-isolate or get support from their employer was higher in the north of the county.
- Just under 6% of respondents said they would not give details to the test and trace programme if asked to do so.

2.5 Health, wellbeing and lifestyle:

- Respondents reported that the most stressful aspects of the pandemic were the risk of a loved one becoming infected, changes to social routines (e.g. spending free time with friends/loved ones) and potential changes to the global or national economy.
- Over a third of respondents also found the uncertainty about the length of quarantine measures and reading or hearing others talk about the severity of COVID-19 stressful.
- Around 28% of respondents reported feeling lonely sometimes, often or always in the previous month. This figure rose to 45% for those who indicated a previous mental health condition prior to the pandemic.
- Key ways in which respondents reported coping with social distancing and isolation were engaging in healthy behaviours (healthy eating/exercise and getting enough sleep), taking breaks and connecting with others.
- Just over 1 in 5 respondents reported drinking more alcohol and eating more sugary/fatty food in response to social distancing and isolation.
- Respondents reported being most likely to take up health consultations by telephone; higher levels of uncertainty were evident in relation to online and in person consultations.

2.6 Accessing services and facilities:

- Respondents reported being least comfortable on public transport and in indoor leisure facilities.
- Hospital emergency departments were also a place of some concern for respondents.
- People felt most comfortable in parks and greenspaces, takeaway outlets other outdoor settings.
- Limiting the number of people allowed in certain settings was the top measure cited by respondents to make people feel more confident when visiting a setting.

2.7 Transport:

- Respondents reported doing more walking and cycling during the pandemic. People also thought they were more likely to do more walking and cycling for short journeys in the future
- The most common reason cited by respondents as preventing them from cycling or walking for short journeys was traffic and other road users.

2.8 Volunteering and community action:

- Three quarters of respondents felt that people in their local communities had done more to help others during the lockdown period. The figure was highest in Stratford-on-Avon district and lowest in Nuneaton & Bedworth borough.
- Two thirds of respondents felt they would get help if they needed it during a period of lockdown. Again Stratford-on-Avon district respondents felt more confident of support; in the north of the county there was less certainty about the level of support available.
- Half of respondents said they had helped others on their street or local community while 1 in 10 signed up with local organisations and 1 in 20 signed up to the NHS volunteer scheme.
- Going forward, respondents who wanted to volunteer were most interested in supporting people with practical tasks and conservation/gardening.

2.9 Respondents identified their priorities as access to health services (GPs, hospitals etc) and public spaces, transport and town centres.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 None.

Background Papers

1. Background paper 1 – Covid-19 Recovery Survey Initial Findings (Oct 2020)

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