

## **Covid-19 Recovery: WCBC Weekly Briefing Note, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

This is the Second Members Covid Recovery Briefing Note.

<https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/covid-19-briefing-note-its-shorter-than-usual-a-good-sign/>

A crucial element of recovery is the work that the Public Services Board (PSB) is doing in partnership with the council to strengthen community resilience.

At a local level a council led Recovery Group also receives updates and oversees this work.

Our goal as partners is to support, energise and empower communities, partners, stakeholders and citizens to build back the long-term resilience of our area. The four cross-cutting themes we have and will be focussing on are children and young people, poverty and inequality, environment/carbon reduction and tackling mental health issues.

Each of these themes is being led by a different PSB partner.

This work is described below:-

### **PSB AND WCBC RECOVERY PLANNING: BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE 25/5/2021**

Throughout the pandemic, the joint Flintshire and Wrexham PSB has been working together on a recovery plan to build community resilience, and have been developing a robust partnership approach across four cross cutting themes .

Each of the four themes (children and young people, poverty and inequality, environment/carbon, mental health), is being led by a different PSB partner, and the programme is co-ordinated by a management group which reports to our Chief Executive as regional lead for community resilience.

The leads updated the joint PSB recently as to where the themes are up to in terms of challenges, achievements and priorities for the future.

As we emerge from response, the joint PSB will, over the next twelve months, develop practical actions to build community resilience and identify opportunities to work across systems. It will be critical that partners continue to build momentum and make sure that we demonstrate clear impact from our actions, both short and longer term.

### **THE WCBC GOLDEN THREAD**

A small team at WCBC has been established to ensure that there are strong links between the PSB recovery planning process and our corporate and departmental processes at WCBC.

Meeting regularly, this team is making sure that the right people across WCBC and our partners are engaged with the PSB recovery plan.

We will build community resilience if we align what we do across our Council Plan priorities, support the PSB recovery programme team and drive the work with energy, ideas and resources.

The WCBC team will ensure that the risks and opportunities from a WCBC perspective are quickly identified, so that there is a robust discussion around:

- How will the actions that are emerging through the PSB recovery planning process and WCBC's priorities make a difference?
- How else will the WCBC priorities and strategies inform and shape the joint PSB partnership approach

### Employee and Office Recovery

The Chief Executive has recently completed zoom conversations with over 500 employees in the last fortnight. The aim of these sessions was to prepare employees for a return to the office and public buildings in a modern way of working and re-connecting as a Wrexham family. We are also now having 1 to 1 discussions with employees to work through their working patterns.

We anticipate this return to take place over the coming weeks and months. This modern way of working, consistent with many organisations, will enable employees to do some work from home to undertake desk based jobs such as writing reports and dealing with emails, some work in the office where work with other people and partners is critical, and some work in communities or out on site. We anticipate full recovery subject to case rates for Covid 19 to be in the autumn.

### Councillor Recovery to Offices and Support

Once the restriction around working from home changes as a council we will also apply the same guidance to support Councillors in terms of being able to come to the office for pieces of specific work or a meeting.

Formal meetings will continue virtually for the time being however we are exploring the ability to do mixed meetings. Further updates on this will follow.

### Service and Community Recovery

Nearly all our services are currently operating but those where we have to work in the community and our public buildings are not yet operating as normal with restrictions still in place. As soon as we are able we will recover these services to normal ways of working. We receive regular unlocking reports with appropriate risk assessments on a weekly basis to do this.

Over the past few months the Senior Leadership Team have received a number of request to visit you in your communities. We recognise this will be a key element of supporting recovery. Our Chief Executive and Chief Officers will be arranging a visit to local communities between July and December of this year. These visits are designed to support community recovery and understand the issues communities face on their recovery journey.

As a Council our intention is to outline a clear path for return and recovery over the coming months now we have positive progress with the vaccination programme and lifting of restrictions.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

Our core message this week is that the council is gearing itself in a safe and measured way to welcome staff and council members back to our buildings in the coming months.

In the same way we are working hard to support the delivery of services to the public on an ongoing basis.