

How is the Council responding to Covid-19...

Bolton's 10 Point Plan

1. Deliver our statutory health responsibilities

Protect the health and well-being of our residents in Bolton, by using all available resources, operating in accordance with locally and nationally agreed action plans and by working effectively with our colleagues and partners in health.

2. Target our efforts on those who will most need our help and support

Safeguard our most vulnerable children and adults, including the most at risk groups, by continuing to deliver essential services, by redeploying existing resources where we can, working effectively with our colleagues and partners in local hospitals, health and social care provision.

3. Target support to vulnerable people

Support the most at risk groups who are struggling with their health and wellbeing, through redeploying existing resource where we can and by working with our local partners through a dedicated humanitarian hub.

4. Respond to community, faith and neighbourhood concerns

Maintain strong relationships across the voluntary, community and faith sectors, to ensure we understand what is happening within and across all our communities and to respond appropriately.

5. Support our businesses

Actively support, advise, inform and listen to businesses and local enterprises and continue to drive forward our ambitious 'Invest in Bolton' and Town Centre Master plans.

6. Support to schools, early years and other educational settings

Provide ongoing support and guidance to schools and early years providers to ensure students can continue learning successfully and safely in our education facilities.

7. Enhance our workforce resilience and continue to care for our staff

Support health and wellbeing of our employees in order that they can remain productive and resilient.

8. Support governance, decision making and community leadership

Ensure that the Council can continue to operate and take legal decisions and support effective scrutiny of those decisions as set out in the Council's constitution.

9. Capture financial impact

Monitor and manage the financial impact relating to additional financial burdens and loss of income, ensuring a financially sustainable organisation.

10. Support the evolution of Council functions and direction

Modernise and digitise how the Council operates, to improve outcomes for customers and to accommodate changes in Government policy within the context of reducing resources.

Our objective

We are...

- Delivering the Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan
 - Managing Bolton's Health Protection Board
 - Operating the Covid-19 Data and Intelligence Cell
 - Managing and delivering Bolton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - Providing public health expertise and advice across our health and care sector
 - Supporting wider sector engagement with schools, care providers, faith and voluntary groups
 - Supporting Bolton's Active, Connected and Prosperous Board
 - Co-ordinating Bolton's Track and Trace / Locality testing programme
 - Continuing to deliver public health statutory duties.
 - Supporting the wider health agenda, through proactive commissioning arrangements
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- Providing core social care provision for both children and adults with adaptations to ensure the safety of all
 - Undertaking virtual social care assessments - direct work with vulnerable children recommenced
 - On-going support to social care providers, including advice, guidance and distribution of PPE
 - Co-ordinating a targeted support programme consisting of community volunteers, partners and Council staff, offering vital help to people who need support (including food and essential items such as medication)
 - Fully supporting the Department for Health and Social Care's 'Whole Care Home Testing' Programme
 - Maintaining the 'Care Act Easement' Dashboard to highlight any change in activity, informing where additional measures need to be introduced
 - Using up to date data and intelligence are used enabling surveillance of trends and early warning of outbreaks, including the mapping of vulnerable groups in the locality
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- Operating a dedicated helpline (with ability to triage for domestic abuse)
 - Targeting those in need of additional support, using community partners and contacts
 - Making weekly welfare calls to vulnerable adults and older people
 - Delivering food and medicine parcels to over 4,000 isolated residents
 - Supporting the Urgent Response Volunteers, who help residents who need extra support
 - Distributing Local Welfare Provision funding, to help residents in need of extra support
 - Continuing to deliver the Anti-Social Behaviour Vulnerable Victims Project, offering advocacy support
 - Supporting domestic abuse services, including needs assessment for extraordinary funding
 - Delivering perpetrator group programmes remotely
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- Continuing to have regular contact with Bolton CVS and the Faith Leaders' Forum
 - Implementing Bolton's Fund, a grants fund for community groups in Bolton, which deliver projects that make a difference to the lives of people in the town
 - Delivering Bolton's Fund engagement initiative, which was launched to assist with deeper engagement with communities on how the fund could help communities and neighbourhoods during the pandemic
 - Funding a dedicated Engagement Officer based within CVS, which provides support and advice to community and voluntary groups
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- Applying business rate relief to local businesses
 - Supporting businesses by operating a dedicated helpline, targeted webinars and online contact through the Business Bolton Team
 - Offering location based support and advice through the Town Centre Partnership Team
 - Continuing to implement the Bolton Town Centre Masterplan
 - Continuing with the development of district town centre strategies and action plans
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- Holding regular webinars with schools and early years provision to provide advice and updates on guidance
 - Working closely with education providers, the Department for Education and Unions to ensure schools can reopen in the safest possible way
 - Carrying out on-going risk assessments in line with national guidance to ensure all Bolton schools are Covid-19 compliant
 - Providing helpful guidance for parents / guardians and pupils to help prepare for the school environment
 - Monitoring and reporting positive Covid-19 cases in education and early years settings, with contact team in place to provide support
 - Promoting web resources set up by TfGM for children who use public transport to access education
 - Supporting children and families who are interested in taking up cycling and learning about basic bike maintenance, as an alternative to car and public transport
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- Providing weekly staff updates to ensure all staff have the most up to date information and guidance
 - Updating the staff handbook, which details how we, as an organisation, is working in a Covid-19 secure environment, with stringent risk assessments carried out in all Council offices
 - Encouraging staff to use all guidance, advice and techniques provided through the 'Staff Wellbeing - Looking after yourself during Covid-19' intranet site
 - Supporting staff through our Employee Assistance Programme, offering confidential advice and information on a wide range of home and work-related issues
 - Engaging with staff through trade unions to discuss issues and agree solutions.
 - Continuing to provide training through our Organisational Development Team, focussing on mandatory and staff wellbeing training
 - Monitoring sickness absence
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- Operating all Council meetings remotely through the use of online technology
 - Supporting elected members to enable them to undertake their duties remotely, including the distribution of a helpful handbook
 - Working within a Corporate Operating Framework, which outlines Leadership's role in meeting the Council's corporate strategy and delivering the objectives set by the Cabinet which align with the 2030 Vision
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- Distributing Government grants across service areas to support service delivery
 - Reconciling Government funding every monthly
 - Reporting the financial impact of Covid-19 within the quarterly finance reports
 - Submitting monthly returns to MHCLG that reflect the financial impact of Covid-19, including income, fees and charges
 - Producing a Strategic Budget Report in autumn to prepare for budget planning over the next 12 – 24 months
 - Producing a Medium Term Financial Strategy, which will detail the financial assumptions for the Council's budget processes
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- Re-aligning functions to ensure better service delivery effectiveness and beneficial cross-directorate working
 - Strengthening corporate and strategic functions
 - Digitalising back office functions to better support outcomes
 - Revising Council priorities, corporate business planning and Bolton's 2030 Vision Strategy, in light of Covid-19 impacts
 - Devising a refreshed Digital Strategy, which will support service transformation and change management, allowing for greater customer choice and better access to our services