

**Overview of the work of the COVID PPE Cell
on behalf of
Durham and Darlington Local Resilience Forum (LRF)**



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Overview of PPE Project – March 2022

Topics covered-

- PPE Stock update – Orders to date / Volume of Customers
- Value of current PPE Stock Holding
- Team responsible for the PPE & Lateral Flow Testing operation
- Arrangements post March 2022
- Contingency Stock of PPE for future health emergencies



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PPE Overview

- Durham County Council provides a lead on PPE on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) for County Durham & Darlington as well as all Local Authority PPE Requirements
- Initially deliveries weren't guaranteed and we had to rely on DCC PPE stock to ensure a robust supply.
- Since May 2020 Government through DHSC has provided free PPE for all COVID needs of the social care and adult care sectors of Local Authorities
- The PPE Cell Team had to manage both a 'Pull' and 'Push' delivery service from DHSC
- Since Sept 2020 we have been able to reclaim the costs of operating the PPE Cell from Government.



Working with Partners

- Critical that we had good Partnership links & lines of communication, locally & nationally.
- Operated on the principle of 'Mutual Aid' between organisations requiring PPE & testing support.
- Regular meetings and dialogue between key organisations as well as weekly updates and reviews with the Health Security Agency nationally.



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



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PPE Cell Performance

- 8million items distributed, through 14,408 orders to over 2,900 delivery points across County Durham and Darlington (LRF Footprint not just DCC)
- Averaging 672 orders per month (33 per day)
- Current trend is less urgent orders but these orders include more items. (*aiming for a 4-week supply per order to reduce the number of actual journeys*)
- Distributing up to 347,000 Product items per month
- 655,452 Lateral Flow Test Kits dispatched in last 10 months (664 venues)
- 67,800 Lateral Flow Test kits distributed in last 3 months (424 venues)
- DCC Online PPE Ordering Portal now well established with full Audit Trail.



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Value of PPE Cell Stock Holding

Currently £2.8m (across both DCC and LRF PPE stock, including LFD Tests)



down from a £4.45m peak in March 2021

- *Better stock management - we are not accepting 'Push' stock deliveries from DHSC that arrive unannounced often with short coded use by date items*
- *Maintaining a 3 month minimum supply of available PPE at all times to support fluctuations & outbreak support.*



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Care Homes / Social Care providers

- 203 Care Home & Carer Clients supported
- In early stages of the pandemic we provided a 7 day rolling supply of PPE
- Care Homes now have been moved onto a Government Ordering Portal
- DCC provide contingency back up to that process. We are regularly called upon
- Over 4m items of PPE have gone to the Adult and Social Care sector



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Creating a Contingency Stock of PPE

- Current stock quantities enables us to plan for future need – government have outlined they don't want any stock returned, once PPE products are delivered they fall into the LRF / Councils ownership and responsibility.
- We have proposed that 2 'Contingency' stock piles are created to ensure preparedness for any potential future public health emergencies
- 1 DCC stock and 1 Local Resilience Formed storage stock pile.
- 3 month supply of 1.8m items in each stock pile valued at £600,000
- Fire & Rescue Service will hold the LRF stock (under an MOU)



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Future Challenges

- Waiting for guidance for post March 2022 era
- This will no longer be based on a reimbursement of council running costs
- Managing down stock levels at Chilton Depot
- Implementing the 2 Contingency storage solutions
- Demand for lateral Flow test kits and supplying 203 delivery locations county wide while lateral flows are being provided by Government

