AGENDA ITEM NO 9

REPORT NO 191/20

ANGUS COUNCIL

12 AUGUST 2020

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ANGUS RESPONSE TEAM (HAART): UPDATE

REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION & PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update in relation to the Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team (HAART), which was established by the Council in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It also highlights transition arrangements after 31 July when Scottish Government has confirmed its intention to pause 'Shielding', along with future proposals emerging from the lessons learnt.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Council:
 - (i) note the progress update in relation to the Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team (HAART), including standing down of the HAART food hubs on 31 July;
 - note the key lessons learnt from delivering the HAART service as part of the Council's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a key part of the operational success of HAART being due to the holistic partnership approach that was adopted to support service delivery;
 - (iii) note the current position that the HAART service is now being delivered through business as usual activity from 31 July;
 - (iv) note the future proposals for potentially adopting new ways of working with partner organisations in the Community Planning Partnership to establish a sustainable and improved 'person-centred' approach to managing demand in our communities;
 - (v) note the use by the Chief Executive of the delegated emergency powers as detailed in paragraph 7.6 of this report; and
 - (vi) delegate authority to:
 - (a) the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning, following consultation with the Director of Communities and the Chief Executive, to use the relevant part of the Council's share of the Scottish Government's latest funding to provide support for a 'whole family' approach;
 - (b) the Director of Communities, following consultation with the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Chief Executive, to use the relevant part of the Council's share of the Scottish Government's latest funding to provide support for Test & Protect and other community-based support initiatives,

with each Director using the relevant part of the £349,000 in relation to their respective delegations (all as described in section 6.1 of this report) for the remainder of the period to which the funding applies (i.e. up to 30 September 2020), and the Director of Communities being the lead officer for making the necessary returns to Scottish Government in relation to this funding.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COMMUNITY PLAN/ COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The work of the Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team (HAART) is not specifically set out in the scope of the Community Plan and Council Plan. It has however been established in response to the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and Contingency Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2013), which places duties on the Council to risk assess, plan, prepare and respond to, and support the recovery from a range of incidents and emergencies.
- 2.2 The proposals outlined in this report, emerging from the lessons learnt from the HAART service established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, could potentially make a significant contribution by progressing new ways of working across the Community Planning Partnership, aimed at improving a number of the outcomes in both the Community Plan and the Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reference is made to Report 124/20 considered by the Council at its meeting on 3 April 2020, which provided an update on the actions of the Council in preparation, readiness and the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including agreements in relation to the Council's Humanitarian Assistance Centre (HAC) and the requirement to support 'Shielding' the most vulnerable people.
- 3.2 Reference is also made to Report 133/20 considered by the Special Arrangements Committee at its meeting on 28 April 2020 which informed the Committee of the Chief Executive's use of her emergency delegated powers to develop the HAC, which had then become known as the Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team (HAART), to extend the response to enable the delivery of emergency service provision to vulnerable adults and families beyond the 'Shielding' group. The Committee also approved the recommendation to delegate authority to the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform, following consultation with the Chief Executive, to continue to enable the delivery of emergency service provision to vulnerable adults and families beyond the 'shielding' group for a period of up to six months in the first instance (i.e. no later than 28 October without further approval).
- 3.3. That report also delegated authority to the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform, following consultation with the Chief Executive, to determine how the Council's share of the Scottish Government's Food Fund (£602,000) would be used.
- 3.4 The HAART service was officially launched on 3 April which introduced the Tayside Cares website (<u>www.taysidecares.co.uk</u>), along with our telephone Contact Centre details. The national helpline was thereafter launched on 14 April with links to our HAART service, with the aim of providing support to the most vulnerable citizens with no other way of seeking local assistance.

4. **PROGRESS UPDATE**

4.1 Overview of Response

- 4.1.1 Since the outset of the pandemic, the number of people in Angus being asked to 'Shield' has steadily increased from the initial 2,549 who were identified, to the latest count of 3,915 (as at 20 July 2020). The initial 'Shielding' period was established up to 18 June 2020. This was then extended to 31 July, with the Scottish Government subsequently confirming its intention to pause 'Shielding' at that time, including the phasing out of national food parcel deliveries.
- 4.1.2 Throughout this period, the Council has also been working in close partnership with the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), Voluntary Action Angus (VAA), Angus Carers Centre and Angus Alive to support vulnerable people and families (beyond the 'Shielding' group) through the HAART service. This also built on early work by VAA and the Council's Communities team to increase the volunteer effort across Angus in response to meeting people's needs during the pandemic.

- 4.1.3 Systems were quickly identified and developed between partners which enabled area coordinators to access and support the many volunteers to deliver prescriptions, provide shopping and/ or emergency food parcels and befriending to those most in need. At the height of the response, there were over 1,000 active volunteers working locally to support their communities who were responding to up to 140 requests for assistance per day.
- 4.1.4 The third sector has also played a significant role in the front-line response to the pandemic. This prompted VAA to start a new initiative with the third sector - Angus Connect – which includes around 20 third sector organisations. Angus Connect is intended to bring all these organisations together in order to build capacity and co-ordinate activities to reach people most in need of support. A paper prepared by Voluntary Action Angus and the Council's Communities team – 'COVID-19 impact report and benefits of partnership working' - setting out the scope of that response is included in Appendix 1.

4.2 Governance

- 4.2.1 Governance arrangements were established early on to enable the HAART to operate effectively. Delegated authority from the Chief Executive followed by Council approvals (as set out in section 3 above) was required in order to expedite progress with the development of HAART and the associated emergency response.
- 4.2.2 The HAART Steering Group was established from the outset and included representation from all the key partners. This group, being at BRONZE operational level, was also connected to the overall Council incident management response through the SILVER and GOLD command structure. Progress on the HAART formed part of the regular Sit Rep updates.
- 4.2.3 Terms of reference for the Steering Group, along with the identification of key roles & responsibilities, workstreams and deployment of an issue management reporting structure provided the necessary controlled project management environment to deliver action quickly.
- 4.2.4 Excellent central support arrangements were also put in place with two Service Leaders working together to help manage the operational and logistical aspects and ensure the smooth running of the HAART.
- 4.2.5 A focus on the HAART rather than any individual organisation was the underpinning principle. Strong support was also provided in respect of the organisational aspects of meetings, agendas, minutes, issues logs and other papers to ensure clarity for audit purposes in due course.
- 4.2.6 New systems of working from Contact Centre point of contact (or by digital online form) through to front-line service delivery were also designed, developed and agreed by all partners. This followed Scottish Government Guidance which was translated into a process map for the operation of the service. While aspects of the system were dovetailed together on an operational needs basis for a while, a new end-to-end system has now been developed supporting the transition to a business as usual approach (see below).

4.3 Operational Approach

- 4.3.1 A key aspect of the Terms of Reference was to take a personal approach to supporting local people and this has been one of the most important aspects of our HAART work to date. There have been two aspects to HAART support:
 - (i) Incoming

This was for anybody seeking support due to the pandemic. From the outset of the pandemic, calls were already coming in directly to the VAA lines, supported by the Communities team, as some people were more comfortable with an informal personal approach. Accordingly, relationships had been developed and assistance was up and running via this route. In addition, VAA had access to the volunteer response team and had established a prepaid credit card approach to paying for food for those unable to access cash or the means to pay, backed up by

a crowdfunding campaign and a grant through the Scottish Government's food resources for the Third sector. Referral pathways were also established from schools, welfare rights and foodbanks.

It was agreed that in addition, we would promote our ACCESSline number as this provided greater call handling facilities and was being promoted through the Tayside Cares website and linked to the national helpline number. The Contact Centre team were supplemented by Angus Alive staff allowing for additional capacity for the anticipated call volumes. The ACCESSline system also provided a more reliable data collection system, required for the Scottish Government returns (see below).

Working with the systems development team, and in line with the Scottish Government expectations, a dual approach was developed towards capturing needs from individuals. This allowed for a self-service approach, where individuals could submit all their details via an online form, or the same form could be completed by the Contact Centre on the individual's behalf. This form was then triaged to the operational HAART team.

The HAART team comprised of Staff redeployed from the Criminal Justice Social Work Service and more recently the Welfare Rights team, working together with redeployed staff from the Communities team and VAA to screen all of the requests and assessing and passing requests on to relevant services for action. This integrated partnership hub approach enabled citizens and others working on their behalf, to refer in for support, which was 'triaged' by the team and volunteers and/ or services were deployed to meet the need quickly and efficiently. The personal, sensitive and non-judgemental approach taken by those staffing HAART has been critical to ensure people continue to access the help and support they need. Evidence has highlighted that the solution focussed approach taken has enabled whole families to access early help and support to prevent concerns escalating.

Throughout the pandemic response period, we have also co-ordinated with national partners to ensure that those who were on the 'Shielding' group and contacting us directly, were linked into and provided with the national food box deliveries, along with access to the priority supermarket delivery slots.

(ii) Outgoing

Public Health Scotland has also shared each new iteration of the shielding list with the HAART team, following the signing of a Data Sharing Agreement. Updated shielding lists have been received on a weekly basis and HAART put an effective system in place to ensure contact was made with newly identified people quickly. This included a system for obtaining phone numbers from local health systems where no numbers were available.

The system in place ensured that, where possible, the shielded person was contacted by someone known to them to discuss their support needs. Systems checks enabled lists of shielded people to be directed to services having a key role with the person, with such as AHSCP and Angus Carers Centre, so they could receive a telephone call from a worker involved with them. For those people not in active contact with services, social workers from Children and Families, Additional Support Needs, Educational Psychology services and the Communities team made the calls to ensure the person received information in a sensitive manner and helped to access services for them or their family if they required it. Where a personal call was not possible due to incorrect details, a letter was sent with the contact details. This was the case for less than 15% of those on the list. This has been difficult, challenging work carried out with great speed and sensitivity. The personal approach has been well received from Angus citizens with many grateful for the proactive and personal approach taken.

4.4 Data Returns

4.4.1 To date (20/07/20) we have supported over 2,327 households to access support, including food, medicines and befriending, which totals over 4,535 supports. The changing expectations from Scottish Government has made the data returns more complex, with increasing numbers of individuals helped and an increase in the range of services provided. Our digital team has

worked with our performance manager to ensure these have been completed in a full and timely manner.

- 4.4.2 In addition to the data returns, and data being received on an ongoing basis, we have also developed a data dashboard linked to the overall COVID-19 dashboard (<u>Report 172/20</u> refers), and top line data has also been part of the Contact Centre reporting. Combined, this data has helped to improve our understanding of the current crisis within the HAART Steering group.
- 4.4.3 Running parallel to this, digital colleagues have now developed an end-to-end system to ensure that the data collection is integrated across all entry points as they come into the system and a data sharing agreement has been developed between Angus Council, H&SCP, VAA and Angus Carers to enable ongoing data sharing practice beyond the pandemic. System improvements are ongoing aimed at meeting the needs of all the services involved.

4.5 HAART Food Hubs

- 4.5.1 With GOLD command agreement, it was decided to establish two food hubs: one in the Saltire Centre, Arbroath; and the other in the Reid Hall, Forfar, where we knew the largest numbers of people in need were likely to be located based on SIMD data. Angus Alive provided both venues for use as food hubs for the duration of the period they were required to support the community.
- 4.5.2 These were never intended as 'drop-ins', rather facilities for volunteers to collect food to distribute to people in need. However, it has transpired that these hubs have largely been underutilised as many Third Sector and community organisations already had arrangements in place and had also found innovative ways to fund and deliver food (Appendix 1 refers). It was therefore decided to stand down the Saltire Centre offering in Arbroath during June and consolidate to one food hub at the Reid Hall in Forfar until the end of July.
- 4.5.3 As there was no increase in demand during that subsequent period, the one remaining HAART food hub in Forfar was also stood down on 31 July. The remaining food (value around £16,000) from the Forfar HAART food hub has been offered and is being distributed on a fair and equitable basis to various Third sector community food project groups who expressed an interest and who continue to offer front-line support, having already provided thousands of meals to local people throughout the pandemic. In return, the groups are required to provide data on the number of meals provided to vulnerable people and families from the food products provided.

4.6 Medication Delivery

4.6.1 Scottish Government also advised councils to make contact with their local community pharmacies to develop ways of supporting deliveries during the pandemic. HAART worked with community pharmacy and VAA to develop local operating procedures for community pharmacy medication delivery as part of the response and in line with national guidance and national Standard Operating Procedures. This was to ensure vulnerable people continued to receive the supply of medication they needed without putting themselves at risk.

4.7 Connecting Scotland

- 4.7.1 HAART has also been involved in co-ordinating the Council's activity around the Scottish Government's 'Connecting Scotland' programme. This initiative was to provide iPads, Chromebooks and support to develop digital skills for people who meet all the following criteria:
 - digitally excluded do not have an appropriate device and/ or are not connected to the internet at home;
 - on low incomes so cannot afford to buy a device or pay for internet access; and
 - at risk of isolation due to coronavirus because they are in the extremely high vulnerability group or the higher risk of severe illness group.

- 4.7.2 During June, Angus was allocated 155 devices (90 iPads and 65 Chrome books) and established an application process through which Third sector organisations could apply for a share.
- 4.7.3 Angus Council, AHSCP and VAA, in collaboration with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) reviewed the applications against set criteria and has awarded separate contracts to 18 organisations, who have since been distributing the devices, supported by the Council's Communities teams. These organisations include volunteers who take on the role of being Digital Champions in order to provide ongoing support with use of these devices. Digital training has been made available to all volunteers.

4.8 Test & Protect

- 4.8.1 As the pandemic has evolved and as part of Scotland's route to recovery, the Scotlish Government has developed its 'Test & Protect' initiative which is now also requiring support from councils. This support is both in terms of providing food and supplies for those in need as a result of being required to self-isolate, along with support for those who require to be relocated to alternative accommodation in order to self-isolate. Additional Scottish Government funding has been identified for the Council to support this provision (£349,000), albeit this is also intended to cover other aspects to support our most vulnerable citizens, as set out in the associated Scottish Government guidance (section 6.1 refers).
- 4.8.2 The HAART system has been refined to keep a record of such enquiries and support delivered in response to this demand. In terms of the response to providing alternative accommodation, the Service Leader (Housing) has been involved in this work nationally and detailed guidance is now agreed and in place. The Director of Communities - Housing service - will take a lead role in delivering the accommodation aspect of this going forward. Additional Scottish Government funding to support this new initiative has been made available (see below).

5. HAART: LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 The HAART Steering Group carried out a lessons learned exercise to share the learning from the experience of being involved in establishing this new service. A questionnaire was prepared for members of the group to consider and complete. The results of this are attached in Appendix 2. The key learning points to note are as follows:

1 - Difference made? - General agreement that we have made a difference through a responsive service that has met people's needs.

2 - How we know? - Feedback received from people has been generally positive, however some people were not keen to go through the initial system to record their details and some decided they would rather make direct contact with agencies rather than HAART. The reporting expectation from Scottish Government restricted our capacity to not adopt this approach however it did result in frustration for many staff and people trying to access support.

<u>3 - Even better?</u> – More time, managing complexity, clear guidance, speed of response to food fund, earlier data release and some governance issues.</u>

<u>4 – Keep?</u> – Partnership and multi-disciplinary approach at both the strategic and operational level, holistic person-centred approach, co-location/ hub arrangement, preventative focus and volunteers. There is significant learning to be taken from HAART and the benefits of establishing and resourcing a multi-agency hub model should be explored further, perhaps as part of the future planned work on locality response and demand management. We have observed a model in action where a person's (and indeed a whole family's) needs have been referred into one place, using one set of information, and been assessed in a personal and empathetic way and a response delivered quickly. We have utilised skilled volunteers in ways that we have not done before and been able to meet identified need quickly, without onward referral to several agencies. Tracking the customer journey through this system compared to current systems may be worthy of

attention. Whilst the pandemic is a specific need in itself, the issues people need help with such as food, poverty, loneliness, early support to prevent escalation of concerns exist every day across Angus.

<u>5 – Key actions?</u> – commitment, review placed based collaboration and ACPP arrangements, consider resource deployment.

<u>6 – Barriers?</u> – Resources, clarity of role, core business mindset.

6. CURRENT POSITION AND FUTURE PROPOSALS

6.1 Current Position

- 6.1.1 The majority of Council staff resources temporarily re-deployed to support the HAART returned to their substantive service roles at 31 July (when Shielding was indicated as being paused and HAART food hubs stood down). This was required to support the various services scale up their own respective recovery plans. The demand for the HAART service has also reduced significantly over recent weeks.
- 6.1.2 In the event of there being a '2nd wave' or localised outbreak in Angus, the option of staff being redeployed to the HAART service if required will remain part of the Council's contingency planning arrangements. However, it is more likely that the end-to-end digital system, along with the development of the 'Angus Connect' initiative, linked to the innovative work evolving from the Community Planning Partnership building on the lessons learnt from HAART (see section 6.2 below), will form the basis of the response. It is highlighted that VAA, supported by our Communities team, reacted very quickly to the original COVID-19 crisis, and it is anticipated that similar response could be mobilised within 48 hours (food volunteer network and support) if needed.
- 6.1.3 The requirement to support the ongoing needs of our most vulnerable citizens, together with supporting the Test & Protect programme (funding commitment from Scottish Government up to the end of September) is being addressed through the new end-to-end digital system which is now in place. The system has direct linkages to business as usual services points, without the need for triage intervention. The triage intervention has been an 'added value' feature of the HAART service response during the pandemic, however not sustainable from a resourcing perspective. Other ongoing aspects of the HAART service are being supported by the Council's Emergency Centre operations, and other areas of business as usual activity.
- 6.1.4 The Scottish Government announced further funding support for the Council of up to £349,000 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020 in connection with continued support to individuals at risk as a result of coronavirus to access food and other essentials, including those asked to self-isolate under Test and Protect; and funding support of up to £227,000 for the period 1 July to 10 August 2020 in connection with the continued provision of free school meals during the summer holidays to all eligible children and young people.
- 6.1.5 The Scottish Government have issued updated guidance to support individuals at risk, as a result of Coronavirus, to access food and other essentials <u>https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-food-and-other-essentials-guidance-to-local-authorities/</u> and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and the Director of Communities have developed arrangements to provide relevant support in their respective business areas where required to make appropriate use of these funds.
- 6.1.6 For example, the funding will be used by the Education service to provide a 'whole family' approach. This will look at all aspects of the family unit, including the individual needs of children and parents/ carers, and will be co-ordinated with partner services and agencies to target the appropriate resources to meet needs aligned with the Scottish Government's funding guidance.
- 6.1.7 These arrangements are constructed to also link to initiatives like the 'Child Poverty Local Action Report' which was published in April 2019 and outlines the Angus response to supporting young people and families in Angus. They will also dovetail with existing schemes like the

provision of food vouchers, which has already been deployed by the Education service, along with new initiatives being developed aimed at providing this 'whole family' support and complementing the community food-based initiatives already in existence. The ability to book priority supermarket delivery slots for those at risk will also provide a further avenue of support, along with ongoing support from third sector organisations who will continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable at risk.

6.1.8 This funding will also support the Communities service with providing accommodation to meet the needs of people who need to self-isolate as part of the ongoing test and protect programme.

6.2 Future Proposals

- 6.2.1 The development of HAART has been truly founded on a holistic partnership approach. Based on the lessons learned feedback from all the partner representatives involved, it is considered that this has created a significant opportunity to develop new ways of working in the future, linked to the work of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 6.2.2 As a Council we have also been prioritising work to help facilitate a demand management approach to working with communities this was referred to in our Finance & Change Plan agreed by the Council in February as part of the budget setting papers, and resources were also identified for that purpose.
- 6.2.3 Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP) discussed this potential opportunity in more detail at its meeting held on 1 July. The issues considered included:
 - Consideration be given to aspects of the HAART becoming business as usual, with effective governance in place and appropriate resources to support future 'person-centric' type services and systems.
 - A move towards a different business model for community planning in Angus be considered with a focus towards partnership working at the operational level.
 - Locality planning arrangements in Angus delivered in different ways by partners be consolidated into a One Angus approach. Also, that consideration is given to what we mean by local.
 - All services consider implementing arrangements to consolidate a locality-based approach to their work, focussed on prevention and early intervention.
- 6.2.4 ACPP identified the need to hold a series of workshops during July to 'Evaluate', 'Evolve' and 'Establish' recommendations for the direction of travel. These are to be considered at the ACPP meeting on 2 September 2020. A full report will be brought to the relevant Council committee at an appropriate time once clear proposals emerge.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Angus Council was given a share of Government funding for food, with a total of £602,000 being received and targeted towards additional help for people, including covering the costs of food vouchers and direct payments provided for families with children normally in receipt of free school meals.
- 7.2 This funding was provided to cover the 3 months from the beginning of April to the end of June. At the end of the period the Council had committed expenditure to the total value of £588,878 (98%), with £497,000 (84%) of the spend relating to free school meal payments.
- 7.3 The Scottish Government have since confirmed further funding support of up to £349,000 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020 in connection with continued support to individuals at risk as a result of coronavirus to access food and other essentials, including those asked to selfisolate under Test and Protect.
- 7.4 The Scottish Government have also provided the Council with funding support of up to £227,000 for the period 1 July to 10 August 2020 in connection with the continued provision of free school meals during the summer holidays to all eligible children and young people.

- 7.5 Both these new funding grants from Scottish Government are based on actual costs incurred by the Council. The original £602,000 was a block allocation.
- 7.6 Due to the timing of this funding being confirmed on 1 July, the Chief Executive used the interim scheme of delegation to authorise expenditure against these new grants covering the period from 1 July to 12 August (i.e. from Scottish Government funding confirmation until this full Council meeting). This power provides that:

"1. Chief Executive a) Subject to existing officer delegations already in place, and only where there is urgency and a decision cannot wait until the next meeting of the Council or the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee, to take or arrange to be taken such action as is required in accordance with the Council's statutory powers, including the incurring of expenditure:

- *i.* to maintain, reduce or increase statutory services;
- *ii.* to support the emergency services and other organisations involved in the immediate response;
- iii. to provide support services for the community and others affected by the COVID -19 pandemic;
- iv. to enable the community to recover and return to normality as quickly as possible; and/or
 v. to provide aid to other local authorities; subject in all instances to a report being made to
 Council or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee at the first opportunity on any
 item for which Council or Committee or Sub-Committee approval would normally be
 necessary. In relation to the Humanitarian Assistance Centre:- b) to enable the delivery of
 emergency service provision to vulnerable adults and families for a period of up to six
 months in the first instance; this delegation limited to the use of the additional funding
 available from Government and, if necessary, the reallocation of existing Council budgets."

Council is asked to note the Chief Executive's use of said emergency powers in these circumstances.

- 7.7 The broad nature of the Scottish Government's latest funding to provide support for people at risk including those isolating under test and protect (£349,000), combined with the Council approach of shifting to a business as usual model, means that delegated powers are now required for the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (to support a 'whole family' approach) and the Director of Communities (to support Test & Protect and other community based support initiatives), all as described in section 6.1 above.
- 7.8 Both Directors will require to consult with each other, while one or other is respectively leading a spend initiative being drawn against this fund from their business area, along with the Chief Executive, prior to committing to any expenditure (the relevant part of £349,000) for the remainder of the period to which the funding applies (i.e. up to 30 September 2020).
- 7.9 The Director of Communities will be the lead officer making the necessary return to Scottish Government in relation to this funding, and approval is therefore sought for this proposed arrangement as part of the recommendations in this report,
- 7.10 It should be noted that by the time this report is considered by Council, the period to which the continued provision of free school meals during the summer holidays applies will have ended (10 August 2020).

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The HAART Steering Group, which includes representatives from Angus Council, Angus Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) and Angus Carers Centre, along with Angus Alive have all been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment which was prepared for Report 133/20 has been updated to reflect the updated information and approach specified in this report.
- **NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Voluntary Action Angus and Angus Council Communities Team Report – 'COVID-19 Impact report and benefits of partnership working'

Appendix 2 – HAART Steering Group Lessons Learned