

The past few weeks have been as busy as I can remember as a Cornwall Councillor. My role as Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care for Cornwall Council has put me in the heart of preparing plans and actions for dealing with the Covid 19 Virus. Cornwall was fortunate in some respects in being able to observe what other areas were doing as the virus spread more quickly outside Cornwall. We were able to, for example, empty beds in our Community Hospitals and cancel non urgent surgery. I launched a recruitment campaign to encourage people to join our Adult Social Care team via [www.proudtocarecornwall.org](http://www.proudtocarecornwall.org) and to date we have had over 400 applications and the first wave have already started work. At the same time I advertised for volunteers to come forward and register via [www.volunteercornwall.org](http://www.volunteercornwall.org) and to date we have received over 3,000 people come forward. Since then I have signed off a contract for 120 hotel beds to be used for “discharge lounge” patients i.e. those who are not quite ready to go home but don't need to stay in an acute bed and they don't have a Covid 19 diagnosis. This has several benefits in that the hotel staff have been retained to provide the hotel services and the care is being provided through our colleagues at Corcare.

Some decisions are difficult, the support to provide extra mortuary facilities in a hangar on the Cornwall Airport Newquay site for 900 bodies and the agreement to prepare graves across Cornwall is a stark reminder of the seriousness of the situation. Although the infection rate in Cornwall is slower than in other parts of the UK I have made a number of appearances on TV and regularly on the radio advise everyone to continue to follow the Government's advice on social isolation and social

distancing and the need to wash your hands diligently and regularly. I regularly speak to Alison Hernandez the Police and Crime Commissioner about the need to ensure visitors aren't coming to Cornwall and enforce the the social isolation/distancing requirements. Cornwall Council officers have been visiting guest houses and air bnb's to ensure they are not operating and in some cases fines have been issued. Also the Council has issued over £180 million to businesses that have qualified under the recently announced government scheme. Also I have given £200 from my Community Chest to the Camelford food bank and I will be happy to receive applications from other properly constituted groups.

The latest news about the number of deaths in Care Homes in Cornwall is very sad but it highlights my main challenge which is the availability to access Personal Protective Equipment ( PPE ). The Government is responsible for the supply of PPE to hospitals and to Social Care and currently the supply is woeful. This is putting lives at risk both staff and service users and to this end I have written to Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health, pressing him to ensure a plentiful supply is coming to Cornwall. Also I am having Skype calls with all the Cornish M.Ps twice a week to press the case for Cornwall. We are anticipating that the peak in Cases in Cornwall will be reached at approx the end of April according to the latest data and I expect "lockdown" to continue will continue for the foreseeable future.

To finish just continue to observe the social isolation and distancing rules and help us to overcome the this current crisis. If people have questions please email or phone me.