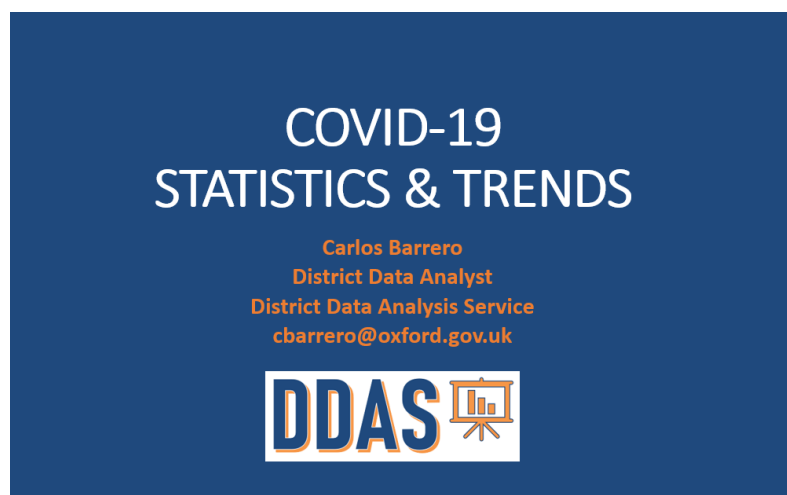# Oxfordshire Analyst Networking Meeting
8th September 2020 (Virtual meeting)

Summary of Presentations

Presentation 1: Covid-19 Trends and Statistics; Carlos Barrero (Oxford City Council)

See COVID-19 related trend data for the full slide pack

Monthly count of total deaths in Oxfordshire and across the Districts:

- Total monthly deaths for Oxfordshire and the Districts for 2020 were compared against previous years.
- At the Oxfordshire level, total monthly deaths rose rapidly between March and April, to over twice the 2019 count for the same period.
- This was followed by a similarly rapid decline in the monthly death count between April and May: returning to a count similar to 2019.
- This 'spike' pattern was echoed at the District levels. The decline in monthly deaths following April was slowest in South Oxfordshire.
- The mortality rate for those aged 65+ between April and July 2020 increased the most compared to last year in West Oxfordshire (to about twice last years' rate).

Unemployment numbers during Covid-19

- In line with the national trend, the number of people claiming unemployment benefits in Oxfordshire has risen rapidly in the last six months.
- All Districts have shown an increased number of claimants since March, although this increase has been somewhat stable since May.
- Oxford City has the highest number of claimants, although West Oxfordshire and Cherwell have seen the biggest increase in claimants on last year.

Covid-19 job retention scheme (furlough) and government grants for small and medium sized enterprises (SME's)

- 29% of the eligible working population in Oxfordshire were on furlough in August 2020
- Cherwell has the highest proportion on furlough out of the individual Districts (33%)
- South and West Oxfordshire have the most businesses identified as entitled to government grant funding for SME's.
- South Oxfordshire District Council has the most funding remaining from its initial allocation after the value of payments have been taken into account.
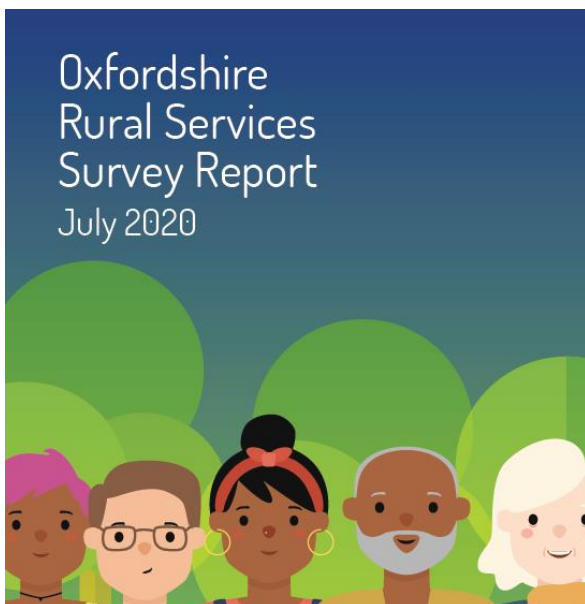
House price trends during Covid-19

- Semi-detached house prices across England slightly increased between March and May 2020.
- In Oxfordshire, the general pattern was an increase in semi-detached house prices between March and April, followed by a period of stability/slight decrease between April and May.
- Monthly sales volumes across all property types have decreased across all Oxfordshire Districts since the beginning of the year.

Air quality in Oxford during Covid-19

- Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations across three Oxford City locations decreased by ~50% in the period January – May 2020, followed by a slight increase between May and June.

Presentation 2: The State of Rural Services; Emily Lewis-Edwards (Community First Oxfordshire)

See State of Rural Oxfordshire report

Oxfordshire Rural Services Survey

- Purpose: to provide a benchmark of service provision in rural parishes and communities.

Methodology

- Survey sent to 274 rural parish and town councils, parish meetings and peripheral urban communities in Oxfordshire (larger settlements excluded where appropriate).
- Online self-completion questionnaire, distributed in February 2020, primarily to Parish Clerks, or key representatives. Hard-copy alternatives also offered.
- 115 responses (42%).

Results

- Over half of the communities surveyed did not have a Post Office or banking facility.
- Just over half of the communities had one or more shops. Pubs are the most common drink and food outlet based in 90 of the communities surveyed.
- 84 out of 112 communities said that rural businesses provided local employment.
- A lack of suitable premises and not enough people were cited as key barriers to local economic development.
- 96 out of 115 communities did not have a doctor's surgery in their community.
- 56 communities had some level of residential/ care facilities in their community.
- Less than a third of the communities had access to a regular bus service.
- 53 communities had access to one or more forms of community transport and lift share schemes.
- 21 communities had completed a housing needs survey, which showed a need for affordable housing.
- The majority of communities (82) did not have a library. 15 communities had a permanent library and 7 were visited by a mobile library.
- 107 of the 115 communities had one or more meeting places available for community use. The most common was the village hall (93).
- The majority of communities had good facilities and activities for young children and old people, but less family/adult classes on offer.
- 108 communities had one or more outdoor facilities for the community to use.
- Nearly three quarters (81 out of 110) of community representatives feel they have little to no influence on decisions made by local governments which affect their communities.
- The main community issues cited as serious concerns were roads, transport, and the environment.
- 110 communities had patchy communication and technology services.
- Of the 110 responses, 49 communities were undergoing a Neighbourhood Plan or had completed one.

Follow up activity

- Follow-up focus groups this summer/ autumn.
- Survey will be repeated in three years' time to gauge any changes.

Presentation 3: Impact of Covid-19 on NHS; Judy Foster (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

Presentation pack available on the Oxfordshire Analyst Networking Knowledge Hub (login required).

Despite modelling, there was a lot of uncertainty regarding how Covid-19 would affect the NHS, and a fear that it would be overwhelmed.

Impact

- Reduction in A&E admissions overall and in the number of patients attending A&E with conditions categorised as minor.
- Decline in GP appointments and more appointments conducted over telephone.
- Decline in cancer referrals.

Restoration and Recovery

- The NHS is moving into a recovery phase, restoring services.
- Identifying highest priority patients on waiting lists.
- Potential challenges likely to include the approaching winter flu season, social distancing, cleaning, patients worried about attending hospital, shielding patients, and a potential second wave.
- What has worked well? Remote GP appointments. Collaborative working across different health organisations.