Village Halls Grants (that pay business rates)if your village hall has to pay business rates, even if they are £0 due to rates relief, then the hall is entitled to the £10,000 grant for government in the same way businesses are. This can be applied for by visiting - https:// www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/business-and-employers/ coronavirus-business-support-grant-funding.

Testing Centres - A coronavirus testing centre has opened at the Creekmoor park and ride site in Poole and a temporary mobile site has opened in Weymouth. The sites will make testing more accessible for key workers and increase our testing capacity. These are all drive through facilities and you will be booked at appointment in the usual way through the .gov website - https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus. service.gov.uk The criteria of who can get tested is likely to continue to change, check the website above for up-todate criteria

Household recycling centres re-opening announcements made by the Secretary of State that councils should plan the re-opening of household recycling centres, is the clearest steer yet from central government that we'll be able to get the tips open soon. Officers have been working hard behind the scenes to plan how we will manage the re-openings. Social distancing measures will likely need to be in place, which will restrict the amount of people we can have on site at any given time. We will of course let you know how and when we are opening them soon.

Helplines open over the weekend Our helpline for vulnerable people (01305 221000) is open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. It's interesting to note that the amount of calls we receive at the weekend is significantly lower than weekdays. We are planning to put some communications out to remind residents that we are currently available on the phones at weekends, but if you could help us spread the word to anyone you know who might need help or support that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

New Coronavirus helpline for parents and carers Dorset Council's Educational Psychology Service has set-up the helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown. The helpline number is: 01305 228300. It is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30 minute phone consultation. Calls are confidential unless there is a risk of harm to the caller, their child or someone else. The service is open to all families in the Dorset Council area.

First virtual Cabinet Fingers crossed members of the public, will be able to tune in on Tuesday 5 May at 10am and watch our live Cabinet meeting. There is a lengthy report on our response to COVID-19, demonstrating how much has been done. The agenda can be found here - https:// moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/g231/Public%20reports%20pack%2005th May-2020%2010.00%20Dorset%20Council%20-%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10 This page will hold all of the links to this and future virtual DC meeting - https:// www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/committees/virtual-committee-meetings. aspx

Adults and housing Over the past week, 16 people in Dorset have become homeless (resulting from relationship breakdowns and people not having formal tenancy agreements) and we have found accommodation for them. The housing team has accommodated more than 75 people since the COVID-19 outbreak began – about double our normal amount. While there has been an increase in calls to domestic abuse helplines nationally, we still haven't seen this increase here in Dorset. We have capacity in refuges and are ready for any increase that may come. If anyone dose contact you who is a victim of domestic abuse or has become homeless. The message from Dorset council and the government is very clear "you're not breaching lockdown rules and we are here and ready to help as normal". More info; Homelessness - https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/ coronavirus/housing-homelessness-and-the-rent-deposit-scheme.aspx Domestic abuse - https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-community/community-safety/ domestic-abuse/help-for-those-who-have-experienced-domestic-abuse.aspx

Schools Over the past week we've been working closely with schools to bring more vulnerable children back into schools. We are also working on arranging IT support for vulnerable children. We have orders in for over 1000 laptops for year 10 students and those with social care needs from the national scheme - this is just the start and we hope to be able to secure more in time.

Foster Careers A significant number of our foster carers are shielding which affects our fostering capacity. There is a campaign live at the moment to recruit more foster carers – https:// news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/04/20/new-campaign-to-find-foster-carers-for-dorset-children/

Roads There was a 20 per cent increase in traffic on the roads over the weekend, so we are working with Dorset Police to remind people that we are still in lockdown and we all need to stay at home and avoid any non-essential journeys.