

COORDINATING DROP AND COLLECT TESTING PILOT IN SOLIHULL

HOW RE:ACT PROVIDED URGENT SUPPORT TO SUCCESSFULLY CONTROL A LOCAL SPIKE IN COVID-19 AND KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE



3,900

PROPERTIES VISITED

3,100

TESTS DELIVERED

Following a significant increase in positive Covid-19 tests in Solihull and with community transmission continuing to rise, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) needed to conduct urgent targeted testing to control the spread. With inadequate levels of accessible testing and a lack of appropriate sites for Mobile Testing Units, SMBC decided to pilot a Drop and Collect Testing service to 4,000 local residents, turning to the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCS EP) for assistance. VCS EP member RE:ACT was chosen to lead the task with support from British Red Cross (BRC) because it could provide experienced first responder volunteers at immediate notice.

“We have been extremely impressed with how all the RE:ACT and BRC staff, team leaders and volunteers have worked extremely closely with SMBC staff to ensure optimum success and oversight of the project. The paired teams who have delivered the service across both organisations have worked tirelessly and with such good humour to deliver the service to a high standard.”

Kate Woolley, Covid Testing Lead, Public Health and Commissioning Directorate, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

After a local public awareness campaign by Solihull Council, RE:ACT organised teams of pairs and coordinated them into separate delivery and collection duties. Working long hours to ensure the service was completed in two weeks, RE:ACT and BRC volunteers went door-to-door in the community, using their training and skills in public engagement to positively interact with residents and convey important health messages, supplying home testing kits and arranging for their safe collection. In total, the volunteers visited 3,900 properties, delivering 3,100 testing kits, of which 1,643 were successfully completed for collection, representing a 53% test return rate – controlling the rate of infection and increasing community vigilance.

1,643

TESTS COLLECTED

53%

COLLECTION RATE

