

# Nottingham City Council

## Outbreak Control Engagement Board

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom with public parts of the meeting livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 27 January 2021 from 4.30 pm - 6.25 pm

### Membership

#### Present

Ruby Bhattal  
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark (Vice Chair)  
Alison Challenger  
Councillor Neghat Khan  
Councillor Sally Longford (Chair)  
Dr Hugh Porter  
Amanda Sullivan  
Hugh White

#### Absent

Mel Barrett  
Andrew Errington  
Clive Foster  
Andy Haynes  
Carolyn Kus  
Councillor Rebecca Langton  
Vanessa MacGregor

Steve Oakley (substitute for Carolyn Kus)

### Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

- Fiona Branton - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Sarah Carter - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Mandy Clarkson - Consultant in Public Health, Nottingham City Council
- Paul Dales - Safer Business, Food and Health and Safety Manager, Nottingham City Council
- David Johns - Consultant in Public Health, Nottingham City Council
- Clare Routledge - Public Health, Nottingham City Council
- Jane Garrard - Senior Governance Officer, Nottingham City Council

### 162 Apologies for absence

Councillor Rebecca Langton  
Carolyn Kus – Steve Oakley attended as a substitute

### 163 Declarations of Interests for agenda items 3 - 8

None

### 164 Public Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the public section of the meeting held on 15 January 2021 as an accurate record.

### 165 Nottingham's Outbreak Control Plan update

Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health, gave an update on Nottingham's Outbreak Control Plan highlighting the following information:

- a) There is an improving picture in relation to infection rates, with 1,342 positive cases in the last seven days, which is a rate of 403.1 per 100,000 population. This is a 6% decrease compared with the previous seven days. However, this reduction is starting to plateau, which is concerning.
- b) This rate is similar to the England average of 403.9, however rates in England are reducing at a faster rate than in Nottingham.
- c) While there continues to be high rates in all adult age groups, the highest rate is in the 23-59 year age group.
- d) It takes a few weeks for changes in the number of positive cases to impact on pressures in hospitals, so it will be some time until hospital pressures ease.

### **166 Supporting care homes to respond to Covid-19**

David Johns, Consultant in Public Health Nottingham City Council, provided the following information about work to support care homes in responding to Covid-19:

- a) The Care Homes and Home Care Cell supports a system and partnership response including the City Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS providers. There is a robust governance structure in place that enables issues to be appropriately escalated for a strategic level response to supporting care homes.
- b) A daily taskforce meeting is held. The meeting is multi-disciplinary involving partners such as Adult Social Care, Commissioning Teams and Public Health Teams. It looks at issues such as outbreaks, workforce challenges and quality issues, identifying how best to support care homes on current issues.
- c) The Incident Management Team meets weekly and draws together themes from outbreaks to either deal with directly or escalate to the LRF or nationally, as appropriate.
- d) Outbreak Control Teams are put in place if required.
- e) There has been a huge amount of guidance for care homes. On issues such as arrangements for visitors, there is national guidance and Directors of Public Health are able to provide information on the local position in line with that national guidance. While acknowledging the risks, the aim is to keep care homes as open as possible. Care home managers know their homes best and are best placed to make the necessary risk assessment, and they are being supported with the tools to do this.
- f) The Infection Prevention and Control Team provides advice on testing. There have been recent changes in guidance and care homes are being helped to work through the implications of these changes. New national funding is being passed

on to care homes to support them with putting the new testing guidance into practice.

Steve Oakley, Acting Director for Procurement and Commissioning Nottingham City Council, provided the following information about the work of his Team in supporting care homes:

- g) The Team has been in contact with care homes throughout the pandemic, initially on a daily basis although this has reduced now.
- h) Care homes are operating in a very challenging environment, but have mostly coped well with the challenges and the changing guidance.
- i) Testing has led to issues with staffing capacity, but care homes have generally managed this well so far.
- j) Care homes have managed the best they can in terms of meeting reporting requirements. It is important that relevant information is reported and recorded but the Team acknowledges that those required to complete reporting requirements are the same people providing frontline care, especially when there are staffing pressures.
- k) One of the challenges for care homes is coping with the number of ill residents and deaths. The inability to hold face-to-face staffing meetings etc reduces opportunities for staff to share, and be supported during these difficult and emotional times.
- l) It is important to remember that care homes operate as private businesses and have to make decisions on this basis.

Fiona Branton, from the Infection Prevention and Control Team spoke about the work of that Team, highlighting the following information:

- m) It has been an incredibly challenging time.
- n) There are currently 23 active outbreaks in the City, as defined in line with the Public Health England guidance. If there is only one case exposure then this is reviewed with the care home and a risk assessment carried out.
- o) There is a substantial amount of national guidance for care homes to understand and comply with, so to support with this a local toolkit has been produced pulling together relevant guidance and giving it a local focus e.g. details of how to access the PPE (personal protective equipment) Hotline.
- p) Notification of an outbreak comes to the Team from a variety of sources including directly from the laboratory, from the care home itself or from Public Health England live listings. Therefore the Team is confident that it is well-informed about the current position.
- q) The Team aims to put infection prevention and control measures in place that prevent ongoing spread. This could include ensuring PPE is being worn

correctly, ensuring there is good hand hygiene, isolation, cleaning, testing, monitoring and surveillance and escalating to the daily taskforce meeting if necessary which will look at issues such as staffing and quality.

- r) There is a hotline to the Testing Cell if necessary but many homes are doing regular testing on an ongoing basis – weekly for staff and monthly for residents.
- s) A care home is allowed to reopen following an outbreak once there has been no new reported cases in the previous 28 days (twice the incubation period).
- t) Key learning from the region includes:
  - i. When community transmission is high, there are high rates in care homes.
  - ii. PPE needs to be worn throughout the care home at all times. There is some fatigue with this.
  - iii. Regular testing picks up asymptomatic cases in staff and sometimes residents.
  - iv. Staff need to socially distance at break times and mealtimes, and follow national guidance out of work.
  - v. Staff should avoid car sharing to get to and from work. If they have to car share then they should wear PPE.
  - vi. Care homes should avoid sharing staff across different sites. This can be difficult, especially when there are staff shortages, and the safety of residents has to be the priority.

Sarah Carter, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, reported that all those aged over 65 years resident in a care home were being vaccinated. 95% coverage has been achieved so far. There are only four care homes in the City that have not been fully vaccinated so far and that is due to infection prevention and control measures currently in place. An outbreak does not necessarily prevent residents in care home from being vaccinated but it does depend on the environment in the care home. Staff can book to receive a vaccine elsewhere. There are plans to return to the four remaining care homes to vaccinate residents once the Team is able.

## **167 Board Member updates**

Paul Dales, Safer Business, Food and Health and Safety Manager Nottingham City Council, gave an update on work to look at compliance by supermarkets and min-markets. He highlighted the following information:

- a) Visits are being carried out over 2-3 weeks to look at compliance and how compliance can be improved. This will include 27 supermarkets/ local versions of national supermarket chains and 35 independent outlets.
- b) Customer behaviour impacts on the measures put in place and perceptions of safety.
- c) For the national chain outlets, visits include looking at company standard procedures, an on-site inspection against those standards, an assessment of the local management attitude towards compliance, a review of front and back of

house checks and a reality check on customer compliance to see how things are working in reality.

- d) For local independent stores, visits include completion of an inspection check form (based on national regulations), a check for Covid-secure measures, provision of a free information sheet and provision of free posters for display to customers.
- e) The main issues identified in relation to local independent stores are a lack of available hand sanitiser, not having a maximum capacity set, a lack of signage and a lack of floor markings to help with social distancing and one way systems.
- f) The main issue identified with stores of national supermarket chains is the difficulties of challenging and enforcing customers for not wearing face coverings.

Steven Cooper, Nottinghamshire Police, gave an update on the work of the Police, highlighting the following information:

- g) The Force has continued to follow the national approach, with a focus on engagement and then enforcement as a last resort.
- h) Most incidents reported to 101 currently relate to social gatherings and supermarkets, particularly in relation to their enforcement of wearing face coverings. The Police also take a proactive approach if there is intelligence from social media, neighbourhood teams etc about a potential incident.
- i) Since 1 October 2020 there have been over 6,000 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) issued, 80% to people aged under 30, and 62% to men. Most of these are single incident offenders but there are a number of repeat offenders, with one individual found to be breaching the rules 5 times. This has resulted in a significant fine for that individual. 68 FPNs have been issued to people from outside of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. 12 fines of £10,000 have been issued in the City. Data shows that the level of enforcement mirrors infection rates.
- j) The Police are also supporting the vaccination programme, with staff and officers at vaccination centres to be able to respond if needed. Response Plans are in place for all centres.
- k) Changes are coming into force soon, enabling those present at gatherings of over 15 people to be fined £800, which is a significant increase from the current fine of £200.

Amanda Sullivan, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, gave an update on the position in the NHS. She highlighted the following information:

- l) There were 510 hospital admissions related to Covid-19 in the seven days to 17 January 2020. This compares to 427 for the previous seven days.

- m) There were 712 beds occupied by patients with Covid-19 as at 19 January, compared with 625 on 12 January. 8% of these patients required mechanical ventilation in intensive care.
- n) There are 2.5 times as many people in hospital compared with the first wave of the pandemic in April.
- o) Between 14-20 January there were 87 deaths, which was a rise from the previous week when there were 63 deaths.
- p) Between 8 December and 17 January, 49,336 individuals were vaccinated. There are 3 hospital hubs vaccinating those aged over 80 years and 7 local vaccination sites offering vaccinations in the community, in addition to the national vaccination centre.
- q) There have been more than 500 deaths in the City since the start of the pandemic. Covid-related deaths are those where a patient has tested positive for Covid-19 in the previous 28 days. People are dying from non-Covid related factors but the number of deaths is above what would normally be expected. The mortality rate is higher in older age groups but deaths are not confined to that age group.

## **168 Local Testing Strategy update**

Mandy Clarkson, Consultant in Public Health Nottingham City, gave an update on the Local Testing Strategy. She highlighted the following information:

- a) As infection rates increase, asymptomatic testing is becoming an increasingly important part of the strategy.
- b) There have been changes in the national emphasis on asymptomatic testing, prioritising those unable to work from home and the programme has been extended to all local authorities.
- c) There are a range of national testing programmes for the NHS, care homes and domiciliary staff, with pilots for other settings such as prisons, asylum centres and food manufacturing plants. Workplaces with under 250 key workers are the responsibility of local authorities.
- d) In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire there is a co-ordinated programme, focusing on more testing closer to where people live; frontline workers; and homeless people.
- e) Work is taking place to look at waste water extraction to inform the triangulation of knowledge and help to focus efforts.
- f) The first asymptomatic testing site in the City opened in Forest Fields on 22 January. It has had a slow start and it is hoped that interest will build. It was originally thought that the site would only target people living in that area but everyone is welcome to attend that Centre to get tested. If it gets too busy then

the position will be reviewed and it may be necessary to set up other sites. Two further sites are planned for Mansfield and then Worksop.

- g) There will be close focus on the Forest Fields site to try and increase the number of people getting tested. This will be supported by targeted communications. The next steps will then be to look at setting up other sites in the City.

## **169 Local Covid-19 Vaccination Plan update**

Sarah Carter, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, gave an update on the Covid-10 Vaccination Plan. She highlighted the following information:

- a) 95% of older adults living in care homes have been vaccinated.
- b) As at 24 January, 95,000 vaccinations have been delivered.
- c) There has been a significant improvement in uptake by those aged over 80 years, although some population groups have lower uptake than others. The Integrated Care Partnership is reviewing local data to identify groups with lower uptake to identify how this can be addressed. Work is taking place with local faith leaders groups and in areas of high deprivation to encourage and support people to book appointments. Establishing 'pop up' sites and using GPs and pharmacies is being explored to try and provide hyper local solutions for particular population groups.
- d) Local letters have gone out to those aged over 75 years inviting them to book a vaccination appointment and appointments are now bookable.
- e) People aged over 70 years should get their local letter tomorrow and the online booking link will be shared. National letters are going out to this cohort on Friday.
- f) Letters are being sent out to housebound individuals with details of the roving service that can visit their house and transport to vaccination sites.
- g) The key messages are:
  - i. The NHS is confident that vaccination is very safe and highly effective. Vaccines are highly regulated products.
  - ii. Evidence shows that the vaccine is effective for black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.
  - iii. Neither of the vaccines currently used contain any animal products.
  - iv. Vaccination appointments are available seven days a week into the evening and transport is available to take people to appointments if necessary.
  - v. Everyone's support is needed to improve uptake. If people have elderly relatives they can help them to book and attend appointments. Trusted community leaders are needed to help target messages towards specific communities and help is also needed to counter non-evidence based and non-scientific anti-vaccination messages. Any ideas on how to improve uptake are welcome.

- vi. Vaccinations are only available from the NHS and are free. The NHS will contact individuals when it is their turn to book a vaccination appointment.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- h) Nottinghamshire County Council Customer Support Line can answer questions about the vaccination process, including booking transport.
- i) It was suggested that community leaders could be recorded receiving their vaccination for circulation. Medics and nurses have been recorded but it would be good to broaden this out.
- j) It would be helpful to have regular published data on the number of vaccinations to help build confidence in the programme.
- k) There is sufficient capacity in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Forest Fields site is extremely well used and capacity will look to be uplifted in response to demand.
- l) A hyper vaccination site has opened in Derby and people living 30-40 minutes drive away from this site will be sent a national letter inviting them to book a vaccination at this site. However, people will always get a local letter as well so they can choose to go to a local site if they prefer. Some Board members raised concern about the potential for people to be confused by getting both national and local letters inviting them to book an appointment and it would be helpful to have clear messaging about why people get two different letters.
- m) Information about vaccinations needs to be translated for people who don't speak or read English as a first language and there is also a significant proportion of people in the City with low literacy rates and their needs need to be taken into account.

#### **170 Exclusion of the public to move into the confidential section of the meeting**

The Board agreed to exclude the public to move into the confidential section of the meeting.

#### **171 Declarations of Interests for agenda items 11 - 13**

See Confidential Minutes

#### **172 Confidential Minutes**

See Confidential Minutes

#### **173 Situational round up**

See Confidential Minutes



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**174 Local Covid-19 Vaccination Plan update**

See Confidential Minutes