

LIVING WITH COVID BOARD

20 January 2021

Present	Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Ryan, Gwynne, Kitchen and Wills.
	Tameside & Glossop CCG Members	Dr Asad Ali, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Dr Vinny Khunger, Dr Christine Ahmed, Dr Tim Hendra, Clare Todd, Karen Huntley, David Swift and Carol Prowse
	Chief Executive TMBC	Steven Pleasant
	Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
	Deputy Section 151 Officer	Tom Wilkinson
	T&G ICFT Medical Director	Brendan Ryan
	Action Together	Anna Hynes

Also In Attendance: **Tim Bowman, Steph Butterworth, Gill Gibson, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Ian Saxon, Jayne Traverse, Sarah Threlfall, Debbie Watson and Tom Wilkinson**

Apologies for Kate Hebden and Karen James
Absence:

37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of Living with Covid Board meeting on the 9 December 2020 were approved as a correct record.

38 EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATE

Living with Covid Board received a presentation from the Director of Population Health, which updated the Board on the latest position in Tameside, including an update on Covid-19 surveillance within Tameside and an epidemiology data and intelligence update.

It was reported that the current rate of new cases in the last seven days per 100,000 people was 361.6. This rate was an 8% decrease compared to seven days previously when the rate was 392.1. It was stated that the positivity rate of tests was reducing but was still at a high level, the positivity rate was one in ten within Tameside. The Director of Population Health explained that while vaccinations had started for those most vulnerable, those who were primarily responsible for spreading the virus were not yet being vaccinated.

Members were advised that of the 3,613 tests 60% were confirmed SGTF cases (new variant). The new variant of Covid was first confirmed in Tameside in the week of the 4 December 2020.

The Director of Population Health presented the T&G ICFT Acute Bed Occupancy, the increasing bed occupancy was highlighted to Members. It was explained that it was expected that the bed occupancy would increase further. As at 14 January 2021 there were 65 patients confirmed with Covid and 19 suspected who were suspected of having Covid. It was further explained that the mortality rate would increase in line with hospitalisations albeit lagging behind hospitalisation rate.

The mortality from all causes including Covid-19 and Excess Deaths as at 1 January 2020 was detailed to Members. It was highlighted that in the week ending 1 January 2021, 33% of deaths had Covid mentioned on their death certificate.

With regards to Outbreaks Incidents and Community Insight, cases of outbreaks and clusters were detailed to Members, this was expected due to the high level of prevalence of Covid in the community. It was stated that the seven days to 15th January, people from ethnic minority backgrounds accounted for 15.6% of new cases. It was important that those in the BME communities take up the offer of the vaccine to prevent further health inequalities.

AGREED

That the presentation and the update in relation to the various actions being taken by the locality be noted.

39 TESTING AND VACCINATIONS PROGRAMME

Living with Covid Board received a presentation by the Assistant Director (Population Health), which provided an update on the testing and vaccination programme.

The Assistant Director (Population Health) advised Members that there were two types of tests being used in Tameside these were the PCR tests and the Rapid Lateral Flow test. The PCR had been delivered in Tameside through Local Testing Sites and Mobile Units, the Rapid Lateral Flow Test had been delivered in Tameside through asymptomatic testing sites at Dukinfield TH and Stalybridge Civic Hall.

The asymptomatic testing sites were focused on testing key workers, this had been delivered with the assistance of the military. It was explained that the roll-out of rapid antigen testing, was part of a targeted testing at scale approach. It was stated that testing would begin for all key workers and communications plans for key workers had been initiated.

The Director of Population Health delivered an update on the vaccination programme. It was reported that approximately 90% of 80+ priority group were vaccinated. The North West average was 36% and national average was 35%. It was explained that 16,000 people have been vaccinated with the first dose in Tameside and 18,000 had received two doses of the vaccine.

AGREED

That the presentation be noted.

40 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Medical Director for Tameside and Glossop ICFT, which provided an update on the Health and Social Care System.

It was reported that that Tameside General Hospital Beds and Acute Beds had a 22% occupancy by patients with Covid. It was explained that it was estimated that less than 10% occupancy of Covid patients would be needed for a Hospital to provide non-urgent care. Some hospitals within GM had an occupancy between 30-40%.

With regards to critical care occupancy, it was reported that the beds were full. There were 15 intensive care beds whereas pre Covid Tameside General Hospital would of run 9 Intensive care bends. A new CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) Unit containing 8 beds had been opened, which provided advanced breathing support.

It was further explained that due to the nature of the peak it was expected that the pressure on the hospitals would remain, and was expected that pressure would only reduce at the end of February.

Members discussed the availability of ventilator beds and whether these beds were available for patients when needed. The Medical Director for T&G ICFT reassured Members that through the

mutual aid across hospitals and regions patients had been moved both out and into Tameside as part of a daily plan to ensure that the next bed would always be available.

AGREED

That the information provided be noted.

41 SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Director of Education, which provided an update on the latest position on schools and education in Tameside.

It was stated that Greater Manchester pupils had been disproportionately impacted by Covid. Attendance was now in line with the national average having been well below in October. There had been nearly 4% more Covid related absence from settings in GM than nationally.

The Assistant Director for Education reminded the Board that on the 4 January 2021 the Prime Minister had announced the third national lockdown and second required restricted attendance at schools. However Early Years private, voluntary, independent settings and nursery classes were able to remain open. Further, A Levels, GCSEs, and all statutory testing and assessment in Key Stages One and Two had been cancelled for summer 2021 for the second year in succession.

With regards to attendance this term, overall school attendance had ranged from 16.1% to 18.5%. Compared to GM and national so far, Tameside had a higher percentage of pupils on site in school, the GM range was 13.7% to 20.5%.

It was stated that support for schools and colleges continued to be available to all schools. Collective processes were in place which supported safe and sensible local decision making.

It was reported that on Friday 15 January the Director of Public Health for Tameside advised secondary school to pause daily testing of pupils, students and staff who were close contacts of a positive case, this advice did not affect regular LFT testing of students and staff.

The Assistant Director for Education provided an update on remote learning at schools. It was stated that there had been support from the Department for Education of the provision of laptops. The challenging expectation to teach children in school and at home to a high standard was highlighted to the Board.

It was explained that schools had a choice between vouchers and providing food parcels as part of the Free School Meals (FSM) scheme, schools could claim up to £15 per pupil eligible FSM per week.

AGREED

That the presentation be noted.

CHAIR