

LIVING WITH COVID BOARD

18 November 2020

Present	Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Kitchen, Ryan, Gwynne and Wills
	Tameside & Glossop CCG Members	Dr Asad Ali, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Dr Vinny Khunger, Dr Christine Ahmed, Dr Tim Hendra, Clare Todd and Karen Huntley
	Chief Executive	Steven Pleasant
	Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
	Deputy S151	Tom Wilkinson

Also In Attendance: Steph Butterworth, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Richard Hancock, Ian Saxon, Jayne Traverse, Sarah Threlfall and Jess Williams
Anna Hynes (Action Together)

Apologies for Absence: Jane Higham, Brendan Ryan and Karen James

21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Living with Covid Board meeting on the 4 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

22 LATEST POSITION ON COVID DATA

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Director of Population Health, which detailed the latest position on Covid data.

The Director of Population Health presented data on the trends in new cases for Tameside, the effect of the tier 3 restrictions were highlighted and its effect on the trends. However, there was still a large number of new cases reported daily. In total, there were 1956 new cases reported from 31 October 2020 to the 14 November 2020.

The trends in new cases across Greater Manchester were detailed to the Living with Covid Board.

With regards to testing and positivity, the rate of testing remained largely the same, the rate of positivity had reduced, suggesting that the rate of new cases had reduced.

Members were advised of the T&G ICFT Acute Beds Occupancy at the 12 November 2020, it was stated that there were approximately 100 beds occupied with patients who were confirmed or suspected to have Covid-19.

It was highlighted that the bed occupancy rate was higher than the first wave. The Greater Manchester occupancy rate was detailed to Members, it was further explained that as treatments for Covid-19 had improved, the rate of occupancy would be higher due to a lower mortality rate.

Members of the Board were presented with a slide, which provided an analysis of the excess deaths caused by Covid-19.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

23 TEST AND TRACE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Director of Population Health, which updated the Board on the National Test and Trace System, the Local Approaches and the Testing Strategy.

It was reported that the National Test and Trace system continued to contact large number of positive cases and close contacts as part of the national system. Some performance issues had improved, this included errors around delays in contact tracing. There were still delays in follow up and a proportion of cases and contacts were not followed up at all. There had been some improvements in testing turn around, however, the national system was not helping to identify local outbreaks.

The Locally Supported Contact Tracing team of Tameside MBC staff were contacting positive cases that the national team did not reach. The GM Contact Tracing Hub picked up some of the cases to support the local team but were stretched due to the high volumes of cases. Intensive work in Population Health continued to support schools and there was a proactive approach between Population Health and the Compliance team to support local businesses and identify outbreaks early.

Work was taking place, which looked at the best use of mass testing, while the Liverpool approach was unlikely to be used, mass testing would be used to help find asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. Specific communities would be focused and settings of high prevalence. It would also be used to strengthen the response to outbreaks and contacts.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

24 6 MONTH LIVING WITH COVID PLAN PROPOSAL

The Director of Population Health delivered an update on the on the 6 month living with Covid plan proposal. Different scenarios were detailed to the Living with Covid Board on the effect of the national lockdown on the number of cases and how this could affect the 6 Month Living with Covid Plan. Two scenarios were highlighted to the Board, in the first scenario the rate of infection was reduced by the lockdown but the number of cases remained high, this could mean an easing of restrictions could start a rise in infections. In the second scenario the effect of the lockdown caused plateauing of the rate of infections.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

25 ENDING OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN PLANNING (ESCALATION/ DE-ESCALATION)

The Chief Executive/Accountable Officer delivered an update on the work that was underway to plan for the ending of the national lockdown. Members were advised that work was underway to plan for the end of the national lockdown from the 3 December 2020 onwards. The 6 Month Living with Covid Plan was designed to encapsulate the Winter Plan and the living with Covid arrangements over spring.

The Living with Covid Board were reminded that following the end of the national lockdown there would be a tier arrangement. The tiers would be determined by the public health data and the resilience of the health and care systems of the area. The primary driver of the judgement would be based on the public health data. It was expected that Greater Manchester would be in a high tier based on current data and projections. However, the tiers would not be comparable with the current national lockdown. It was stated that discussions were taking place with the cabinet office on the arrangements over the next 6 months and the restrictions that would be in place over Christmas.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

26 VACCINATION PLANNING UPDATE (CONTAIN)

Consideration was given to a verbal report of the Director of Commissioning on the preparations for vaccinations.

It was reported that there were a number of vaccination providers who were coming forward with vaccines. It would be a significant challenge and it would take time for the vaccination programme to be delivered. On a local level all 5 of the local PCN's had accepted the Direct Enhanced Service (DES), the commissioning team were working closely with them to deliver an effective programme from the moment the vaccine becomes available. Five sites for vaccinations had been confirmed, one in each PCN, checks were taking place to confirm that these met the criteria. It was expected that vaccinations would not start on these sites until 2021. The sites would be submitted on the 19 November 2020. The booking system used by Tameside & Glossop for the delivery of the flu vaccination was being looked at by other PCN's for the Covid vaccination and it was reported that other GM authorities could use this system.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

27 COVID FUNDING REVIEW

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Assistant Director of Finance, which summarised the different funding streams which had been announced since March 2020. It was explained that the nature, scope and scale of additional funding had evolved over the course of the pandemic.

The funding had fallen into three main categories, these were:

- Funding for direct costs or income loss as a result of Covid-19
- Funding for Covid-19 response and management (health and economy)
- Funding for payments to businesses and individuals. Most schemes mandated by Government, some discretionary elements.

It was reported that in total the Council had received £117m in Covid funding from the Government. Members received a breakdown of Covid-19 Funding the purpose, the amount allocated to each and the amount as a proportion of the National Pot. Members were assured that monitoring was taking place to make sure that all funding was spent in the correct way.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

28 SUPPORT TO THE VULNERABLE UPDATE.

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Assistant Director of Policy, Performance and Communication, which gave an update on the support for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and the National Shielding service System (NSSS).

It was reported that whilst the Government had not activated shielding the Council were advising those who were CEV to not to go to work if they could not work from home, not to go to school, and only to leave if it was for exercise or attend a medical appointment. There were approximately 10,000 who were CEV, it was reported that they had been contacted and given guidance. Particular attention was given to 1363 people who in the first wave had needed support or were new to being CEV. Demand levels for support or food had been low, this could be due to other support measures being in place and food being more accessible whilst shielding. Only 267 in Tameside had registered on the National Shielding System.

Members were assured that those that the Government had identified as high priority had been contacted and further communication was planned.

With regards to the welfare and assistance Defra / GMPA grant. Members were reminded that the Living with Covid Board recommended the approval of the Defra grant. Each of the individual allocations were progressing. Members were advised that there was a new grant that was available. The Winter Covid Funding grant would be used for free school meals, however, there would be funding remaining for vulnerable people. A report containing the proposal for the Winter Covid Funding would come to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOVLED

That the presentation be noted.

CHAIR