

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

17 September 2020

Commenced: 11.00 am

Terminated: 12.15 pm

Present:

Councillor Warrington (Chair)	Executive Leader
Councillor Fairfoull	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
Councillor Wills	Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health
Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive, Tameside MBC and Accountable Officer, Tameside and Glossop CCG
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Jeanelle De Gruchy	Director of Population Health
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Chief Executive, Action Together

In Attendance:

Shaun Higgins	Active Tameside
Chris Rushton	Active Tameside
Lisa Pomfret	DWP
Phil Nelson	GMFRS
Jane Higham	GMP
Donna Kelly	Jigsaw Homes
Andrew Searle	Tameside Adult's Safeguarding Board
David Swift	Tameside and Glossop CCG
Brendan Ryan	Tameside and Glossop ICFT
Sarah Threlfall	Assistant Director of Policy, Performance & Communications
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Cooney and Richard Hancock

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 29 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

7. LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN UPDATE

The Director of Population Health delivered a presentation that provided an update on the Local Outbreak Control Plan in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board was shown a graph detailing the positive cases per 100,000 people in Tameside since March 2020. Community transmission had started to increase in July with cases rising rapidly since September in line with other areas of Greater Manchester. Local restrictions had been imposed across the region on 31 July 2020, which limited social contact between households due to rising case numbers.

The Assistant Director of Population Health advised the Board that Tameside had high levels of testing, utilising a mixed model that included mobile testing units across the Borough, home testing kits, test kits within schools, access to regional mass testing sites and access to rapid testing for settings within short notice. Priority testing was available for symptomatic people and there was a regular programme of repeat testing in high risk health and social care settings. Testing remained vital to the response and allowed people who tested positive to access help and support and for their contacts to be traced in order to self-isolate for 14 days. It also allowed teams to identify sources of transmission, such as workplaces and other high risk settings, for further work and investigation.

It was reported that there continued to be outbreaks in health and social care settings but clear processes were in place to quickly respond, manage and control the outbreak in addition to a regular testing strategy. There had been two linked cases in hospitality settings but no other outbreaks in any other settings in Tameside. Individual cases had been quickly identified and isolated, which had prevented further spread and escalation to an outbreak. There had been no outbreaks in Tameside schools and any individual cases had been traced and contained in the same day. Schools had received support in the form of virtual training sessions, step by step guides, infection control advice and resources. A School Contact Trace Cell met daily and a scenario planning group was in place with comprehensive risk assessments and contingency plans created for local escalation.

The Board were advised that a Greater Manchester Hub had been set-up in June to deal with complex contact tracing. Through working closely with Local Authorities 98% of contacts had been successfully traced. This work would be further enhanced through a local tracing programme that was currently in development.

The Assistant Director of Policy, Performance and Communication updated the Board on the ongoing communications strategy for Covid-19. A series of engagement activities and community outreach had been carried out with a wide range of organisations and the feedback had helped to shape communications and tailor messages to Tameside residents with targeted messaging for specific hard to reach groups in a variety of formats.

A preventative campaign ("It Works!") had been developed containing images of local people and places that explained the rules in a clearer way, examples of which were shown. One of the key messages was to take a test if symptomatic or if advised to by primary care and to not delay accessing health care for other reasons. Due to a disproportionate number of positive cases within the 18-40 year old group, there had been a shift towards emotive messaging to appeal to this cohort to follow the rules in order to protect others who were at risk. A Better Health campaign had been launched, focusing on obesity and effectively managing long term health conditions, a shop local campaign to support local businesses had also been launched, which highlighted responsible and safe behaviour in relation to Covid-19, in addition to the annual Flu campaign.

The Board was informed that a Community Champions network had been created to provide residents, stakeholders and partners with the information they need to circulate amongst the community. Virtual meetings were held on a fortnightly basis to share information and update on the current position in Tameside. Over 100 champions had registered and two induction sessions and two update sessions had already taken place.

Board members were advised that emergency and planned work had recommenced at Tameside Hospital. A rise in Covid-19 community cases had resulted in a rise in patients requiring treatment within the hospital and as a consequence an increase in Covid-19 deaths. There had been an outbreak within the hospital that had been successfully managed and staff, patients and visitors to the hospital were requested to be vigilant at all times.

Tameside Business Compliance teams had undertaken a large amount of work to support local businesses to understand and adhere to guidance in order to reduce the risks of Covid-19 transmission. Proactive and reactive visits to businesses across the Borough had been carried out,

in collaboration with GMP in response to complaints, resulting in written warnings, Health Protection Regulation Notices and Premises License Reviews. Work was ongoing to remind large retail outlets of their responsibilities and checks would be carried out to ensure that hospitality venues were utilising track and trace in their establishments. Large gatherings were not allowed and preparations for Halloween, Bonfire and Remembrance Day events were being looked at.

A discussion ensued on the use of and enforcement of wearing face masks in retail outlets and the current situation of no visiting to residents in a care home setting.

Members of the Board thanked all involved for their continued hard work in fighting the virus and praised the collaborative nature of work that was being undertaken to protect the public.

8. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR