## Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at 10.00am

**Present:** Mayor Ros Jones (RJ) (Chair), Councillor Nigel Ball (NB), Dr. Rupert Suckling (RS), Councillor Jane Cox (JC) Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones (GJ), Councillor Jane Nightingale, Councillor Andy Pickering, Councillor Chris McGuinness (CM), Shaun Morley (SM), Fiona Campbell (FC), and Jackie Pederson (JP)

**Officers:** Scott Fawcus (SF), Scott Cardwell (SC), Laurie Mott (LM), Louise Parker (LP), Carys Williams (CW) and Rachel Wright (note taker).

Apologies: Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Damian Allen, Daniel Fell, and Jon Gleek.

		Action	Deadline
1.	Welcome, apologies and introduction – Chair – Mayor Ros Jones		
	Mayor Ros Jones welcomed all those present at the meeting.		
2.	Exclusion of the public and press – Chair – Mayor Ros Jones		
	The Board agreed that there were no items on the agenda that the public and press should be excluded from.		
3.	Public Statements and Questions – Chair Mayor Ros Jones		
	There were no public questions or statements.		
4.	Declarations of interest – Chair Mayor Ros Jones		
	There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.		
5.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Chair Mayor Ros Jones		
	It was agreed that the minutes of the Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board held on 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020, be approved as a correct record.		
6.	COVID-19 National Overview – RS		
	RS gave a verbal overview of what has happened nationally since the last meeting of the board held in July. Another 19,000 new cases were recorded and 221 deaths, over the last two weeks there had been an uptick in the number of cases reported. The national 'R' value was hovering around or just under 1. Casino's, bowling alleys, ice skating rinks and beauty salons had been expected to open however this was suspended until the 15 <sup>th</sup> August, along with the piloting of crowds at sporting events and wedding receptions of upto 30 people. Pausing of shielding went ahead on the 1 <sup>st</sup> August and the there was an increase in the use of face covering in public places. The period of self isolation was extended for those who are symptomatic and tested positive for COVID from 7 to 10 days. Air corridors, which are places where you could travel to, come back from and not have to quarantine have been created however some were quickly restricted again. The eat out to help out scheme from 1 <sup>st</sup> August was announced. A National watch list has been established, and is published on a Friday as part a national surveillance report. Authorities are ranked into three or four broad areas; no additional concerns of which Doncaster is one, then there are 29 authorities that are either an area of concern, needing enhanced support or an area of no intervention. No South Yorkshire authorities are in the 29 that are areas of concern. Restrictions in North West, West Yorkshire and Leicester have continued.		
	Announcements have been made that may have an impact to area; There is to be a strengthening of regional contact tracing, and Local Authorities will have access to the NHS contact tracers. The way deaths from COVID are calculated will alter due to a change in methodology. Someone will only count as a COVID death if it were diagnosed within 28 days of their death,		

	previously it was 60 days. When the death rate figures are re-ran using the new methodology the number of deaths will reduce, we are still expected to have the highest death rate in		
	Europe. Publication of data of antibody testing shows that on average nationally 6% of the population		
	has had COVID. The fines for enforcement for not wearing face coverings in public repeatedly will increase. A publication from the Department of Education with reference to transmission in schools is		
	expected. Announcement of national institute for health protection which will combine the public protection element of public health England together with NHS test and trace system. Increase requests for people to get involved with vaccine trials.		
	Paul O'Brien asked how can the authority work with the police to enforce the use of face coverings. Also could temperature checking more widely used across the borough. RS responded that our approach to face coverings is to encourage the public to use them rather than enforcement, and that use of temperature checking could be discussed at a COVID Control Board meeting.		
	It is agreed that:		
	<ul> <li>The presentation noted.</li> <li>COVID Control Board to discuss working with partners to encourage the use of face masks and temperature checking</li> <li>Table the Communications campaign at a future COVID-19 Oversight board meeting</li> <li>Update the COVID-19 Oversight Board on temperature checks at a future meeting</li> </ul>	RS RS RS	
7.	Whats the data telling us - LM		
	LM presented a report on what we know currently using the various data streams that we have access to in Doncaster. From the 1 <sup>st</sup> August the guidance for the shielded population has been relaxed, this effects just under 18000 residents in Doncaster. Doncaster has reported 2055 confirmed cases with a peak at the beginning of May and numbers have fallen week on week since. On 7 <sup>th</sup> August a slight increase was reported which also happened nationally. The 7-day rate the PHE use to monitor day-to-day rates of COVID showed Doncaster at 5.2 cases per 100,000 people. Since the beginning of August the rate has begun to increase but is low in comparison to other authorities both in South Yorkshire and nationally. PHE report an Exceeding Status Indicator, which is the number of positive cases we find as a proportion of the tests we undertake. All South Yorkshire Local Authorites are red due to the model being used to calculate, it's very easy to be classed as red. PHE therefore make it clear that going red is not important, it needs to be within the context of what is going on in the area. Community transmission shows we have a total of 5 cases to date. The Test and Trace programme shows 576 and nearly 1000 contacts identified. Since the last meeting we have a more sophisticated picture of where cases and the contacts are. 80% of the contacts are family members. There are 11 active incidents, 5 potential incidents are being investigated by the IMT board. Of those 7 are within care homes. This is an increase but is as a result of proactive testing in care homes, those cases are not showing symptoms and invention occurs earlier. Of the 7 care home incidents almost all will close next week. The hospital bed occupancy rate was 8, of which 1 is in ICU. There had been 263 deaths in Doncaster. 1 was recorded on the 1 <sup>st</sup> August, this being the figures of deaths recorded is falling. It is agreed that:		
	The presentation be noted.		
8.	Changes and developments in the Public Realm responding to COVID - SC		
	SC gave an overview verbally about the initiatives used in responding to government announcements to bring town centres back into use. SC described the remit of the workstreams, which were to keep people safe, support businesses to flourish in a difficult trading market and keep people informed of changes.		
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SC explained that a delivery group was established, of which an infrastructure group looked		
at physical changes to the town centres to help with social distancing.		
Engagement with business and communications with members, partner organisations and		
residents of the borough began. Communications with businesses set out the authorities		
expectations and how detailed how we could support them to reopen safely.		
SC described the key activities carried out as our initial response to the government's		
expectations to see changes to the public realm. Measures included enhanced		
pedestrianised zones in the town centres, adding gates to stop vehicle access maximising		
space thus making it easier for the public to adhere to social distancing guidance. New		
signage, repeater signs and floor splats added to reinforce the message about social		
distancing. A network of stewards were mobilised to help support the public and reinforce		
social distancing measures. All of which received positive feedback.		
On the 15 <sup>th</sup> June non-essential shops were allowed to reopen following government guidance		
which would cause increase in footfall. In response we increased the network of stewards to		
help, and the licensing team worked proactively with the police.		
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SC explained that a major initiative between the licensing team and Police began ahead of		
the reopening of licensed premises on the 4 <sup>th</sup> July, with every licensed premise receiving a		
letter setting out our interpretation of the guidance and expectations of them. The		
Communications team used social media to relay social distancing messages and expectations of the public.		
SC explained that post 4 <sup>th</sup> July the measures used have been effective, particularly during the		
day, with only a few incidents reported. The public realm network continued until the 27 <sup>th</sup> July,		
to monitor and make sure the authority were confident issues were decreasing. The		
additional gates have been removed for vehicles. The network is now disassembled however		
SC provided assurance that if need this effective partnership network could be re-established		
to give businesses a chance to keep trading but first and foremost to keep people safe.		
It was agreed that:		
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9. Minutes of the COVID control board meeting held on 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 - RS		
BS reminded Members that underneeth this board be sheirs the COV/ID Centrel Board which		
RS reminded Members that underneath this board he chairs the COVID Control Board which		
meets regularly and reviews the data LM presented earlier.		
Future considerations for the COVID Control Board and possibly this board is our position on		
broader mass gatherings going forward.		
RS explained that the Outbreak Plan was signed off and we are starting to receive national		
action cards, which is advice for councils and businesses on what to do if they have someone symptomatic and we are collecting those.		
RS explained the minutes of the last COVID Control Board cover the threat and risk		
assessment. RS highlighted that the COVID Control Board identified 3 high risks. The first		
being the management of cross border incidents. This is where people may live in Doncaster but work outside of it, or vice versa, effective working relationships across South Yorkshire		
and PHE are now in place resulting in this risk decreasing. The second is Test and Trace as		
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• Wednesday, 23rd September 2020, at 2.30 pm

- Tuesday, 20th October 2020, at 10.00 am •
- Wednesday, 11th November 2020, at 3.00 pm Wednesday, 9th December 2020, at 2.00 pm •
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## <u>2021</u>

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- Monday, 25th January 2021, at 2.00 pm Wednesday, 24th February 2021, at 2.00 pm Monday, 22nd March 2021, at 2.00 pm •
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