

Present: Mayor Ros Jones (RJ) (Chair), Councillor Nigel Ball (NB), Dr. Rupert Suckling (RS), Damian Allen (DA), Councillor Jane Cox (JC), Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones (GJ), Councillor Chris McGuinness (CM), Councillor Jane Nightingale (JN), Mel Palin (MP), Paul O'Brien (Po'B), Fiona Campbell (FC) and Jackie Pederson (JP).

Officers: Scott Fawcus (SF), Carys Williams (CW), Laurie Mott (LM) George Torr (Press) Rachel Wright (note taker).

Apologies: Councillor Nuala Fennelly (NF), Shayne Tottie (ST) and Daniel Fell (DF).

	Action
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and introduction – Chair – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Mayor Ros Jones welcomed all those present to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Exclusion of the public and press – Chair – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>The Board agreed that there were no items on the agenda that the public and press should be excluded from.</p>	
<p>3. Public Statements and Questions – Chair Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Mayor Ros Jones noted there were no questions received from members of the public</p>	
<p>4. Declarations of interest – Chair Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th October 2020 – Chair Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes of the Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board held on 20th October 2020, be approved as a correct record.</p>	
<p>6. COVID-19 National Overview – RS</p> <p>RS gave a verbal overview of the significant changes since the last meeting in October.</p> <p>RS explained to the board that Doncaster was placed in the Very High tier COVID restrictions on the 24th October and then under national restrictions on the 5th November, which was in response to the increase of infection rates, demand on hospitals and rising number of deaths. In line with those changes when moving into Very High restrictions South Yorkshire authorities saw additional support for contain and businesses. Then when entering national restrictions there was a further extension of the furlough scheme.</p> <p>RS summarised significant announcements since the previous meeting one related to foreign travel back into the UK from Denmark and there being a national alert on COVID being found in mink.</p> <p>The next announcement was on mass testing, RS explained Doncaster was one of 67 areas that would have access to lateral flow testing where people carry out a supervised test and get a result within 20-30 minutes. Work with the Government would begin to understand the best ways of using those tests and eligibility.</p> <p>RS highlighted the potential for a vaccination for COVID, as one vaccine being tested had completed a positive phase three trial, the NHS therefore had begun preparations to carry out mass vaccinations. RS informed the board that as the NHS system would be under pressure the onus would be on the council to communicate with the public.</p> <p>DA emphasised the scale of the challenge to board members that mass testing and mass vaccination would bring, and added that there would be enormous amounts of pressure on the system, that is already dealing with additional work, whilst still seeing high levels of community transmission.</p> <p>RESOLVED;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. 	

7. What the data is telling us - LM

LM gave a verbal update on what we know currently using various data streams. LM highlighted headline figures to the board, so far there had been 9506 confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in Doncaster since March, with a rapid increase of cases throughout October. A slightly fewer number of cases were recorded in the first week of November. The seven-day rate per 100,000 peaked at the end of October whilst this had started to fall in the last two weeks it remained very high. LM explained that the 7 day rate in those aged 65+ was now being monitored and that it peaked at the same time as the all age rate, but that the rate in the over 65's was falling more sharply. LM drew the board's attention to the hotspot areas of Bentley, Old and New Rossington and Edlington where there were high levels of cases, but informed members that cases in those areas appeared to be declining, the rates in Hyde Park were building however and that area was starting to cause concern. The board were advised that Doncaster's positivity rate was falling but still well above the 5% threshold. LM reported there were 175 live incidents being monitored, 27 new incidents in the last week, with 29 potential outbreaks. LM updated the board on the current situation in hospital settings, currently 202 beds were occupied with patients with COVID-19. The number of acquired cases in the community was 70% and rising, with the number of cases acquired in hospital decreasing over the last week. Bed occupancy rate was at 90%, which was high for this time of year. 700 staff were not in work, and of those 400 were COVID related. LM informed members there had been 412 COVID related deaths, 113 had recorded over the last 3 weeks.

RS explained that the figures indicated there was still widespread community transmission that would feed through to hospitals over the coming weeks and whilst it was good news numbers weren't rising we couldn't be complacent.

JP added that the situation was challenging across the Doncaster trusts, the difference being during this national lockdown that elective services continued, previously they were paused during the first wave, this added acute pressure across the system. JP also wanted members to note the importance of the public taking up the offer of flu vaccinations this winter.

RESOLVED;

- That the presentation be noted.

8. COVID Health Protection Board Risks - RS

RS presented the Doncaster COVID Control Board Threat and Risk Assessment report.

RS explained that fewer risks were being managed by the COVID Control Board than at previous meetings because of the re-establishment of the Tactical Coordination Group and Team Doncaster Gold Group.

The high risks still being monitored by COVID Control Board were the management of outbreaks in high-risk settings, whilst they had a good grip on outbreaks it was felt they should still look to do more. With agreement with Unions and Headteacher's a school task group was established to support schools be even more effective at keeping open education settings.

RS described another risk was testing and contact tracing, and stated that we now had additional testing capacity in Doncaster, the challenge was to make sure it knits together with local contact tracing. Therefore a timeline to support NHS test and trace was produced and local contact tracing would take over for those people NHS test and trace weren't able to meet. RS commented that this risk was likely to reduce, as work was carried out with the team to free up capacity to do approximately 1000 contact tracing calls a week.

RS noted hospitals were of high risk because of direct impact of looking after people with COVID and keeping other services running. Also RS mentioned the welfare of vulnerable people, and added that contact would be made with those identified.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.

9. Minutes of the Control Board 21st October, 2020 – RS

RS updated the board on the last meeting of the COVID Control Board explaining that the majority of the meeting was taken up with the number of incidents that were being managed and the move into the new tier 3 restrictions.

RS highlighted the challenge of compliance as a number of issues were raised, environmental health colleagues had been assessing whether businesses were operating within the guidance. RS also reminded the board that the guidance for this lockdown was different to the first, and that along with the police an educate and engage approach was being taken in the first instance with enforcement used if necessary.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.

10. Dates and Times of future meetings

2021

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