

Present: Councillor Nigel Ball (NB), Dr. Rupert Suckling (RS), Damian Allen (DA), Councillor Jane Cox (JC), Councillor Nuala Fennelly (NF), Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones (GJ), Councillor Chris McGuinness (CM), Councillor Jane Nightingale (JN), Mel Palin (MP), Paul O'Brien (Po'B), Dolly Agoro (DAG) Fiona Campbell (FC)

Officers: Scott Fawcus (SF), Carys Williams (CW), Vicor Joseph (VJ), Natasha Mercier (NM), Laurie Mott (LM) Rachel Wright (note taker).

Apologies: Mayor Ros Jones (RJ) (Chair), Shayne Tottie (ST) and Daniel Fell (DF) Jackie Pederson (JP).

	Action
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and introduction – Councillor Nigel Ball</p> <p>Councillor Nigel Ball welcomed all those present to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Exclusion of the public and press – Councillor Nigel Ball</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 – Councillor Nigel Ball</p> <p>Councillor Ball noted a question received from Mr. Brown who was invited to read his question. A detailed written response had been provided to Mr. Brown. Dr. Rupert Suckling highlighted elements of the response during the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Brown asked the following supplementary question;</p> <p>“Is the statement that I have received an equality, diversity and inclusion statement, was this been ratified by Team Doncaster, and what is the evaluation process for this?”</p> <p>RS informed Mr Brown that the Inclusion and Fairness Forum were putting together resources with partners, and that part of the conditions of resources would be evaluation, which would be shared. However the focus of this board is COVID-19 and there are other routes to do that. RS went on to advise that the statement was put together through Team Doncaster partnership, and the Inclusions and Fairness Forum were supported to consult on the statement. It was RS understanding that there was a limited response. DAG informed the board that there was a 6 weeks consultation period and Mr Brown was contacted during that time but he did not respond. DA suggested that the lack of response from the public should be looked at.</p>	
<p>4. Declarations of interest – Councillor Nigel Ball</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th November 2020 – Councillor Nigel Ball</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes of the Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board held on 11th November 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 November.</p> <p>RS stated that following the previous meeting Doncaster continued under national lockdown measures until the 2nd December, when it entered Tier 3 restrictions. Across the country many areas saw a reduction in the number of cases. However more recently some new places were seeing significant increases particularly the South East and London, and whilst the north initially saw a reduction in positive cases the numbers of new cases had plateaued. RS continued that there would be a review of the tier restrictions on the 16th December, and an announcement made later that week, he reminded the board the tier system was under review fortnightly.</p>	

RS informed the board there had been a national update for arrangements for Christmas, 23rd - 27th December, allowing people to bubble with two other households.
RS concluded that the first vaccinations were to happen nationally, with the expectation of more information in the coming days.

RESOLVED;

- That the presentation be noted.

7. What the data is telling us - LM

LM gave a verbal update on what we know locally using various data streams.

LM began by noting the 7-day rate in Doncaster had increased from the day before, and that the 7-day rate for other towns in South Yorkshire were lower than in Doncaster. The positivity rate in Doncaster had fallen consistently during November.

LM explained that to try to understand the uptick in cases, hotspot areas were identified as Armthorpe, Warmsworth/Balby, New Edlington, and Conisbrough. Other communities raising concern were Bessacarr and Hatfield. LM reported to Members the preliminary insight into the data in each of the areas identified.

LM advised the number of incidents and outbreaks had been falling in Doncaster but more recently stabilised. This was principally driven by cases in care settings, businesses, early-years settings and primary schools.

LM described the situation in Hospitals, with 135 people receiving active care for COVID-19. LM informed Members that during November people were acquiring COVID within hospital, but that was becoming less so and now 84% were community based infections. Bed occupancy remained a concern. LM noted to the board that the length of stay is rising slightly, but staff absences had fallen.

LM advised that town centre footfall measures showed concern as there was a huge increase in numbers of people going into the town centre before lockdown in November.

RS asked if there were any links between the current hotspots and BAME communities, and LM confirmed the current hotspots were not in areas with BAME communities so it was not thought there were unusually high infection rates in the BAME community.

DA noted the footfall figures had shown an increase before tier 3 restrictions were implemented, and explained that colleagues within Compliance and Enforcement were working with Comms to educate the public, send out information and put up signage in the town centre.

Po'B asked when would bed capacity become an issue for the hospital trust. LM and RS explained that bed capacity can alter dependent on many variables like adding critical care provision or stopping providing some other care.

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 highlighted the three changes on the risk register since the last meeting these included the management of outbreaks in high-risk settings reduced from very-high to high as there were sufficient processes and staffing in place to respond to the outbreaks.

Welfare of vulnerable people needing to self-isolate reduced from high to medium, due to the move away from those needing to shield under national restrictions.

Second wave risk increased to high.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.

9. Ethnic Minority Covid Action Plan and Minority Partnership Board Action Plan – November 2020 - RS

RS reminded the board that at a previous meeting they had seen the equality impact assessment for the COVID Control Outbreak plan and a draft action plan. This report was the next iteration of the action plan and a progress update.

RS went on to explain the first 5 actions in the plan all related to the PHE report into the impact of the pandemic on BAME communities.

Other actions captured relate to the existing health needs assessment, with the key development since the last meeting is the establishment of the community link coordinator post funded through the Contain Management Fund with the hope of securing additional resources to bring in extra capacity shortly.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.

10. Minutes of the Control Board 18th November, 2020 – RS

RS explained the minutes of the Control Board give Members a sense of the breadth of the discussion at the Control Board, including updating the Control Plan. RS advised that an updated COVID Control Plan would be tabled at a future meeting, and it would include the change in tier system, actions to embed equalities, an updated planning grid, and testing and vaccinations programme.

RS added that testing capacity and availability would increase, and that discussions with the Government were ongoing for an additional 3 testing sites. RS also noted Doncaster was invited to have access to lateral flow testing and are currently looking at the process.

DA asked if the scope of the vaccination programme and reporting the progress would be presented to this board. RS advised that the vaccination programme was not in the remit of the Control Board as it is led by the NHS. However in terms of the COVID Control Plan, which includes all preventative actions it should be reported to this board and would ask JP to provide an update at future meetings.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted
- An updated COVID Control Plan be tabled at a future meeting.
- An update on the progress of the vaccination programme be provided at future meetings.

RS
RS/JP