

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2021

A MEETING of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD was held by MICROSOFT TEAMS - VIRTUAL MEETING on THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2021, at 9.00 am.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Rachael Blake

Vice-Chair - Dr David Crichton

Councillor Cynthia Ransome  
Dr Rupert Suckling  
Phil Holmes  
Dan Swaine  
Riana Nelson  
James Thomas

Richard Parker

Lucy Robertshaw  
Cath Witherington  
Louise Robson  
Joanne McDonough

DMBC Elected Member  
Director of Public Health  
Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Director of Economy and Environment  
Director of Learning, Opportunities & Skills,  
Chief Executive, Doncaster Children's  
Services Trust  
Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw  
Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Assistant Director, Darts  
Chief Executive Voluntary Action Doncaster  
Public Health Specialist, Doncaster Council  
Interim Director for Strategy (RDaSH)

Also In Attendance:

Councillor Phil Cole  
Bill Hotchkiss  
Andy Maddox  
Jodie Bridger

Safer, Stronger, Communities  
Business Development Officer  
LDP Programme Manager

22 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that apologies had been received from Councillors Nigel Ball and Nuala Fennelly, and Jackie Pedersen, Mel Palin and Shayne Tottie.

23 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair paid tribute to all the work being done in the borough by all partnership teams. The pressure on the NHS Staff and those working in care homes was immense and it was important to recognise the pressure they were under and ensure that adequate support was given.

24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Councillor Phil Cole was in attendance at the meeting, and asked a question regarding the vaccination programme in Doncaster and how it was being rolled out. There were a number of issues he wished to have answered in regard to this, but as this was all to be covered under the next agenda item, Councillor Cole was happy for his queries to be covered at this

point in the agenda, where he would be given the opportunity to ask any further questions if he desired.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Well Being Board held on 12th November, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

27 DIRECT IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Dr Rupert Suckling provided an update to the Board with regard to how Doncaster was currently faring in the face of Covid-19, and the direct impacts it was having on the Borough.

It was reported that currently in Doncaster, whilst they had risen to around 350 per 100,000 since the Christmas period when at that time, figures had hovered around the 200 mark, they were still positive when looked at comparatively with the rest of the country. They were much lower than in many areas and were currently considerably lower than in October and November when Doncaster's levels reached their peak. However, despite this, the numbers were still higher now than in the first peak in Spring 2020.

The pandemic was continuing to have a massive effect on the Borough, its residents and those working to assist the issues it presented.

The third national lockdown was considerably stricter than the one experienced in November, as this time around, Schools had closed to all children again for the second time aside from the children of critical workers or those who were vulnerable. The majority of people where possible were continuing to work from home, and all non-essential retail, leisure and social businesses had closed again aside from click and collect, and a range of grants and support were granted to those in need.

In terms of the health care system, symptomatic testing was now much more readily available with additional testing sites established. Additionally, asymptomatic testing was being carried out in the workplace for those working in the NHS, Police, School staff and certain areas of Local Government and other areas of the public sector.

Dr Suckling reported that it was expected that rates across the country and also across the Borough would start to stabilise over the next couple of weeks, but despite the steadying numbers there would still be a great amount of pressure on the NHS for a number of weeks as the effects started to show.

Richard Parker, agreed with the information provided by Rupert Suckling and reported that there had been high pressure placed on the hospitals in October and November, with many more acute beds taken with Covid patients than in the first wave, and whilst rates stabilised and discharges were now improving, these were considerably slower than in April. It was hoped that the national measures currently in place would work well to reduce numbers and there was optimism that Communities would again pull together to get past this time, but it was crucial that people adhered to the restrictions or other added pressure would be placed on the hospitals. There had been an increased demand for oxygen, which was proving challenging as well as the pressure on staffing levels with rising sickness.

It was reported that there was an enhanced infection control scheme in hospital in order to prevent unnecessary transmissions. This had resulted in a loss of beds across the hospital,

which also had a knock on effect on the non-Covid activity undertaken. Focus was still being placed on Priority 1 and Priority 2 patients to ensure that those needing urgent care were receiving it. This did however mean that many people waiting for planned, non-urgent procedures were now waiting much longer.

The Vaccination programme was now well underway in Doncaster and all the partnership bodies were working well alongside each other to roll them out to the people in the top groups identified by the Government. It was a challenging programme, and they were currently in as good a position as could be hoped for with between 500 and 600 people a day being vaccinated. The Board were assured that no vaccines were wasted and in the event that people were unable to make their appointments, there was a list of NHS staff who could be contacted at short notice to attend.

Dr David Crichton added to the updates provided by Dr Suckling and Richard Parker and the information given with regard to the roll out of vaccines across Doncaster. Members noted that the main issue that would be faced locally was the availability of vaccines as there was a finite supply. The Primary Care Network (PCN) was in charge of the vaccination programme and they were managing it centrally, not from the GP Surgeries, with a number of hubs set up across the borough. In Phase 1 of the programme, the Pfizer Vaccine was initially the only vaccine available and had been administered from one of the main hubs at Rutland House, where it could be stored at the correct temperatures, but this brought added pressure in that it also had to be used within 3 days. However in relation to the concerns raised by Councillor Cole, assurance was again given that no vaccines were wasted and every single drop was used up. However, due to the storage requirements of the Pfizer Vaccine, this would not be moved into the wider community and be administered in Chemists or similar. However, now the 'Oxford' Vaccine was being rolled out, this would be a positive move and would help with the programme.

It was reported that many volunteers had come forward to assist with the drive, and Dr Crichton paid tribute to all of those involved, including the provision of venues, people to marshal and many other volunteers assisting with various processes, and those helping the elderly and vulnerable to access the services. It was a huge effort with thanks extended to everyone and it was hoped that by the 22nd January 2021, all of the over 80s who could make it to a vaccination hub would have received the first dose of the vaccination.

Overall, it was accepted that the programme was doing well, and Doncaster was on course to ensure all its vulnerable residents, which was approximately half the population of the Borough would be vaccinated by the middle of February 2021.

The updates given by Dr Suckling, Richard Parker and Dr Crichton covered the questions raised by Councillor Cole at the earlier point on the agenda, and he thanked Officers for their time. He was pleased to see things were progressing well and commented that the issue of availability and supply appeared to be the biggest issue faced, which hopefully would be overcome in the coming weeks.

The Board was updated on a number of other issues relating to the wider impact as a result of Covid-19, which included the following points:-

- The mental health of many individuals was becoming more of a problem as a result of ongoing restrictions which was putting pressure on mental health services;
- Added pressure on community nursing services with more patients requiring support in the community
- Demand for support from drug and alcohol services was rising which was a knock on effect of mental health problems;
- Schools were open to those requiring support, with careful management of numbers to ensure that transmission was managed as much as possible;
- Home visits for families and children in need of support were continuing and support to communities was ongoing.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input into the update and the wealth of information provided. It was an extremely difficult period for everyone across the borough regardless of their situations, and the Board paid tribute to the hard work, resilience and strength of everyone.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update given in relation to the Direct Impacts of Covid-19.

## 28 GET DONCASTER MOVING UPDATE

Andy Maddox, Business Development Officer, and Jodie Bridger, LDP Programme Manager for the Get Doncaster Moving Programme provided a presentation to the Board.

The Strategy had first been introduced in 2016, with emphasis placed on developing a healthier population, and the intention was to seek support from the Health and Well Being Board moving forward in an endeavour to move this further forward, and create a culture change to encourage a healthy way of living for all and improve the health and well-being of the population.

It was reported that the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic had been detrimental to the levels of physical activity taken as a whole, with 7% less movement carried out overall. This was massive, as inactivity could lead to an increase in health and mobility problems and was at a huge cost to the economy, with more stress placed on health services as a result.

The main principle that the Get Moving Strategy aimed to communicate, was the health benefits it would give to people in all areas of society, of any age, any background. Sport of any description brought huge benefits to a person's life, and to their well-being.

Focus needed to be placed on targeting communities and those individuals most in need of support, and the strategy was looking at families with young children, people living in the most deprived areas, and people facing mobility issues. Many things made people inactive and it was a challenge to promote change and encourage new ways of living.

However, it was acknowledged that whilst the ideas were in place, without the systems to support the strategy, no change would take place. The aim of the strategy, officers informed the Board was now to work with the Health and Well Being Board to unlock behaviours and influence those to bring about change.

Members discussed the ideas presented to them and it was acknowledged that it was important that all partners across Team Doncaster worked together to unlock behaviours and influence discussions.

Members welcomed the update from Officers, and all members of the Board were in agreement with regard to the benefits of sport and activity and a number of ideas were put forward in terms of how the Board could support this moving forward:-

- Support for Community Groups to enable them to operate in church or community halls providing dance or exercise;
- Make use of any funding streams to support such groups as detailed above;
- Talk to the Parish Councils and local communities to see what facilities they wanted or felt would be useful;
- Help local sports clubs and groups ensure their facilities were covered secure to enable them to operate successfully when restrictions were lifted;
- All areas needed to work together in order that everyone was reading from the same page, and it was proposed that the strategy was taken to Directors for their consideration;

Members thanks officers for their presentation, and a lot of useful information had been provided which enabled a strong foundation on which they could build. The Chair thanked Officers for their time, and requested that a further update be provided in six months' time to see what progress had been made and what more could be done.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

29     DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

This item was withdrawn from the Agenda, and would be brought for consideration at the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board following final approval.

30     DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

This item was withdrawn from the Agenda, and would be brought for consideration at the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board following final approval.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_