

Present: Mayor Ros Jones (RJ) (Chair), Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones (GJ), Councillor Nigel Ball (NB), Councillor Jane Cox (JC), Councillor Mark Houlbrook (MH), Councillor Jane Nightingale (JN), Councillor Andy Pickering (AP) Damian Allen (DA), Dr. Rupert Suckling (RS), Chief Superintendent Melanie Palin (MP), Paul O'Brien (Po'B), Fiona Campbell (FC), Anthony Fitzgerald (AF)

Officers: Jon Gleek (JG), Robert Gibbon (RG), Natasha Mercier (NM), Rachel Wright (note taker).

Apologies: Jackie Pederson (JP), Daniel Fell (DF)

	Action
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and introduction – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Mayor Ros Jones welcomed all those present to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Exclusion of the public and press – 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 – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Mayor Ros Jones noted no questions received from members of the public.</p>	
<p>4. Declarations of interest – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
<p>5. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April 2021 – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Minutes of the Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board held on 28th April 2021, approved.</p>	
<p>6. COVID-19 National Overview – RS</p> <p>RS provided a verbal update on the significant changes nationally since the board last met. He explained that globally the pandemic had moved in a different direction. During April and early May there were more cases recorded daily, although that had started to fall again, it was still more than at any time before. RS reminded the board that the UK was showing continued improvement when we met in April and at that time were preparing for the Prime Minister to announce step 3 of the roadmap, which the country moved to in May. Since then RS noted that the local elections ran successfully and we had not seen any cases as a result.</p> <p>RS shared that the rollout of the vaccination programme continued with 30-31 year olds invited, and added that for the Indian variant of concern 2 doses of vaccine offered sufficient protection. He stated some areas of the UK had unfortunately seen large numbers of cases due to a variant of concern, the closest being in Kirklees and Sheffield.</p> <p>There had been ongoing debate on International travel and quarantine, and there was a delay in the publication into the national review on social distancing.</p> <p>RS stated it was too early to see the impact of step 3, but he would expect to see the data before moving into step 4.</p> <p>RS informed Members that the national position in terms of the roadmap would expire on the 21st June and there was a lack of national strategy post that time, particularly around what will happen around testing, tracing and self-isolation. The furlough scheme would expire in September and therefore there was concern about evictions for people behind on their rent.</p> <p>He concluded that the news around the overall pandemic responses was positive and the number of cases and impacts, but there were broader economic issues to consider towards the summer.</p> <p>RESOLVED;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. 	

7. What the data is telling us - JG

JG gave a verbal strategic overview of what the data is telling us in Doncaster. He presented the infection and direct impacts focus to the board and reminded Members that we are currently in step 3 of the roadmap that had 4 Government data driven tests that run alongside them.

JG also presented Doncaster's pandemic curve highlighting the peaks in cases and showed that since January there has been a long slow decline in cases.

For the period 14-20th May, JG reported cases per 100,000 were 39.1, slightly higher than county average, and higher than our closest towns and cities in the area, and the positivity rate remained low.

JG showed the infection rates by age and highlighted the 0-19 and 20-39 age groups as they had fluctuated more and had the most number of cases. These were slowly coming down and the oldest age groups reporting very low rates.

Hospital admissions had declined to very small numbers and deaths registered that related to Covid were very low.

JG reported the impact on the wider society noting footfall in the town centre since January, and the numbers using the roads in Doncaster, which were back to pre-Covid figures.

Claimant count for out of work benefits continued to be high, but had levelled, with the 16 to 24 age group hardest hit and this reflected the national picture.

AF updated Members on the vaccination programme summarising where it was up to and how it would move forward. He reminded the Board of the location of the vaccination hubs, and they were informed of the amount of 1st and 2nd doses given, showing the programme continued at pace.

AF presented hospitalisation figures, which showed the impact of the vaccine. He reported those that tested positive after vaccination were low, and of those that went on to be hospitalised even lower.

It was noted by AF that there was a variation in vaccine take up across the borough, with the highest uptake on the outskirts and lowest in the town centre, this reflected the national picture, and highlighted where further efforts would be needed to increase uptake. There was also some variation reported across ethnicity groups and uptake of vaccine, and therefore AF explained significant work was ongoing to get into those communities, with successful pop up clinics at the mosque most recently and Members were provided with the details of future planned pop up clinics.

AF informed Members they were constantly revisiting those cohorts most at risk, with a push on 2nd doses being brought forward.

He concluded with the risks to the programme being vaccine supply, booster – link any future vaccination to winter flu and pressure on primary care. Overall AF stated the plan was to meet the 31st July deadline of every eligible adult receiving a 1st dose of vaccine.

POB – questioned what additional measures could be used to halt the younger age group transmitting Covid between themselves, their families and then out into their wider communities.

RS advised we have local power to introduce face coverings if there was an outbreak in school, but advised we could not enforce this sanction without an outbreak. He would also be writing to schools to ask to review risk assessments as we still see a number of children with Covid or having to self-isolate. Members were informed of three schools that took part in daily contact tracing trials and this may be rolled out further if successful.

POB felt that this was a reactive response and not proactive and preventative so staff in schools would still be at risk.

RESOLVED;

- That the presentation be noted.

8. Community Connectors and Black and Ethnic Minorities COVID update – NM

NM presented to the board information on the Community Connectors project and noted the challenges Covid-19 had brought to communities, including those in poverty, BAME, and people with disabilities. NM explained that during the Covid period they built new partnerships to help to have a better understanding of how we can strengthen our response and build for the future.

<p>It was added by NM that for the underserved communities 4 new positions were created to embark on a programme of engagement for Covid response and beyond. NM described work in collaboration with the CCG on the pop up vaccination clinics and mentioned an itinerary of 15 clinics scheduled at venues in areas where take up of vaccine was low.</p> <p>NM noted that data, testing and vaccination information was available and had improved recently due to contact tracing being provided locally.</p> <p>NM also described some culturally competent Covid-19 education and prevention campaigns including working with public relations agency Side Kick who have assisted in putting together a BAME communications plan with a BAME leaflet distributed in a number of languages across the borough. An AdVan promotion will take place and run stories of encouragement from ethnic community leaders, targeting areas where take up is low. Also stories from BAME community leaders will be posted on the Champion's page on Doncaster Council website as well as introductions to the communities connectors.</p> <p>NM explained that they were working with Trading Standards team, to support BAME owned businesses to be Covid compliant.</p> <p>NM concluded that work would progress with silver meetings around equality impact assessment, and with CCG and partners around ways to tackle health inequalities.</p> <p>RS reminded board Members that in March there were a number of questions about what we were doing to support BAME communities during the Covid period. As a result it was worth acknowledging the additional work and support, and going forward they will work on the longer impacts of Covid-19, and be a great advantage to support the underserved communities. He thanked to Natasha, the Board and Mayor for investing in this project.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. 	
<p>9. Updated COVID-19 Strategy – RS</p> <p>RS explained that the Covid Control Board writes and maintains the Covid-19 Strategy and the latest public facing version this will be visible on the website and since this Board last saw it changes were made to - Section 10 - Variants of concern, and Section 12 - Particularly surge testing capacity. Members were reminded of the increase of variants, and that we were notified of 2 variants of concern but that no additional action was needed. Then we were informed of 2 other groups of variants, totalling almost 10 cases, linked to North West and Lincolnshire variants, where we deployed the strategy, and followed up with contact tracing.</p> <p>RS concluded that if agreed this version would be uploaded on the Council website.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. • That the updated version of the Covid-19 Strategy be approved 	RS
<p>10. COVID-19 Health Protection Board Risks – RS</p> <p>RS stated there were two high risk area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing – remains high due to surge testing and that there is no government strategy for testing post June. The Board were reminded we applied to do large scale testing and then nationally we moved to universal testing where the public can phone or order online. Shortly we would look to review and close Hexthorpe, Conisbrough and Stainforth testing sites by the end of June. Mary Woollett centre would be maintained and allow walk-ups, along with North Bridge site as it was well used by the workforce. • Management of Outbreaks in High-Risk Settings – this remained high due to outbreaks in schools and the school community, and work place outbreaks being unpredictable. <p>RS also highlighted to Members that work with the Health and Safety Executive was underway to enable them to carry out spot checks on Doncaster work places, and that they recently visited the Civic Office that passed an inspection.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. 	

11. Minutes of the Covid Control Board Meeting held on 12th May, 2021 – RS

RS highlighted the TCG update within the minutes that talks about the update to the local resilience forum and stated that the TCG would change focus as we move into step 4 of the roadmap, with a greater focus on recovery, the economy and impact on jobs.

RS also wished to note that this board would continue to meet monthly over the summer.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.