

Present: Mayor Ros Jones (RJ) (Chair), Councillor Nigel Ball (NB), Councillor Jane Cox (JC), Councillor Jane Nightingale (JN), Damian Allen (DA), Dr. Rupert Suckling (RS).

Officers: Laurie Mott (LM), Carys Williams (CW), Hayley Waller (HW), Rachel Wright (note taker).

Apologies: Councillor Mark Houlbrook (MH), Paul O'Brien (Po'B), Chief Superintendent Ian Proffitt (IP) Jackie Pederson (JP), Fiona Campbell (FC).

| | 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 15th November 2021 – Mayor Ros Jones</p> <p>Minutes of the Doncaster COVID-19 Oversight Board held on 15th November 2021, approved.</p> | |
| <p>6. COVID-19 National Overview – RS</p> <p>RS began by reminding the board that they last met in November and since then nationally there was a new variant of Covid identified named Omicron and Plan B measures were introduced by central Government. This resulted in booster jabs for many people brought forward and changes to the isolation guidance, where by a positive case could leave isolation if they test negative on days 5 and 6.</p> <p>RS also noted changes to foreign travel, with people returning to the country no longer required to test.</p> <p>It was reported there had been large spike in cases due to the Omicron variant, however the number of hospitalisations had remained low. This led to the removal of Plan B measures and the country reverted back to living under Plan A measures, notably this meant the removal of face coverings in a number of settings and the removal of Covid passes.</p> <p>RS advised that even though Plan A measures were in place, it did not mean that Covid was over. Health and Social care settings remained very busy, and it was suggested it would take some time for those services to get back to normal.</p> <p>The board noted that assisted testing centres may close in March, so the authority were looking at plans for the removal of testing centres in the area.</p> <p>Nationally the country was in a better place than the same time the previous year, with a move towards the end of the pandemic.</p> <p>RESOLVED;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the presentation be noted. | |
| <p>7. What the data is telling us – Laurie Mott (LM)</p> <p>LM provided a strategic overview of what the data is telling us both locally and nationally. LM presented to the board a map of the UK highlighting the extremely high numbers of cases reported across the country upto the 5th January, and compared those to the rates reported upto</p> | |

the 19th January, which showed a rapid decline in cases.

LM noted that Peterborough and an area in Northern Ireland were areas to watch, as they had seen an increase in cases recently, rather than following the decreasing trend across the UK. LM did however highlight that the England case rate had seen an uptick in the number of cases 3 times over the previous 4 days.

The board were assured that Doncaster's case rates peaked over Christmas and New Year but were declining, and this was the same for other towns in South Yorkshire. Locally most recently the rate at which cases were falling was not as quick as previously seen, numbers were beginning to flatten, and this was reflected in the 60+ age range.

The positivity rate of those people in Doncaster testing positive was also reported as declining, and Doncaster's ranking nationally of local authority areas and numbers of reported cases was improving.

LM reported to the board that when breaking down cases by age range it showed that cases in the 0-19 age range were beginning to climb, predominantly in primary and secondary aged children. It was highlighted that women aged 20-39 saw the highest case rate, possibly as they were more exposed due to working environments or that they test more than other groups.

A breakdown by ethnicity was provided and highlighted a slight increase in cases in minority ethnic groups.

Doncaster's hotspots were noted as Intake and Hexthorpe, with Hexthorpe also having the lowest uptake of vaccinations.

LM reported that there were 112 people in Doncaster's hospitals, with only 1 person in ITU. The numbers of people being actively treated for Covid were similar to last year but the numbers in ITU were significantly improved compared to 12 months ago. More than half of those in hospital were noted as being above the age of 80. There were also fewer reported deaths compared to last year.

RESOLVED;

- That the presentation be noted.

8. Updated COVID Control Plan – RS

RS advised the board that the Covid Control plan had been updated in accordance with national guidance throughout the pandemic and the changes made most recently were in relation to Plan B and changes in isolation guidance.

RS suggested that the next set of guidance would hopefully see the plan refreshed for a final time and brought to this board in March. The Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board should then look to stand down at that meeting and be integrated into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED;

- That the presentation be noted.

9. Covid Health Protection Board Risks – RS

RS highlighted changes to the report since the previous meeting, and the board noted that Testing was deemed Very High Risk due to access to testing, as many people had problems with obtaining lateral flow tests. The supply of tests had been improved more recently.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.

10. Minutes of the Covid Control Board meeting held on 5th January, 2021

RS advised that the minutes reflected the information LM provided to the board earlier in the meeting. It was also highlighted that the Daily Incident Management Team were managing more settings than at any other time during the pandemic with a third of their workload being businesses from around the area, but also increased cases in schools. Members were assured

the authority was working with education colleagues to keep schools open, but it remained a challenge.

The Chair noted that there were plans for a vaccination pop up site at the college, and questioned whether this had taken place. RS advised that had taken place along with other locations being considered for vaccination sites such as the mosque and Amazon site. If those were successful the model may be used at other large sites in Doncaster.

RESOLVED:

- That the presentation be noted.