



Nottinghamshire County COVID-19 Outbreak Control Engagement Board Notes and actions

Meeting date: Monday 09 November 2020 (1.30pm)

Location: This meeting was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Members:

Councillor Kay Cutts MBE	Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Tony Harper	Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
Councillor John Knight	Chairman of the COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery & Renewal Committee
Councillor Kevin Rostance	Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board
Anthony May	Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council
Jonathan Gribbin	Director of Public Health at Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Simon Greaves	Leader of Bassetlaw District Council
Mayor Andy Abrahams	Executive Mayor of Mansfield District Council
Kate Meynell	Assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police
Dr Andy Haynes	Managing Director of Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System
Idris Griffiths	Chief Officer of NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
Luke Barrett	Group Manager: Communications & Marketing, Nottinghamshire County Council

Other participants:

Elizabeth Winter	Graduate Management Trainee, Nottinghamshire County Council
James Silverward	Executive Officer Leader's Office
Melanie Brooks	Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Public Health
John Wilcox	Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager
Mark Walker	Group Manager Trading Standards

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor Kay Cutts welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the Nottinghamshire County COVID-19 Outbreak Control Engagement Board.

Apologies were received from Councillor Reg Adair of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Item 2. Notes and actions of the previous meeting

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
1.	The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.		

Item 3. COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire: situation update and the period ahead

Jonathan Gribbin provided a summary of the latest situation in Nottinghamshire. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
2.	Across Nottinghamshire rates of COVID-19 remain high, considering both the all age rate and the rate of cases in over 60s. Rates in over 60s were rising steeply from the middle to the end of October.		
3.	Pressures in the healthcare system are continuing to be seen. Inpatient bed numbers across Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust and Notts Healthcare are at 408. A slight decrease has been seen in the number of people occupying beds in Nottingham University Hospital Trust.		
4.	Cllr Simon Greaves queried what expectations are with regards to tiered arrangements upon exit from national lockdown. Anthony May confirmed that he would be joining national conversations on this matter.		
5.	Mayor Andy Abrahams queried how learning from the first wave was being applied regarding hospital discharge and care homes. Melanie Brooks confirmed that individuals are required to have a COVID-19 test before being admitted to care homes and it is a different pattern of cases being seen, which appears to be related to community contact. Idris Griffiths confirmed that extensive support is being put in to care homes in terms of advice and guidance and Andy Haynes advised that extra capacity has been opened up in the NHS to support those coming out of hospital.		

Item 4. Locally enhanced contact tracing

John Wilcox provided an update on work undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council to develop locally enhanced contact tracing. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
6.	There is a national policy drive to improve the linkage of the national system with local Public Health teams. One aspect of this involves local authorities becoming part of Tier 2 by undertaking 'locally enhanced contact tracing' to help reach more people who have tested positive.		

7.	Nottinghamshire County Council were invited to participate in locally enhanced contact tracing in August 2020. The process has been set up in 3 weeks by the local authority, working across the Customer Service Centre, Performance Intelligence and Policy and Public Health. The process has been live since 01 October 2020.		
8.	The Customer Service Centre (CSC) is providing the service on top of normal operational work. The CSC attempts to contact COVID-19 positive individuals that the national NHS Test and Trace Service has been unable to reach after 48 hours, in order to provide advice and support with self-isolation and identify contacts.		
9.	Some challenges have been experienced within the first month of operation, which included a higher number of cases per day being transferred by the national service than expected based on intelligence from Public Health England (PHE).		
10.	There is an intention to continue to build on the current local contact tracing success rate through increasing the scale and intensity of the contact tracing and engaging with district / borough councils to support with the process. A contact tracing management system is also in development with Nottinghamshire County Council IT.		
11.	Cllr Simon Greaves queried the additional value added by the local authority calling individuals that have been called by the national system and whether face to face visits should be considered earlier in the process. John Wilcox confirmed that locally a more intensive call strategy is being used and that learning from other areas is being applied to strengthen the process. There is also value added in terms of the knowledge of local call operators and their ability to signpost to additional support where required.		
12.	Mayor Andy Abrahams raised that as well as resource being required to support face to face visits as part of the locally enhanced contact tracing process, there is a need to consider training requirements. Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that this is being considered and that Nottinghamshire County Council are working closely with district / borough councils to ensure different functions of the outbreak response can be supported effectively.		

Item 5. Care home visiting

Melanie Brooks summarised work undertaken in relation to visiting policies within Nottinghamshire care homes. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
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13.	The lack of visiting to care homes has been a concern both nationally and locally and new Government guidance regarding Visiting care homes during COVID-19 has now been released, which allows a more balanced approach with regards to legislation and rights and entitlements of individuals.		
14.	The new guidance provides a national framework that Nottinghamshire County Council can build on locally and the local authority is looking to ensure that there is consistency across the region and to ensure better use of the Infection Control Grant to support COVID-19 secure visiting.		
15.	Mayor Andy Abrahams queried the practicality of implementing the new national guidance and whether issues around care home visiting link to test and trace. Melanie Brooks emphasised that in Nottinghamshire, robust whole care home testing is in place and that the key considerations relate to COVID-19 security and enabling the sound use of PPE, which is where the Infection Prevention Control Grant will be able to support.		

Item 6. Local Authority enforcement

Mark Walker provided an overview of local authority enforcement related actions. This included an update on Directions issued under The Health Protection (No. 3) Regulations 2020. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
16.	The Government have introduced a range of legislation designed to combat the spread of COVID-19, much of which places requirements on businesses. The primary responsibility to enforce legislation regarding business premises has been placed on the County Council Trading Standards and district / borough council Environmental Health Services.		
17.	This joint responsibility has required Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams to work closely together to coordinate activity. This has taken place through the LRF Local Authority Cell and there are plans to put in place meetings in each district which will support wider coordination of enforcement with Police.		
18.	The volume of enforcement and regulatory activity undertaken across the districts has impacted business as usual activities and there is significant work taking place around prioritisation to ensure the most effective use of resource.		

19.	To date, four Directions have been issued by Nottinghamshire County Council under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) regulations 2020 to temporarily close 3 premises. A second Direction was issued to a premises in Broxtowe and a Direction remains in place for a premises in Ashfield , as both businesses continue to pose a serious and imminent threat to Public Health. The closures will continue to be reviewed every 7 days. The Direction to Close issued to a premises in West Bridgford has been lifted.		
20.	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 have been developed to cover the period of national lockdown and set out businesses that are not permitted to open during this time. Trading Standards and Environmental Health are working together to ensure these regulations are followed, primarily through advice to businesses.		
21.	Anthony May acknowledged the significant partnership work undertaken across Nottinghamshire's public services, including licencing, Police, Community Protection Officers and Public Health, as well as Trading Standards and Environmental Health Teams and thanked those involved.		

Item 7. Nottinghamshire Police enforcement

ACC Kate Meynell provided a summary of the enforcement plan for Nottinghamshire Police and how additional COVID-19 funding would be utilised for this purpose. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
22.	The Police response is based on the four E's, Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. The primary focus has been on the first three E's, but there has been an increasing need to move to enforcement.		
23.	Key challenges for the Police have included the movement at pace between tiers and into national lockdown and enforcing the associated regulations, responding to the different behaviours and activities occurring as a result.		
24.	A significant element of the Police enforcement plan has been business continuity. There has been an increase in the number of staff affected by COVID-19 and those needing to self-isolate and therefore funding is being utilised to support this. Police are also responsible for the enforcement of self-isolation if people are not compliant and this is being undertaken through Neighbourhood Policing Teams.		
25.	Police have consistently needed to respond to parties and this has been a key challenge that has led to the increased issuing of Penalty Notices. Events are another key area of focus for the Police and additional resource is required for informal events such as Halloween.		

26.	Police are looking to bolster their street triage service, which supports people that find themselves in mental health crisis, to prevent issues escalating.		
27.	A plan around additional resources is in place to allow flexibility as required. Cllr Cutts queried whether ACC Meynell felt that the Police had been able to effectively respond to the challenges highlighted and ACC Meynell confirmed that they are content that the approach taken has been proportionate but will need to be continually reviewed and will evolve.		
28.	Cllr Cutts raised the importance of continued engagement with the universities, in particular when students return in January 2020 and highlighted the use of student buses to limit the use of public transport. ACC Meynell confirmed that a close working relationship with the universities is in place and that the SCG are considering the logistics of the return of students in January. ACC Meynell also confirmed there are now dedicated buses put on for students.		
29.	Anthony May confirmed that guidance from the Department of Education regarding the end of term for universities is expected imminently. Anthony May also highlighted the exemplary relationship between the Police and public sector agencies throughout the pandemic response and thanked ACC Meynell and colleagues.		

Item 8. Arrangements for future meetings

The next meeting is due to take place on Monday 14 December 2020. Members agreed additional meetings can be held if required.