



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

Meeting date: Monday 11 January 2021 (3.00pm)

Location: This meeting was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Members:

Councillor Kay Cutts MBE	Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Reg Adair	Deputy Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council
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
Steven Cooper	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	Public Health and Commissioning Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Richard Butler	Deputising for Councillor Tony Harper (Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee)
Sarah Carter	Executive Incident Director COVID-19 and Executive SRO, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Testing Cell
Roz Howie	Programme Director for COVID-19 Response, City and County

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Tony Harper (Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee) and Councillor John Knight (Chairman of the COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery & Renewal Committee).

Item 2. Notes and actions of the previous meeting

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

Item 3. COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire: situation overview

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.	Rates in Nottinghamshire are currently substantially lower than the England average, but still remain high across the County and have increased over the past couple of weeks. The all age rates across the districts range from 605 per 100,000 in Ashfield to 311 per 100,000 in Bassetlaw. Comparing the most recent 7-days with the previous 7-days, rates are increasing across all Nottinghamshire districts. The current picture in the County is reflective of wide scale community transmission.		
3.	Councillor Greaves queried if rates in the County are expected to continue to increase. Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that rates have a tendency to rise steeply and then plateau and decrease at a slower rate, highlighting that there is a need to curb transmission and bring rates down as rapidly as possible.		
4.	Andy Haynes confirmed that COVID-19 patient bed occupancy is currently set to exceed 600. 10% of these individuals are in intensive care. There has been a need to work closely with local authorities and community colleagues to maintain the flow of hospital discharge. Idris Griffiths provided an update on Bassetlaw, where 15-20% of beds are currently occupied by COVID-19 positive patients and this is increasing. Approximately 5% are in intensive care. It is anticipated that bed occupancy will continue to increase over the coming weeks.		
5.	Councillor Reg Adair queried how the situation in Nottinghamshire compared with the national picture. Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that Nottinghamshire case rates are lower than the England average (England average as of 10 January was 677 per 100,000, compared with the Nottinghamshire average of 450 per 100,000). However, Jonathan Gribbin emphasised the importance of avoiding complacency due to the current pressure on the health and care system, reiterating the importance of breaking the chain of transmission through behaviour.		

6.	Councillor Kay Cutts asked if there is anything additional that could be done differently. Jonathan Gribbin highlighted that although other measures (such as asymptomatic testing) will contribute to the outbreak response, key measures continue to be adhering to social distancing and minimising contacts to reduce transmission and ensuring that vaccinations are delivered to priority groups as quickly as possible.		
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Item 4. COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Sarah Carter provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Nottinghamshire. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
7.	Last week, four vaccination sites were stood up in Nottinghamshire: Ashfield Health Village, Gamston Community Centre, Richard Herrod Leisure Centre and Cripps Medical Centre. The vaccination roving service has also now been stood up and is delivering vaccinations in to care homes, for staff and residents. It is anticipated that the roving service will have completed care home vaccinations by the end of January.		
8.	The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that the priority for the first phase of the vaccination programme is the prevention of mortality and the protection of health and social care staff and systems. The first priority cohort includes care home staff and residents and the second priority cohort includes over 80's and frontline health and care staff. Nationally, it has also been advised that delivery of the first vaccination dose to larger eligible cohorts should be prioritised over delivery of the second vaccination dose.		
9.	To ensure those in vulnerable groups or who are geographically or socially isolated can access community vaccination services as soon as possible, the vaccination programme has made provision for transport for those who meet eligibility criteria. This will be provided by volunteer drivers and taxis and those who need to use the service will be able to request this at the time of booking.		
10.	In relation to booking vaccination appointments, residents are asked to wait to be contacted by the NHS and to continue to observe social distancing and national lockdown restrictions. Once contacted, all the information required to book an appointment will be included in the letter and residents are encouraged to act quickly once the letter has been received. The booking system will prevent those individuals that are not eligible for a vaccination from booking an appointment.		

11.	Idris Griffiths provided an update on the vaccination delivery in Bassetlaw. The delivery model is Primary Care Network (PCN) led and began with Larwood and Bawtry vaccination service on 22 December 2020. Retford and Villages and Newgate Medical Group vaccination services began vaccinations week ending 09 January 2021. The model provides comprehensive coverage for Bassetlaw and although a different approach is being taken, it is aligned with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire programme.		
12.	Councillor Reg Adair asked whether residents will be asked to travel significant distances for their vaccination and Sarah Carter confirmed that the programme is aiming to ensure individuals are asked to attend appointments at their geographically most local site. Sarah Carter will provide an overview of the delivery expectations for vaccinations in Nottinghamshire at the next meeting.	SC	08/02/2021
13.	In response to a query from Mayor Andy Abrahams regarding ensuring residents remain sighted on the progress of the vaccination programme, Sarah Carter highlighted that communication leads across the district and borough, county and city councils have been working together at an Integrated Care System (ICS) level to ensure that relevant local messages are shared.		

Item 5. Asymptomatic testing

Roz Howie and Jonathan Gribbin provided an overview of the rollout of asymptomatic testing in Nottinghamshire. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
14.	A lateral flow device (LFD) is a new technology which enables rapid testing for COVID-19 without the need for laboratory processing. The lateral flow test uses a swab sample taken from the throat and nose and enables a result to be delivered within 20-30 minutes. Jonathan Gribbin highlighted that if properly deployed, lateral flow tests can make an important contribution to the local outbreak response, supplementing other crucial control measures.		
15.	An expression of interest was submitted by Nottinghamshire County Council to the Department of Health and Social Care in December 2020 for the rollout of targeted community testing using lateral flow tests and was subsequently approved in January 2021. Shortly after this, the Secretary of State announced that targeted community testing would be rolled out across all local authorities in England. In addition to community testing, Nottinghamshire County Council intends to support those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access LFD testing.		

16.	There are a number of nationally driven asymptomatic testing initiatives, including the rollout of lateral flow tests to care home staff and usage of lateral flow tests in secondary schools. Learning from national initiatives and learning from neighbouring authorities will continue to be used to inform plans for Nottinghamshire as it emerges.		
17.	The areas that will be targeted for community testing in the first phase of the programme are Ladybrook and Oak Tree and Bellamy in Mansfield and Manton and Sandy Lane in Worksop. These areas were prioritised based on a number of factors, including the potential for the communities in question to benefit significantly from isolation support packages. A further national steer has since been provided to target areas where there are a high proportion of working age residents that are unable to work from home during lockdown.		
18.	Councillor Simon Greaves welcomed the implementation of community testing and highlighted the need to ensure that the availability of sites are effectively communicated through employers and agencies. Roz Howie confirmed that this is due to take place. Councillor Simon Greaves also raised funding allocated to lower tier local authorities to support self-isolation and the potential for additional funding to be required to support the programme at a later stage. Anthony May confirmed that this can be escalated nationally if required.		

Item 6. Contain Outbreak Management Fund

Jonathan Gribbin provided an overview of the allocation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund in Nottinghamshire. During the discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
19.	The Contain Outbreak Management Fund allocated to Nottinghamshire County Council is currently sufficient to support planned outbreak control activities. Members did not raise any further actions in relation to the planned allocation of the fund.		

Item 7. Any other business

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
20.	Jonathan Gribbin highlighted that a summary of a Cabinet Office visit to Nottingham City in November 2020 has been received and would be shared with Nottinghamshire County COVID-19 Outbreak Control Engagement Board Members.	LW	08/02/2021

Item 8. Arrangements for future meetings

The next meeting will take place on Monday 08 February 2021 and it was agreed the next meeting would be moved to an earlier time (3pm). Members agreed additional meetings can be held if required.