



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

Meeting date: Monday 08 February 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 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
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 Commissioning Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council
James Silverward	Leaders Office, Nottinghamshire County Council
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 ninth meeting of the Nottinghamshire County COVID-19 Outbreak Control Engagement Board.

Item 2. Notes and actions of the previous meeting

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
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1.	The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.		
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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.	Reductions in COVID-19 rates in the East Midlands have been shallower than other areas in the Country in recent weeks and the picture in Nottinghamshire is reflective of this. Considering Nottinghamshire County specifically, reductions are still being seen, but there appears to be a plateauing of rates in some areas. The all age rates across the districts range from 349 per 100,000 in Ashfield to 206 per 100,000 in Rushcliffe. In January, an increase in the all age case rate was observed in Bassetlaw. This can be in part be linked to a known outbreak, which is being managed and monitored through an outbreak control team of relevant partners.		
3.	Mayor Abrahams asked if the plateauing of case rates may relate to a change in behaviour of individuals after they have received the vaccination. Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that the reason for the plateauing of rates is currently being explored regionally. Changes in behaviour following vaccination is a consideration, but unlikely to fully explain the current case rates. Factors being considered include the number of children attending school, the number of people unable to work from home (due to the nature of their work) and whether areas have a younger demographic.		
4.	Jonathan Gribbin provided an update on the COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa. To date the variant has been identified in 7 Local Authority areas in England. Currently there have been no notifications of the variant in Nottinghamshire. In the areas where the variant has been detected, the response has been to deploy surge PCR testing to identify and contain cases as part of a national response known as Operation Eagle. PCR testing is required to allow genome sequencing to be undertaken. Nottinghamshire County Council is undertaking relevant preparations with partners in case a response needs to be stood up.		

Item 4. COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Sarah Carter and Idris Griffiths 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
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5.	In Bassetlaw three vaccination centres are run by Primary Care Networks and are on track to vaccinate the top 4 priority groups by 14 February 2021. Key workers are being vaccinated through Bassetlaw District Hospital and all Care Homes in Bassetlaw have been contacted regarding vaccinations.		
6.	Councillor Kay Cutts asked how housebound individuals would be contacted. Idris Griffiths confirmed that housebound individuals in Bassetlaw were being contacted through their GPs. Councillor Simon Greaves highlighted some confusion regarding a separate vaccination pathway (a letter Bassetlaw residents had received with a Nottinghamshire based number) to access their vaccination. Idris Griffiths confirmed that residents in Bassetlaw may receive their invitation via three different routes (the national route, the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire programme or through their Primary Care Network).		
7.	It was confirmed that the rest of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are also on target to meet the 14 February deadline for vaccination of the top 4 priority cohorts. Across the system, as of week commencing 01 February 2021, 162,000 vaccinations have been delivered. Pop-up sites in Eastwood and Ollerton opened over the weekend in response to low take-up in these areas and both received good attendance. Applications are also currently being supported for local pharmacy delivery and detail of these pharmacies will be shared with the Engagement Board once available. Booking details for clinically extremely vulnerable individuals have also now been published.	SC	08/03/2021
8.	A discussion was undertaken with regards to vaccination prioritisation. The first 9 cohorts prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have been defined on the basis of the prevention of mortality and maintenance of health and social care systems. The priority cohorts for the next phase of the vaccination programme (phase 2) are still currently being considered by government.		
9.	In response to a query from Mayor Andy Abrahams, Andy Haynes confirmed that NHSEI are regulating the individuals that are being vaccinated (ensuring that they fall within priority groups of 1-4). Each vaccination centre has a list of individuals to contact regarding any leftover vaccine at the end of the day, which prioritises those in cohorts 1-4 in the first instance. Generally, there is a high ratio of booked appointments to vaccine delivered.		

Item 5. Asymptomatic testing

Roz Howie 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
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10.	Two asymptomatic community testing sites are now live in Mansfield and approximately 3000 tests have been delivered. The majority of those attending in Mansfield are from the district and most are of working age. Currently, approximately a 1% positivity rate is being recorded. A further site in Worksop went live on 03 February and 388 tests have been undertaken to date. Crown Place (Sandy Lane, Worksop) is due to open on 09 February and it is anticipated that this will be a popular site based on initial interest.		
11.	Initial indications are that the three most common reasons provided by individuals for attendance across the sites are 'to be a good citizen', 'to keep family safe' and 'curiosity'. 78% of those attending are employed, with the main sector of work being manufacturing and construction. Framework London Road Homeless Hostel testing went live week commencing 25 January and testing at Potter Street went live as of 08 February.		
12.	It is proposed that Nottinghamshire County Council will look to expand their community testing offer. There has been a broad demand for testing and currently it appears that the objectives of the programme, which include case finding, supporting individuals to self-isolate and targeting those that cannot work from home, are being met. When identifying future sites, a number of factors will be considered, which include; areas where individuals are likely to work outside the home, areas of low testing uptake and high positivity, geographical coverage, accessibility to target populations and co-location of symptomatic testing sites nearby.		
13.	Mayor Andy Abrahams queried if the increase in community testing was contributing to the current case rates in Nottinghamshire. Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that in Nottinghamshire the proportion of positive cases identified through community testing is broadly in line with the rest of the Country, which underpins the rationale and correctness of expanding the community testing programme more widely. Jonathan Gribbin will share further detail with Mayor Andy Abrahams on the purpose of asymptomatic community testing.	JG	08/03/2021
14.	Councillor Simon Greaves highlighted the potential to increase footfall to sites further. Roz Howie confirmed that industries are being contacted proactively to encourage individuals to access testing centres and keep employees safe. Jonathan Gribbin highlighted the importance of emphasising the message that a negative LFD test result does not mean that individuals should relax other behaviours and should continue to follow key control measures (hands, face, space).		

Item 8. Arrangements for future meetings

The next meeting will take place on Monday 08 March 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.