

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

Meeting date: Monday 19 April 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
Mayor Andy Abrahams	Executive Mayor of Mansfield District Council
Steven Cooper	Assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police
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
Sarah Carter	Executive Director: Incident Management/Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG
Cathy Quinn	Outbreak Director, Nottinghamshire County Council
Mark Walker	Group Manager: Trading Standards and Communities, Nottinghamshire County Council
Claudine White	Nottinghamshire CONTAIN Programme Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Greaves and Amanda Sullivan. Amanda Sullivan has been appointed Interim Executive Lead of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System and will act as Andy Haynes' successor on the Board. Sarah Carter deputised for this meeting.

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 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.	The 7-day incidence rate for Nottinghamshire has continued to decrease since the last meeting. The all age rate is 28 per 100,000, with the majority of district and boroughs case rates sitting below the East Midlands mean of 35.3 per 100,000. All age rates across the districts range from 68.6 per 100,000 in Mansfield to 6.7 per 100,000 in Rushcliffe.		
3.	Approximately half of the cases in the peak seen in Mansfield were associated with people aged 18 and under, with the remaining cases largely associated with people of working age. Close collaborative work has been undertaken with Mansfield District Council to address the higher rates (which included the presence of COVID-19 Marshalls in public spaces). A communication was also sent to head teachers in the district to thank them for their support to date and to ask for continued support with messaging to students and parents.		
4.	Jonathan Gribbin also addressed the heightened interest in the SARS-CoV-2 variant first identified in India. Epidemiologists are currently undertaking routine steps to understand more about the variant that has currently been classed as a Variant Under Investigation (VUI).		

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
5.	Sarah Carter provided an update on the continued rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Vaccinations are now open to people aged 45 and over and the programme is continuing to offer appointments to those in all eligible cohorts that are yet to come forward. Nottinghamshire's first dose vaccination uptake rate (including Bassetlaw) is 89.6-100%.		

6.	The mobile vaccination bus has now been launched to further engage with individuals that have not yet accessed a vaccine. The locations of the bus will be data driven and it will be starting out in Nottingham City and then move into Nottinghamshire. The bus has been well received and has allowed people to opportunistically take up the vaccine.		
7.	The approach to maximise vaccination uptake is data and intelligence led and supported by the Inequalities Group established as part of the vaccination programme. Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) are enabling a localised approach and contributing significantly in regard to pop up clinics and the location of the vaccination bus. Nottinghamshire County Council are also continuing to make outbound calls to people in low uptake areas to encourage them to take up the vaccination offer and community leaders are continuing to support.		
8.	Idris Griffiths provided an update on the rollout of the vaccination programme in Bassetlaw and confirmed the programme continues to progress successfully. Targeted work around vaccination uptake continues in the area, including working with large employers (which will be a focus of the Bassetlaw vaccination bus).		
9.	Vaccination supply is anticipated to increase over the coming months. Councillor Reg Adair queried if supply was being impacted by people wanting to receive a particular vaccine type. Sarah Carter and Idris Griffiths confirmed people are not provided with a vaccine choice and would only receive a particular vaccine if specifications are made within the JCVI guidance . Reports regarding the AstraZeneca vaccination and extremely rare blood clotting in a very small number of people has led to some concern from residents, but information has been made widely available to address these. Teams at the vaccination centres also continue to provide reassurance to residents.		

Item 5. Local Outbreak Management Plan refresh

Cathy Quinn and Jonathan Gribbin provided an overview of the revised COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan for Nottinghamshire and requested support from members to the updated plan. During discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
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10.	Following the announcement of the government's national roadmap for easing of restrictions and in anticipation of the updated COVID-19 Contain Framework, local authorities were asked to refresh their Local Outbreak Management Plans (LOMPs), first published in June 2020. National guidance was received in March 2021, which included a framework of what needed to be included within the refresh, with an emphasis on developments in contact tracing and testing, responding to Variants of Concern (VOC), living with COVID-19, adapting to enduring transmission in communities and interface with the vaccination rollout.		
11.	The Nottinghamshire LOMP is supported by 12 Incident Management Plans (IMPs) and various operating procedures. The refreshed plan outlines learning from the last 9 months, highlighting how the local outbreak response has developed during this period. Feedback on the draft submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) was positive and amendments were made based on this feedback. Further minor revisions were made to the plan following circulation to Board members, to acknowledge the publication of the updated COVID-19 Contain Framework . The LOMP is a live document and will be updated through continual engagement and review.		
12.	The Board were supportive of the refreshed Local Outbreak Management Plan. The next phase of planning will be the development of a business as usual resource plan for the COVID-19 outbreak response.		

Item 6. Community Support Hub

Mark Walker updated the Board on the support provided to residents through the Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub. During discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
13.	The Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support hub is a virtual network of partners developed in March 2020 to meet the support needs of local communities. The original Hub met the 'simpler' support needs of residents and increased responsibilities have been placed upon the Hub since its inception, including responsibility for food supply for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents. The Hub has been a strong partnership effort and officers are keen to embed learning from its development going forward.		
14.	The self-service element of the Hub has been particularly successful and handles the bulk of the need in Nottinghamshire. The Hub also delivers a range of other functions, which have included proactively contacting vulnerable people outside of the CEV cohort that may require support and supporting emergency responses (such as the February 2021 flooding events).		

15.	Current priorities for the Hub include the new requirement to support residents that need to self-isolate, supporting planning for surge testing if required in the event of Variants of Concern (VOCs) being identified within Nottinghamshire and developing plans to address findings of a needs assessment process undertaken in January 2021.		
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Item 7. Enforcement update (COVID-19 security in supermarkets)

Claudine White summarised the work undertaken through the Contain Enforcement Team to facilitate the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to undertake proactive spot-check visits to supermarkets across Nottinghamshire. During discussion the following points and actions were raised:

No.	Point / action	Action owner	By when
16.	The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recently launched the local authority field-based spot check service to support local authorities to ensure that the broad range of settings that fall to them for enforcement are COVID-19 compliant. The service is funded by government and utilises a dedicated resource of HSE officers.		
17.	Nottinghamshire County Council signed up for this service in February 2021, at which point the Country was in national lockdown. The initial wave of spot checks focussed on supermarkets and food retailers, as at the time concerns had been raised nationally relating to COVID-19 security in supermarkets.		
18.	Proactive communications are released ahead of the spot checks being undertaken and a good response was received. If non-compliance was identified, rechecks would be undertaken by HSE and local authorities would undertake an enforcement visit as a last resort if required.		
19.	A key issue identified in settings requiring further follow up was a lack of face coverings being worn by customers. Businesses are continuing to be supported on this issue, with the primary approach being engagement and communicating the message to the residents.		
20.	The spot checks have been a positive resource to support district and borough Environmental Health teams and a countywide approach to enforcement. HSE spot checks have been extended to March 2022 and the next focus for Nottinghamshire will be close contact services, in line with Step 2 of the national roadmap for easing restrictions.		

Item 9. Engagement Board forward plan

Jonathan Gribbin confirmed that a forward plan for the Engagement Board would be discussed following the Nottinghamshire County Council elections in May 2021.

Item 8. Arrangements for future meetings

The next meeting will take place on Monday 07 June 2021. The timing of this meeting may be subject to change due to the Nottinghamshire County Council elections, due to take place on 06 May 2021. Members agreed additional meetings can be held if required.