



Local Outbreak Engagement Board

10 March 2021

Time 10.30 am **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Partnership Boards
Venue MS Teams

Membership

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal (Vice Chair)	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's and Adult Services
Katrina Boffey	Assistant Director of Strategic Transformation, NHS England & NHS Improvement - Midlands
Professor Ann-Marie Cannaby	Chief Nurse, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
Tracy Cresswell	Healthwatch Wolverhampton
Ian Darch	Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Marsha Foster	Director of Partnerships, Black Country Healthcare NHSFT
Adrian Philips	Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
Dana Tooby	Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership
Paul Tulley	Managing Director, Wolverhampton CCG

Information

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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Agenda

PART 1 – Items open to Press and Public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS - PART 1

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Notification of substitute members**
- 3 **Declarations of interest**
- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]
- 5 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION - PART 2

- 6 **COVID-19 Situation Update**
[To receive an update on the current COVID-19 situation.]
- 7 **COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report** (Pages 7 - 16)
[To provide a high-level summary of activity in support of the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan.]
- 8 **Local Response to COVID-19 Roadmap**
[To provide an overview of local response to the national roadmap, incorporating Communications Plan and Adult and Educational Setting Updates.]
- 9 **Other Urgent Business**
[To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.]
- 10 **Dates of future meetings**

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Local Outbreak Engagement Board</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Minutes - 3 February 2021</h3>
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Attendance

Members of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's and Adult Services
Michelle Carr	Black Country Healthcare Foundation Trust
Tracy Cresswell	Healthwatch Wolverhampton
Ian Darch	Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Cheryl Etches	Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Opposition Leader
Dana Tooby	Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership
Paul Tulley	Managing Director, Wolverhampton CCG

In Attendance

Madeleine Freewood	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Joanna Grocott	Systems Development Manager
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Ainee Khan	Consultant in Public Health
Suffia Perveen	Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership
Richard Welch	Head of Partnerships and Commercial Services (Education)

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Professor Ann-Marie Cannaby and Marsha Foster.

- 2 **Notification of substitute members**
Cheryl Etches attended for Professor Ann-Marie Cannaby and Michelle Carr attended for Marsha Foster.

- 3 **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.

- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

5 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

6 **COVID-19 Situation Update**

Ainee Khan, Consultant in Public Health delivered the COVID-19 Situation Update and Epidemiological Update presentation.

The COVID-19 case rates per 100,00 population table showed that Wolverhampton had seen the highest decrease in cases in the region.

The COVID-19 trend graph showed that case rates were falling in all age groups although it again showed that there were more cases amongst residents of working age.

The map depicting the case rates within the City by geographical area revealed that there were no consistent hotspots.

It was noted that hospital admissions had risen since December 2020 and figures showed that there were 300 in-patients in New Cross Hospital as at the day of the meeting. The Intensive Care Unit had expanded to twice its usual size to meet demand.

The mortality rate was higher than the peak of March 2020 however there were signs that the rate was starting to fall.

It was noted that the figures looked more positive than a week and a half previously, which was thought to be as a result of a combination of following restrictions, testing and delivery of the vaccine programme. It was noted that Wolverhampton had been a forerunner in lateral testing and the work around this was commended. Despite the positive figures, continual work was being carried out in partnership with Public Health England to ensure there were no areas that had been overlooked.

Concerns were raised around obtaining vaccines for workers in the voluntary sector working in face to face roles for organisations such as the Refuge and Migrant Centre or Age UK. Priority groups had been set out in national guidance however any organisation wishing to clarify whether their staff may be eligible were advised to contact the Black Country team or Paul Tulley, Wolverhampton CCG to check against the guidance.

Resolved:

That the COVID-19 Situation Update be noted.

7 **COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report**

John Denley, Director of Public Health presented the COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group (CSG) Update Report and highlighted salient points. The report provided a summary of recent progress relating to the delivery of the local COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan.

It was noted that the vaccine supply had been the key focus for the CSG and there had been some disruptions experienced with local deliveries. This had been a national issue however assurances were offered that key groups had been working in partnership with the NHS to keep the supply moving.

Decisions on how much of the vaccine is supplied to which area were made at a national level to ensure all areas moved through the priority cohorts at a similar pace. Officers were confident that the vaccine would have been offered to the top four cohorts by the anticipated date of 15 February 2021. The priority list was being followed closely to ensure only those four groups received their first doses of the vaccine.

In response to a query around cases of the South Africa variant emerging in the neighbouring authority of Walsall it was clarified that, until more was known, the same measures continued to apply; wearing masks, social distancing and regular handwashing, especially for those who needed to travel from Wolverhampton to Walsall for work.

Resolved:

That the content of the COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report be noted.

8 **Adult and Educational Settings Update**

Emma Bennett, Director for Children's and Adult Services delivered the Adult and Educational Settings Update with supporting presentation.

All primary and secondary schools had moved to remote learning from 5 January 2021, excepting the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

Work was being undertaken to ensure that vulnerable children continued to attend school where appropriate. Early years, maintained nursery settings, special schools and alternative settings remained fully open.

The Education Incident Management Team IMT met three times a week to provide continued support and guidance to educational settings.

Regular communication with settings took place via a twice weekly bulletin, as well as a weekly drop-in session and regular engagement sessions.

Secondary schools had all implemented lateral flow testing for staff and 2,183 tests had been administered since the beginning of January. Primary school staff had started using lateral flow test home devices in the last week.

It was anticipated that schools would not re-open before the 8 March 2021 however work was focused on supporting schools with re-opening plans in preparation for when further details would be announced.

Extensive work was ongoing to address the digital divide within the City. Charlotte Johns, Director of Strategy and Heather Clark, Manager for Strategic Project Funding had been leading on the provision of digital devices for students. This was in addition to the support offered by the Department for Education and included a package of support for children and their families to boost ICT skills required to use the equipment.

In terms of adult services, it was reported that care home visits had stopped before Christmas as per Tier Four guidance.

It was noted that care homes had been offered the vaccination with 85% of residents vaccinated and 61% of staff and testing continued whether the vaccine had been received or not.

An increase in outbreaks had been seen during January across care homes in line with the increased rate in the City however it was now stabilising.

Ongoing support to care homes would continue regarding any outbreaks via the Incident Management Teams (IMT) and testing requirements for staff. Care Act Easement decisions are reviewed twice weekly at Adult IMT. We continue to maintain services at stage 2

The council has worked closely with CCG and RWT to manage the flow of patients more effectively to reduce risk of transmission.

Resolved:

That the Adult and Educational Settings update be noted.

9 **Communications Plan Update**

Richard Welch, Head of Partnerships and Commercial Services (Education) and Joanna Grocott, Place Based Manager jointly delivered the Communications Plan Update with supporting presentation. The presentation provided an outline of existing and planned communications as well as an update on the Councillor and Community Champions programme.

Key messages regarding national restrictions were being broadcast across social media platforms as well the promotion of a 'Wear It Properly' face covering campaign and a public health representative held a weekly slot on the Community Radio channel.

Similarly, messages promoting the benefits of the vaccine and dispelling common myths were also being disseminated. A post vaccination information leaflet was also provided to everyone receiving the vaccine.

Partnership work was ongoing with West Midlands Police to engage with and support local businesses with awareness of the current guidance and upholding compliance.

The Councillor Champion toolkit had been launched in December 2020 to provide support and information to Councillors to pass on to their local constituents.

It was reported that a Community Champion toolkit had also been developed enabling the newly appointed Community Champions to provide outreach and support to over 20,000 residents, including those in hard to reach communities.

It was noted that Wolverhampton had successfully secured funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which was intended to fund work to further develop the reach and scope of the Community Champions. The aim of this was to enhance the support provided for people most at risk from Coronavirus, including those from an ethnic minority background, disabled people and others, to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on

themselves and those around them. Local Outbreak Engagement Board agreed to endorse this approach and receive regular update reports.

The work around targeting hard to reach communities was commended however concerns were raised around stressing the importance of compliance with regulations. The Intensive Care Unit at New Cross Hospital was still under significant pressure and deaths were still occurring raising the concern that some were still not appreciating the seriousness of the pandemic.

It was noted that heightened awareness and clarity was required around the fact that people could still potentially spread the virus even after having had the vaccine. It was noted that the medical staff administering the vaccine normally passed this message on verbally and provided an information leaflet, however it was agreed that this would be still be highlighted in further communications campaigns.

It was suggested that positive messages around the benefits of the vaccine needed to be heightened amongst the BAME community to increase uptake.

It was noted that improvements had been seen in gathering data and intelligence around why people were not accepting the vaccine which was informing the approach to targeting interventions to encourage take up.

In response to a query around mortuary capacity, it was confirmed that the Council was working closely with funeral directors, mortuaries and partners in Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to obtain a daily overview and there was currently sufficient capacity.

A query was raised around communicating key messages to residents with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as well as including deaf and blind communities. It was noted that these groups had been picked up amongst the work identifying key audiences and a fuller update on this would be provided for the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the Communications Plan Update be received.
2. That the Local Outbreak Engagement Board agree to endorse the use of the MHCLG funding for further development of the Community Champions initiative and receive regular update reports.
3. That communications to key audiences with SEND would be an area of focus on the next update.

10 **Other Urgent Business**
There was no other urgent business.

11 **Dates of future meetings**
10 March 2021

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Local Outbreak Engagement Board Meeting 10 March 2021

Report title	Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Public Health	
Accountable employee	Madeleine Freewood	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
	Tel	01902 550352
	Email	madeleine.freewood@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Wolverhampton COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group	26 February 2021

Recommendations for action:

The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The multi-agency Wolverhampton COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) provides regular progress reports to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board to enable it to fulfil its objectives.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The SCG is responsible for prioritising, managing and overseeing the work plans aligned to the seven themes in the Local Outbreak Plan:

1. Care homes and schools
2. High risk places, locations and communities
3. Local testing capacity
4. Contact tracing in complex settings
5. Data integration
6. Vulnerable people
7. Local Boards

- 2.2 The remit of the SCG is to:

- set and regularly review strategic priorities for the city
- ensure plans are consistent with resources available and if not, escalate within the appropriate organisations
- escalate any situations to Public Health England /Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group level for mutual aid if necessary and ensure that any response to a local COVID-19 outbreak is completed as a co-ordinated approach, managing the various elements in the response
- review local and national epidemiology.

- 2.3 SCG provides a regular progress report to the Local Outbreak Engagement summarising key activity across the seven themes in the Local Outbreak Plan, finance, communication plan and vaccination roll out.

3.0 SCG progress overview

- 3.1 Appendix 1 of this report provides a copy of the SCG report to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 A grant of £1.9 million was received by the City of Wolverhampton Council in June 2020. The grant is also expected to continue to support delivery of activities against the themes into 2021 - 2022 financial year. The SCG summary report provides an overview of where this money will be targeted.

[LD/02032021/T]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Every Local Authority is required to produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan specific to COVID-19 as outlined in the August 2020 national framework:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>

The Coronavirus Act 2020 provides a legal framework that gives Local Authorities – through Public Health and Environmental Health functions – the primary responsibility for the delivery and management of public health action to control outbreaks of infectious disease.

[TC/02032021/K]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together. Equalities implications of COVID-19 are being actively reviewed by both boards informed by qualitative and quantitative data. A report relating to the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities was presented to the July 2020 meeting of Health and Wellbeing Together.

7.0 Health and wellbeing implications

- 7.1 The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together and health and wellbeing implications of Local Outbreak Plan are kept under review through established reporting lines.

8.0 COVID-19 Implications

- 8.1 The SCG summary report outlines progress relating to the delivery of the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information/covid-19-outbreak-control-plan>

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Report: Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

Intended Audience:	Local Outbreak Engagement Board		
Submitted by:	Wolverhampton Strategic Co-ordination Group		
Submission Date:	02.03.2021	Meeting Date:	10.03.2021

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board on progress relating to the delivery of the local COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan. The Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan was published, 30 June 2020. This report provides an update for the time period from the last meeting of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board on 3 February 2021, to publication date of this report, 2 March 2021.

2.0 Local data and Intelligence

2.1 Local Data and Intelligence

A summary of the latest data will be provided before the meeting

3.0 Outbreak Control Plan (Key updates)

Theme 1: Care Homes and Educational Settings

Education:

- Schools have continued to be supported throughout lockdown when they have had cases and outbreaks or just required clarification of current local and national guidance.
- Training has been provided to Secondary Schools and the College by Public Health to enable them to establish test centres.
- Training has been provided to Primary Schools to establish the testing at home programme.
- Work has commenced to support schools in their preparations for coming out of lockdown and in particular with the mass testing of pupils as they return to school, as well as the switch of Secondary Schools into the home test offer.
- Extra training regarding onsite testing is to be provided to support the return of schools from 8 March 2021.
- Adult Education are being supported to operate an onsite test site from 8 March 2021 to enable the return of their students. This will bridge the gap to home testing being available for these learners at the end of March 2021.

Care Homes:

- All care homes looking after older adults have been visited by a vaccination team through the primary care networks. All care home residents that were eligible for the vaccine, have been

vaccinated. A small group of residents have not received the vaccine due to them being COVID positive within the preceding 28-days, and in the case of a very small number, where residents or the next of kin have refused consent. A plan for the delivery of the second dose will be developed shortly in partnership with the primary care networks.

- Similarly, vaccination roll out for care home staff is well underway. To date, approximately 75% of care home staff have taken the vaccine. Further work in this area is being delivered to encourage more uptake. This includes, weekly interactive sessions with care home managers informing them of the latest information around vaccines, offer to care home staff to speak directly to a Public Health officer to address any concerns, City of Wolverhampton Council's Contact Centre proactively contacting care home staff who have not taken the vaccine (where staff have consented for their personal details to be shared) and regular dissemination of vaccine information including myth busting and promotional materials.
- In line with the reduction of infection rates seen in wider the community, care home settings have also seen a significant reduction of new positive cases and subsequently reduced outbreaks. The Infection Prevention Service continues to engage with care settings to complete audits to ensure infection prevention measures are strong and any training requirements are met swiftly.

Theme 2: High Risk Workplaces, Locations and Communities

- Businesses that are considered high risk, or where there have been outbreaks have been proactively reached out to and offered slots for routine testing at our community testing sites.
- With the recent government announcement, businesses with more than 50 employees are being encouraged to register with the government portal to access test kits for their staff and operate onsite test sites for the workforce.
- Businesses with fewer than 50 employees are being targeted to offer routine testing to their workforces and encouraged to book their employees into a community testing centre. A booking system is currently being trialled with corporate staff and will be rolled out to businesses imminently.

Theme 3: Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Approaches

- Wolverhampton now has six asymptomatic testing sites operational across the City. Three of the sites are at Civic Centre, Pendeford Library and Bilston Community Centre. Three sites at Bilal Mosque, Ashmore Park Hub and St Joseph's Church are being supported by volunteers from the local community who have been trained and are actively supported by the Local Authority.
- To support the return of educational settings and those unable to work from home, priority access for Education staff and other key workers is offered at the Pendeford site.
- A bespoke pilot, in partnership with DHSC, has taken place at Recovery Near You to encourage take up from populations who would not necessarily access a main community test site. These have been welcomed and take up has been excellent. An additional pilot with The Haven, offering testing for residents (adults and children), will take place w/b 1 March 2021. This will utilise home test kits within the home due to the 'vulnerabilities' of the residents.
- Since the commencement of lateral flow testing in the City over 55,000 tests have been completed between 8 December 2020 and 23 February 2021.
- The Local Authority has commissioned a mobile test, which can 'pop up' in locations where (using data from DHSC) there is high positivity rates and low testing uptake, or where areas are not in close proximity to a community rapid test. The unit will be operational from w/b 1 March 2021 at its first location in Bantock Park.
- Testing team is working with the Cabinet office to highlight areas of good practice and learning to share across the country.

- A corporate offer for staff testing is now been promoted to encourage all staff to undertake routine testing. Those that are unable to work from home are encouraged to test twice a week 3-4 days apart. Those working from home are encouraged to test once per week.

Theme 4: Contact Tracing in Complex Settings

- Local Test and Trace team continue to support the national team with Tier 2 calls to positive cases. Using a Wolverhampton telephone number and contact information collected by other Council services, this team is contacting cases that are unanswered or incomplete with the national team.
- Work to establish a 'doorstep' offer to support the local contact tracing team by making face to face contact with those who are not answering calls or have provided telephone numbers is still in progress.

Theme 5: Data Integration

- Work is ongoing to use data from various sources to improve our understanding of vaccination uptake, reasons for delay or refusal, and inequalities. Findings are being shared with partners across the City to inform initiatives to improve uptake and reduce disparities by age, ethnicity, geography and deprivation.

Theme 6: Vulnerable People

- Meetings have taken place with Serco and Migrant Help to ensure that asylum seekers are registered with a GP so can access the vaccination.
- Support is in place for homeless people who test positive but discussions are in train to strengthen this offer.

Theme 7: Governance

- The Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together (Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Board).
- The Terms of Reference for the LOEB are published on the Health and Wellbeing Together microsite: http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk/local_outbreak_engagment_board.html
- A governance structure has been established to support and coordinate the City response to vaccination roll out.

4.0 Vaccine roll out

NHS England is responsible for the commissioning, implementation and delivery of immunisation programmes through NHS local teams, with the Wolverhampton Clinical Commission Group having oversight of local performance data.

The City of Wolverhampton Council's role in the vaccination programme is to support the local NHS in effective and efficient rollout to those in the highest priority groups in the City. The Director of Public Health also has an oversight system leader role to ensure robust health arrangements including effective vaccination delivery are in place for their local population. The Director for Adult Social Services has a designated role to collate information on the requirements for and take up of, vaccinations by social care workers/ other related eligible cohorts.

The delivery model in Wolverhampton is via six Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination hubs. This includes vaccine delivery from Aldersley Leisure Village and the Bert Williams site. Special

vaccination clinics have also taken place in faith settings in Wolverhampton on Sunday 14 February 2021.

The Council is also working in partnership with local PCNs to support the booking of eligible patients into clinics and proactively contacting those who are yet to take up an offer.

In addition to the PCN hubs New Cross hospital has been acting as on-site hub for front line health and social care workers, although delivery from this site has been temporarily paused and moved to Manor Hospital Walsall. Additionally, the national booking site has also temporarily opened to frontline health and social care workers. The nearest mass vaccination site to Wolverhampton is the Black Country Living Museum.

5.0 Communications and Engagement Plan

The COVID-19 Communications Group continues activity to coordinate campaigns, messaging and interventions to brief residents (and the wider system) on Government announcements and the local position.

A Community Champions Steering Group has now been established to drive forward the approach, focusing on using intelligence to target communities and coproduce activity. Community Champion Ambassadors are working with over 100 organisations and volunteers who will be part of the network. Work is taking place in partnership with the CCG for community champions to support in increasing vaccine uptake through engagement in communities and providing capacity to support community models of vaccine delivery.

6.0 Finance

The £1.9 million Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant Determination (2020 - 2021) received in May 2020 continues to be utilised to help minimise the spread of infection whilst also responding to outbreaks as they occur. Expenditure incurred in the themes above including communications has been funded from this source.

7.0 Emerging Risks

A complete risk register (red, amber and green risks) is held by the COVID-19 Outbreak Control Planning Group (OCPG). Escalation of risk through the governance structure thereafter is as follows:

- OCPG escalate any amber and red risks to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG)
- SCG escalate any red risks to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

As of 2 March 2021, there is one red risk to be escalated to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

R025 national vaccine supply

- Local Outbreak Plan theme: Vaccination
- Current PI score: red 20
- Impact: Disruption to local delivery impacting on ability to vaccinate high risk groups and causing inequity

- Treatment/ control: Partnership working with CCG and other stakeholders to manage local supply and raise with regional / national partners
- Local Outbreak Plan theme lead: CCG

8.0 Recommendations and Considerations

It is recommended that Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board:

- Receive the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report.

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