

## **Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

**19 January 2021**

### **Questions from the public**

#### **1. Purpose**

To provide answers to questions received from Members of the public.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the answers to the questions received from the public be noted.

#### **3. Report detail**

As part of the government's national strategy to reduce infection from COVID-19, every council in England was required to create a local outbreak plan by the end of June and to create an elected member-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

Walsall Council Cabinet considered the arrangements for a Local Outbreak Engagement Board on 17 June and, at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 June, the creation of a sub-committee as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board was agreed. The purpose of the board is to provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communications in relation to an outbreak response.

Members of the public can ask the Local Outbreak Engagement Board questions which are within its remit and it will be answered when the board next meets. Members of the public need to submit their question(s) at least seven clear days before the meeting (clear days are working days and does not include the day the question is received or the day of the meeting).

Since the last meeting three questions have been received. They are:

1. A recent presentation by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) from the US regarding their newly approved COVID-19 vaccines noted that there were 3150 reported severe reactions to the vaccinations termed "Health Impact Events" (including 6 life-threatening anaphylaxis reactions). The presentation relates to Dec 18, when there were only about 272,000 recipients of the COVID vaccine in the US, Matt Hancock mentioned on TV 2 days ago that there are already 500,000 recipients in the UK. May I therefore enquire whether the corresponding figures are available for the UK, and where may I see them?

2. Please could we get an update on the community testing roll out that is planned for Walsall? In places where the infection rate has been high, making community based testing available has been shown to lower the rate by allowing people to check themselves without symptoms. Nothing like this has been rolled out for Walsall but had been reported to be coming by the media when we entered Tier 3. Once lockdown is over and we return to a Tier system this could help the borough get back on its feet, what is the plan post lockdown?
  
3. What is the planned vaccination roll out looking like for our area. We get the high level numbers but I'm not sure how that looks per area, is this information available?

Answers will be provided to the above questions at the meeting.

### **Background papers**

None.

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