

Health and Wellbeing Board (Local Outbreak Engagement Board)

Sub-Committee

13 April 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution

Present Councillor S. Craddock (Chair)
Manjit Dehal, One Walsall
Councillor I. Robertson
Chief Superintendent A. Parsons, West Midlands Police

In Attendance Dr. U. Viswanathan, Consultant in Public Health
Mr. K. Beech, Director of Communications, Marketing and Brand
Ms. E. Thomas, Public Health Intelligence Manager
Mr. G. Griffiths-Dale, Walsall Managing Director, Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs

Welcome

At this point, the Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board and explained the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

Following these remarks, the Chair expressed his condolences to the Royal family while he paid tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh who had passed away on 9 April 2021.

69/21 Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Dr. Rischie, Dr. Lewis, Mr. S. Gunther and Mr. D. Fradgley.

70/21 Minutes

Resolved (via roll call)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021, copies having been sent to each member of the Sub-Committee, be approved and signed as a correct record.

71/21 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

72/21 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to consider in private session.

73/21 Questions from the Public

The Chair promoted the opportunity for Members of the public to ask questions of the Board.

74/21 Walsall Covid-19 Data

The Public Health Intelligence Manager updated the Board on the latest Covid-19 data.

(see annexed)

She explained that cases were reducing with rates now at 42.7 per 100,000. Case rates in the over 60s were 15 per 100,000. This disparity was created by the vaccination campaign in older age groups. Hospital admissions were also declining.

The Consultant in Public Health highlighted the availability and importance of testing. Following questions she reported that genomic sequencing was increasing which allowed the identification of new variants. It was noted that a variant first found in Brazil had been found in Sandwell resulting in surge testing.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

64/21 Covid-19 Vaccination Update

The Board were updated on the latest situation with delivering Covid-19 vaccines.

Mr. Griffiths-Dale reported that vaccine rates were very high in older age groups. Second vaccines for vulnerable groups were being prioritised during April, for which there was enough supply and capacity to deliver them. The prioritisation of second vaccines meant that the Saddlers Centre site was temporarily being scaled back.

Vaccine rates were 5% lower in the south of the borough, in particular Pleck and Palfrey. Targeted support for these areas was being delivered to increase take up. This included community clinics and individual contact from GPs. The next cohort to be offered vaccines were 45-49 year olds.

Following reports of blood clots being caused by the AstraZeneca vaccine he reported that for over the 30's the benefits of receiving the vaccine outweighed the risks. Discussions were ongoing about what vaccines to offer under 30's.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

65/21 Local Outbreak Management Plan

The Board considered an updated Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP).

The Consultant in Public Health explained the purpose of the LOMP and how it had been updated. She highlighted the LOMP primary aims, priority actions and key themes to the Board.

The meeting discussed contacts to the Health Protection Team, vaccination of care home staff and concerns generated by local surge testing.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

66/21 Communication with Residents

The Director of Communications, Marketing and Brand gave a presentation highlighting high-level plans, communication data from March and future plans regarding messages for vaccine take up and changes to every day restrictions planned in the Government roadmap.

(see annexed)

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

The meeting terminated at 5.25pm

Chair:

Date: