
LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2021

Present: Councillors Hammond (Chair), Fielker (Vice-Chair), Dr Paffey and Shields

Apologies: Councillors Dr Kelsey, Siggins, O'Shea, Riches, Ridgway, Sandeman, Whiting, Cunio, Whittle, Murphy and King

21. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Jason Murphy, Stronger Communities Manager and Dan King, Service Lead - Intelligence and Strategic Analysis.

22. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

23. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 8th February, 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

24. **COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE**

The Board received and noted the report of the Director of Public Health detailing the current Covid-19 Situation update.

Partner members of the Board gave verbal feedback on the situation in key sectors via presentations given at the meeting. Those presentations were published alongside the agenda and reports following the meeting.

The Board particularly noted:

- that since schools had reopened in the main there were no outbreaks to report;
- evidence was emerging that infections in the older age group were going down whilst increases were showing in the younger age group. This was to be expected as the vaccine was targeted at specific age groups;
- hospital admissions were declining week on week which was enabling health professionals to return to business as usual with a backlog of procedures waiting to be completed;
- office of national statistics infection study over the last year was showing an initial similar rate of infection with neighbouring authorities;
- targeted surge testing had resulted in no South African variant cases being identified;
- the younger population were recognised as being susceptible to infection and work was continuing with the universities as students were expected to return after the Easter break; and
- support was being given to the Port and retail sector as people were moving around more regularly returning to work and some leisure activities were due to open up.

25. **UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Board received and noted the update report from the Director of Public Health. The Board particularly noted the following information from Board members:

Symptom Free Testing:

- Work was continuing on identifying people who were displaying asymmetric symptoms with the introduction of more widely available lateral flow testing giving people access to rapid test results.

Role of the Covid Marshalls:

- Their role being to engage and provide support they had been actively engaged in dealing with the behaviour of customers in supermarkets, reconfiguring queuing systems to ensure people are safe entering and exiting premises, assisting with social distancing information in play areas, helping businesses to understand outside seating areas, working with transport hubs to ensure the wearing of face coverings and appropriate behaviour was in place and managed the through put of people at the recent surge testing in Shirley.

Community Champions:

- 400 people had registered from across the city.

Innovation projects:

- aimed at engaging young people. Participants included Southampton Children's Hospital, Peer Youth Project, Itchen College and Cantell Secondary School.

Vaccine programme:

- Continuing to engage with communities across the City by introducing novel access points to encourage take up.

Supporting mental health and wellbeing:

- Campaigns were running city wide for targeted groups to ensure information and support was accessible for those who needed it.

26. **LIVE EVENT QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Board held a live event question and answer session from members of the public. This can be viewed via the link to the meeting on the City Council's webpage:-

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=748&MIId=6530&Ver=4>

