

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet - Wednesday 20 January 2021

Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Introduction

1. The country is now in a third national lockdown following a rapid and substantial rise in the number of cases of Covid-19, in large part due to the emergence of a new and more infectious strain of the virus. In Staffordshire, the number of cases during the first half of January 2021 has been higher than at any point during the pandemic. In some parts of the county 1 in 20 people are infected at the moment.

Opportunities and challenges

2. Pressure on the NHS has risen accordingly. Almost half of hospital beds have been given over to care of Covid-19 patients. Sadly, we are again seeing an increase in the number of Covid-19 deaths. Meanwhile the ongoing restrictions continue to have a detrimental impact on physical and mental well-being and the economy.
3. It is more important than ever that people follow the rules. Whilst we are in lockdown this means that people should stay at home. People should only leave home for a small number of essential reasons which include essential shopping and to go to work if they cannot work from home. This remains the best chance we have of reducing the number of cases, relieving pressure on the NHS and getting back more of the freedoms that we used to take for granted.
4. The NHS has made a good start to rolling out of Covid-19 vaccination. Under government policy the priority groups for vaccination are people over 70, care home residents and staff; all other health and care workers, and people deemed 'clinically extremely vulnerable'. There is sufficient capacity to vaccinate everyone in these groups by mid-February as long as vaccine is available, and we are lobbying government to ensure that we receive adequate supplies of the vaccine.
5. The Council continues other efforts to prevent and control the spread of the virus. We are managing around 700 incidents on a day to day basis - these are cases and outbreaks of Covid-19 in a range of settings including care homes, schools and businesses. Testing for people without symptoms is now available to all residents with at least one site in each district and borough.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

[COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan](#)

Contact Details

Report Author: Dr Richard Harling
Job Title: Director for Health and Care

Telephone No.:
E-Mail Address:

01785 278700
richard.harling@staffordshire.gov.uk