

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Cabinet - Wednesday 17 February 2021**

### **Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board**

#### **Introduction**

1. The number of cases of Covid-19 across the country and in Staffordshire is falling but remain high, and the pressure on the NHS is ongoing. The third national lockdown is ongoing, and the Government has indicated that it is likely to continue for several more weeks.

#### **Opportunities and challenges**

2. The Covid-19 vaccination programme is making good progress and the NHS have now vaccinated over 200,000 people with a first dose. The vaccination programme is proceeding according to the priority groups defined by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, with those at highest risk from Covid-19 vaccinated first. It is important that we stick to the priority order to protect the most clinically vulnerable people as soon as we can, as supplies of vaccine are limited.
3. Most residents of care homes for older people and those aged 80 and above have already received their first dose. The NHS is now focusing on vaccinating frontline health and social care workers who provide care for clinically vulnerable people, as well as those aged 70-79, and individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable. The next groups to be vaccinated are those aged 65-69 and individuals with a range of underlying health conditions.
4. The Council would like to thank Staffordshire residents and businesses for the sacrifices they have made during the pandemic and encourage everyone to continue our efforts to control the spread of the virus. Whilst the vaccination programme is ongoing it remains important that people follow the rules, including those who have been vaccinated. It will take many months to vaccinate the whole adult population and there remains a risk of a resurgence in cases, including new variants of the virus.
5. The Council and our partners continue our efforts to prevent and control the spread of the virus. We are supporting care providers, schools and businesses to prevent Covid-19; more and more testing is available for people with and without symptoms; and we are managing close to 1000 incidents on a day to day basis. We are also starting to give some thought to how we respond to Covid-19 in the longer term over the next few years.

#### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

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

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