

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet – Wednesday 20 October 2021

Update from Covid Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Introduction

1. The number of new cases of Covid in Staffordshire remains high, about 50% above the England average. Cases are particularly high among school age children. Nearly half of all new cases are in 5-18 year olds and the difference between the Staffordshire and England case rates is due to relatively higher numbers of cases in this age group.
2. Schools have been experiencing large outbreaks which have been substantially disrupting education as large numbers of pupils and teachers have been off sick. We are providing schools with advice about measures they could implement at their discretion to prevent and manage outbreaks and reduce the impact on education and the wider economy.
3. Vaccination is limiting the number of hospitalisations and deaths from Covid. However, the NHS and social care are experiencing considerable pressure from Covid and other conditions.
4. People should exercise personal responsibility and continue to take sensible precautions to prevent the spread of infection. This means maintaining good hygiene, keeping a respectful distance, and wearing face coverings in crowded indoor places, as well as testing twice weekly.

Covid vaccination

5. Progress with Covid vaccination has slowed. More than 1.3 million doses have now been administered. In adults over 50 more than 90% have received two doses and a booster vaccination programme has now commenced. In younger adults uptake of two doses is lower. A programme of vaccination of 12-15 year olds in schools has started, and vaccination of 16 and 17 year olds is ongoing.

Local Outbreak Management Plan

6. The Council will maintain Covid defences for at least the remainder of 2021/22. This includes testing and contact tracing, as well as managing outbreaks and supporting the most vulnerable. These arrangements are

set out in our Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan. This will be updated in line with emerging Government policy.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

[Staffordshire Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan](#)

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