

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

## **Cabinet - Wednesday 21 October 2020**

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

#### **Introduction**

1. The Council continues its efforts to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19. With the number of cases continuing to rise, it is even more important that we follow the law and national guidance to protect vulnerable people and avoid additional restrictions on our lives and our economy.
2. Stick to the rules. This means washing your hands regularly, sticking to 2 metre social distancing, wearing a face covering in the shop, self-isolating and booking a test if you have any Covid-19 symptoms, and self-isolating for 14 days if you have been in close contact with a confirmed case.

#### **Latest Situation**

3. The number of new confirmed cases in Staffordshire has risen to around 120 a day. We are managing an increasing number of incidents related to care providers, educational settings, businesses and communities. Around 2,500 pupils are being educated remotely after cases of Covid-19 were identified at their schools.
4. The number of cases is particularly high in Newcastle-under-Lyme, due in part to an outbreak at Keele University, as well as in Stafford, due in part to an outbreak at HMP Stafford, and in South Staffordshire. We continue to operate local contact tracing to maximise the number of cases and contacts isolated and to identify common exposures that need to be managed.
5. National laboratory capacity has improved and the shortfall between demand and supply is not as marked as a month ago. Some people are still experiencing difficulties booking a test and we continue to offer community testing sites as a complement to the national NHS Test and Trace testing facilities.

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

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

#### **Contact Details**

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