

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet - Wednesday 16 December 2020

Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Introduction

1. Staffordshire remains in Very High Alert following the end of the second national 'lockdown'. The Council continues its efforts to prevent and control the spread of the virus. We are also concerned to persuade the government to move us down a tier as soon as possible and reduce the restrictions on residents and businesses.
2. The number of cases of Covid-19 in Staffordshire has reduced significantly since a peak in mid November. The pressure on the NHS has partially abated although the NHS continues to face a significant challenge from the number of Covid-19 patients compounded by staff shortages sickness and/or self-isolation. Meanwhile the ongoing restrictions continue to have a detrimental impact on physical and mental well-being and the economy.

Opportunities and challenges

3. The Council continues to manage Incidents in a range of settings, including care providers, schools and workplaces. We are implementing asymptomatic community testing using the new rapid lateral flow tests in schools, businesses and 'hotspots' across the county with the highest numbers of cases. We have applied to the Government for funding to support the rollout of our community testing programme.
4. We welcomed the news that the first vaccine has been approved by the regulator and that vaccination has started in the county. The supply chain and cold chain requirements will limit the speed of this initially but we anticipate that as greater volumes of this and other vaccines become available that the vaccination programme will gather pace in New Year.
5. In the meantime we ask that people continue to follow the rules, remember the basis of Hands, Face, Space, and get tested if they have symptoms. This is the best chance we have of keeping the number of cases down, protecting vulnerable people and getting back more of the freedoms that we used to take for granted.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

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

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