

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

## **Cabinet - Wednesday 17 March 2021**

### **Update from Covid Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board**

#### **Introduction**

1. The number of cases of Covid in Staffordshire and across England continues to fall, and the pressure on the NHS is abating. HM Government on 22 February issued a Roadmap from lockdown with indicative dates for release of restrictions subject to continued success with the Covid vaccination programme and the NHS able to cope with the number of cases and complications. An increase in infections after schools return to classroom teaching on 08 March is expected.

#### **Covid vaccination**

2. The Covid vaccination programme is making good progress and the vaccine is proving effective at limiting the number of cases and complications. NHS have now vaccinated over 400,000 people with a first dose, and the vaccination programme is proceeding according to the priority order defined by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, with those at highest risk from Covid vaccinated first.
3. Covid vaccine uptake has been excellent among residents of care homes for older people, those aged 65 and above, and people deemed clinically extremely vulnerable. The NHS is now vaccinating people with a range of health conditions as well as unpaid carers and with those aged 55-64. Special Covid vaccination clinics are being held in those communities where uptake is poorest to maximise coverage. Covid vaccines remain the best way to protect ourselves and our families, and the Council encourages all residents to take up the offer of vaccination.

#### **Planning for 2021/22**

4. Whilst we hope that we will not have anything like as many cases of Covid in the future as we have suffered during 2020/21 we have to expect that the virus will continue to circulate long term. The Council is planning to maintain Covid defences for at least the next financial year in order to keep cases and complications low and protect our freedoms and livelihoods. This includes testing, contact tracing and isolation of cases and close contacts, as well as managing outbreaks of infections and supporting the most vulnerable. These arrangements are set out in our updated Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan.
5. The Council would like to thank Staffordshire residents and businesses for the sacrifices they have made during the pandemic. We would also like to thank our staff as well as partners for their extraordinary efforts over the last year. It is important that everyone continues to play their part in controlling the spread of the virus: with the prospect of restrictions being eased, no-one wants to see a return to another lockdown.

## List of Background Documents/Appendices:

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

## Contact Details

<b>Report Author:</b>	Dr Richard Harling
<b>Job Title:</b>	Director for Health and Care
<b>Telephone No.:</b>	01785 278700
<b>E-Mail Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.harling@staffordshire.gov.uk">richard.harling@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>