

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

## **Cabinet - Wednesday 16 June 2021**

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

#### **Introduction**

1. The number of new cases nationally and in Staffordshire has been rising over the last four weeks. This is largely due to the emergence of the delta variant of the virus, first identified in India, which appears to be more transmissible. We hope that the vaccination programme will suppress both the number and severity of cases such that this does not translate into an increase in hospitalisations or deaths.
2. HM Government was due to make an announcement 14 June about further progress on the Roadmap from lockdown. Whatever the outcome it seems clear that we will be living with Covid for many months and years and that it will remain important to take sensible precautions to prevent the spread of infection. That means continuing to follow the prevailing rules, maintaining good hygiene and social distancing, getting tested regularly, and isolating if we have symptoms. Residents and businesses have made an extraordinary effort over the last year and still have a vital role to play in keeping cases low and restrictions to a minimum.

#### **Covid vaccination**

3. The Covid vaccination programme continues to make excellent progress. The NHS has now administered 1,000,000 doses to Staffordshire residents. It is important that people get both doses of the vaccine to provide good protection against the delta variant. Uptake of two doses is close to 95% in over 65s, and 80% in 50 to 64 year olds. The NHS is now offering first doses to under 50s and the quicker we can get these and then second doses to people the greater the chance of avoiding a third wave of infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

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

4. The Council is planning to maintain Covid defences for at least the next financial year. This includes testing, contact tracing and isolation of cases and close contacts, as well as managing outbreaks and supporting the most vulnerable. These arrangements are set out in our updated Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan.

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

[Staffordshire Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan](#)

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