

Covid-19 Health Protection Tactical Oversight Group Minutes,

09:30-11:00, Thursday, 18th March

	<p>Objectives of the Tactical Oversight Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain an overview of the epidemiology of Covid-19 within Cumbria in order to inform decision making about local countermeasures and to inform Regional and National policy 2. To advise the Health Protection Board regarding the development of strategy and policy related to responding to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic 3. To identify required resources and oversee the deployment of multi-agency resources (including the Contain Outbreak Management Fund) in support of the Health Protection Board's strategic objectives 4. To recommend the implementation of necessary enhanced countermeasures, including if appropriate local enhanced social distancing measures ("local lockdowns") to the Health Protection Board. 	CC
1.	<p>Roll Call</p>  <p>HPB Roll Call - 18.03.21.pdf</p>	RP
2.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The chair asked for feedback on the revised objectives above, nothing raised.</p>	CC
3.	<p>Review of Outstanding Actions</p> <p>All actions reviewed and the action log updated accordingly.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Nothing raised</p>	CC
Epidemiology and Situation Reporting		
4.	<p>National sitrep</p> <p>Coronavirus update (PHE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number stable with slight 1.2% decrease. • Number of areas in the North are seeing increasing numbers (Lancs and Yorkshire). • Hospitalisations and deaths continue to fall. Rate around 1.2 per 100,000 – lowest since October. • Q: (the Chair) The chair asked if there were any lessons to be learnt from areas experiencing a third wave? John Astbury, PHE, confirmed that there are a number of countries seeing increase, but vaccine programme is seen as the main potential cause. • The chair asked everyone to be aware that a third wave was possible. 	PHE CC
5.	<p>Local sitrep</p> <p>Update from SCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to report. • Vaccination will be main topic of the last couple of weeks. 	AS

<p>Local epidemiology: Update from the MAIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting is for Week 10 –ending Friday 12th March <p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to other areas with Barrow highest and Eden lowest. • Noted the first graph is showing PCR Testing and not including LFT. • 85,000 tests through national system (noted this includes all tests including voids). • LFT – 72,000 through NHS Digital report (27,500 previously). • School testing now coming through. This figure includes all testing streams (workplace, community and school). • Barrow and South Lakeland highest. • Overall Positives: 7.4% positivity which is line with expected (similar area average 6.8%). Allerdale highest % positives, within Eden lowest % positives. <p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases overall down 27% percent. • Eden largest percentage growth (with 4 additional cases on the previous week's 5). • Cases fell in all Districts - especially Allerdale and Copeland - 50% decrease in each • Allerdale remains the highest rates but remains below national average (43 per 100,000). <p>Rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45-54 remains age group with highest cases. • Reduction in all age groups, except under 18. • 19-24 were the age group with highest number cases. • Overall cases low so little difference between age groups. • Older Population (60+): Below national average with a case rate of 15.2, only Allerdale has a rate above national average of 28.8. <p>Hospitalisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to decrease with a reduction of 53%. <p>Mortality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Covid related deaths, falling from 35 the week before (but 10 more than expected). • Over the 28 days we have seen less deaths than expected. • Out of a total 23 deaths there were 4 Covid related deaths in Care Homes. <p>Care Homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promising Picture with 11 outbreaks (reduction from over 30 last week). <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance is good and above national average. Positive cases remain low. <p>School Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes support bubbles. 58,000 tests with 14 positives. <p>Helpline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 352 contacts to the helpline, slight fall on previous week. • Payment support and grants main reason for contact. <p>Q: (Angela Baker, BAE) Are the workplace testing being included in figures? Understood that this is the case but home testing must be inputted by the individual so may be some missed.</p> <p>Q: (SMAC Chair) SMAC have been asked to encourage the home testing for school children parents. Is there any understanding on where the tests are being done with those not related to schools? Rates are really the only way of comparing, currently Cumbria is in line with other areas. Most have testing codes so can be investigated for more detail.</p> <p>Communities Sub Group Chair - A number of routes for individuals to get tests and record them so may be difficult to identify the overlap (such as workplace test but individual is a parent).</p> <p>Q: (BERRG Chair) More consistent approach to who can test at home would be welcomed. The Chair commented that as a national programme Cumbria will continue to try.</p>	<p>AW</p>
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	<p>Q: (Communities Sub Group Chair) Reluctance to test without a PRC follow up in case of a false positives? The chair commented that the rate of false positives will increase as the overall rate reduces (giving potentially a high percentage of false positives). It is likely that a follow up PCR will return in due course. SMAC to consider message around benefits outweighing negatives. No single figure on false positives but an estimate can be quoted. SMAC Chair confirmed that it doesn't seem to matter what is said there is a lot of information out there, but SMAC will continue to try and signpost to gov.uk sources.</p> <p>Q: (NC CCG) might be worth considering the timescale for this activity? Taken away for feedback.</p>	
<p>Strategy Implementation</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p>Vaccinate</p> <p>MAIC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an issue with some of the public numbers so the pack has been updated and will be recirculated. • Data to the 16th March • Over 214,400 people vaccinated (over 50% of Cumbria's 16+ population). • Varying across district areas. Noted percentage so subject to population. • 50-54 lowest coverage as expected as Cohort only just released. • Public Data - Up to the 7th March 189,000 vaccinations, with 45% with all districts above national average. • In line with other counties (Lancs and North Yorkshire). • Q: (The Chair) The chair asked if MAIC could give update on inequalities. PHE Data used – Lowest coverage in Eden within Penrith Town Centre Wards. Followed by some of the more deprived areas of Carlisle City Centre Wards and Barrow Borough Council Town centre Wards. The picture is mixed as depends on cohorts within the ward. • Q: (SMAC Chair) The data up to the 14th March will be released later this afternoon, will this reflect the 200,000-vaccine figure (50% population)? Ali confirmed it should do and released late in the day. The chair confirmed that SMAC could go ahead and say the vaccination programme had reached 50% of population. <p>The chair raised that the process needs to be made on inequalities and any support that can be given.</p> <p>ACTION (10:17) Neil Wynne to take away and consider setting up a similar group to the North Cumbria Inequalities Group for South Cumbria.</p> <p>MB CCG: Currently work is ongoing in Barrow to encourage people to come forward and overcome vaccine hesitancy. Number of 'did not arrive' for appointments increasing. Chair commented this is a national problem linked to the AZ news.</p> <p>Q: (SCG Chair) The PCN are getting to a point of inefficiency of GP's following up people who have booked through the National System as the system is only updated once the vaccine has been given. This is a noted problem and there are some double booking and trying to access second dose.</p> <p>The chair offered support with overcoming vaccine hesitancy if required.</p> <p>The chair also noted was if the implications of the vaccine supply was going to affect the opening of the Vaccine Centre at Penrith with April focusing on second vaccinations.</p>	

7.	<p>Prevent (lockdown/restrictions)</p> <p>BERRG – Business BERRG will provide a paper for the Health Protection Board next week.</p> <p>Enforcement At the HPB on Tuesday the ongoing funding challenge as the lockdown is lifted and the Board would welcome a further bid for support for the next 6 months (over the summer).</p> <p>Tony Watson, LDNPA said the bid was discussed and would be fed back to the Sub Group, particularly the 6-month timeframe.</p> <p>It was noted that enforcement was currently in a lull but the vaccine programme disruption may make people more frustrated.</p>	CC JP TW/AS
8.	<p>Case/incident/outbreak response</p> <p>Test Covered under MAIC Update</p> <p>Trace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Batford, CCC, was welcomed to the group. • Contact Tracing looking at taking on all contact tracing. • Working with all 6 districts to look at resources, issues, and planning. • A pilot is ongoing with 5 councils integrating the local and national systems to enable test results to be downloaded. • Early days but some really good work. • Support to businesses and settings to be timelier and more effective. <p>Isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of additional resources to Districts to support people with self-isolating. • Update requested from each District. • ACTION (10:32): Districts to feedback position on discretionary grants to Colin Cox directly at the District Council Meeting. • This would help with the Area Committees allocation to stop duplication. The Chair clarified that this should be around prevent so perhaps Local Committees need to feedback what is appropriate spend. • The chair asked is this is adequately joined up with the Trace element. Julie confirmed that the Districts do follow up with the Health and Well Being, but a process needs to be developed to capture the information. 	CC JB CC
9.	<p>Treat</p> <p>South Cumbria Nothing to flag with reduction in numbers. Capacity is much improved. Overall capacity is tight, but this is not directly Covid related.</p> <p>North Cumbria Continues to be a positive progress. Staff LFT testing has reduced but this may be linked to Vaccine and growth in confidence.</p>	NW/LW
10.	<p>Communicate</p>	KB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third phase of the keep going campaign this week. Positive messaging which seems to be well received. • Proactive community LFT comms. • Engaging businesses to take up workplace offer. • SMAC has two sub groups with business/economy and Health. <p>Q: (Communities Sub Group Chair) Concern by communities on if visitors are likely to pose an increase infection risk? The chair has focused on calming nervousness, last summer didn't show evidence of a significant increased risk.</p> <p>Q: (Communities Sub Group Chair) Shielding ends at the end of March and children should return to school, what is the message for people who are concerne? The chair to consider appropriate comms messages.</p> <p>SCG Chair: Need to balance the risk of Covid v's the visitor management issues. The Keswick Conversion is an example of the local population being anxious which is difficult for communications.</p> <p>The chair raised that Events needs to be included in the Prevent update going forward.</p> <p>Tony Watson, LDNPA: Work is ongoing with CCC to provide a list of events and any issues. A request that the Hands, Face and Space continues. The TVMG has developed a process for visitor management actions such as sanitising and toilets to alleviate potential issues.</p> <p>SMAC Chair – Keswick Convention are in contact with Allerdale Environmental Health.</p>	
Other Key Business		
11.	<p>Feedback to national co-ordination meetings (<i>Standing agenda item</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report included for review. • No significant change. 	CC
12.	<p>Update from sub-groups and agencies by exception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing raised. 	Subgroup chairs
13.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing raised. 	CC
14.	<p>Next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPTOG to continue at 09:30 Thursday • SCG Thursdays @ 15:00 • TCG Wednesday @ 11:00 • LRF Chairs National Wednesday @ 14:00 	CC