

# Health Protection Board

## Minutes

Tuesday 16 March 2021

1.	<p><b>Attendance/apologies</b></p> <p><b>Members</b></p> <p>Peter Thornton – Deputy Leader, Cumbria County Council (Chair) Katherine Fairclough – Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council Colin Cox – Director of Public Health, Cumbria County Council Peter McCall – Police and Crime Commissioner Vivian Stafford – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Michelle Skeer – Chief Constable, Cumbria Constabulary Andrew Slattery – Assistant Chief Constable, Cumbria Constabulary; Chair, Local Resilience Forum Hilary Carrick – Leader of the Opposition, Cumbria County Council</p> <p>Apologies from Stewart Young and Deborah Earl.</p> <p>Noted that this is the first meeting of the Health Protection Board under the new structures established in the Local Outbreak Control Plan as submitted to the national Contain Team on Friday 12 March 2020. This Board now replaces the Local Area Outbreak Board, which has been removed from the structure (though actions considered by that Board have been carried forward to this one). The group formerly referred to as the Health Protection Board has become the Health Protection Tactical Oversight Group.</p>
2.	<p><b>Review of Outstanding Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action 2 can be closed, no hard data available to provide the group due to difficulties in follow up, not just locally but nationally.</li><li>• Review of Outbreak Control Plan – complete</li><li>• Action 9 still in progress – conversations are continuing behind the scenes, hoping to bring something more robust next week</li><li>• Action 14 still in progress – something to be brought back next week</li><li>• Action 19 complete</li><li>• Action 20 complete</li><li>• Action 21 still in progress – awaiting a response from the tactical group on the results of their research</li></ul>
<b>Epidemiology and Overall Situation Reporting</b>	
3.	<p><b>Epidemiology</b></p> <p>Colin provided an overview of the national and local picture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nationally it remains a positive and improving picture</li><li>• In Cumbria the numbers have remained quick static, still approximately 30 cases per 100,000</li><li>• Ideally want the number of cases to fall further but better than rising</li><li>• Number of people in hospital continuing to come down</li><li>• Outbreaks in hospitals are falling</li><li>• Mortality in hospitals is coming down</li></ul> <p>Peter Thornton asked if there were any signs that the reopening of school was affecting the number of cases.</p> <p>Colin said that no impact had been seen as of yet, but likely to be identified next week (if any).</p>
4.	<p><b>Local sitrep</b></p> <p>Andy provided an update from the SCG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mostly vaccination related which will be covered by Peter Rooney</li></ul>

- Still no response to the adjustment of the lockdown measures/roadmap. Unlikely to change beyond what has already been set out nationally
- There is a plan in place for the rest of lockdown in terms of enforcement
- Waiting to see what the impact will be over the next few months (most likely going to be weather dependent in a lot of cases)
- Potential for a tough time in April and May

Hilary pointed out that there is the potential for gatherings over the next few months, especially given the Easter weekend.

Katherine informed the group that herself and Colin had discussed similar issues at the Recovery Group last week, in which districts were asking about the regulations around licensing relaxations in open areas. This means that there is the potential for alcohol fuelled disturbances which will place added pressure on the police in the towns and cities. Katherine suggested that the Districts need to be working together on this and thinking about the knock-on effects licensing in open areas will have in terms of police time, trips to A&E etc.

Michelle assured Katherine that there are already some recovery points set up around this, which will account for extra staffing etc.

Peter McCall commented that the biggest concern is going to Easter weekend as people will still travel up to visit the Lakes, but with no where open they are likely to head into the countryside. Peter emphasised the importance of the tone of response by police, which is going to be a challenge. Any response needs to be proportionate and needs to strike the balance between enforcement and encouragement. There is also the potential for tensions between visitors and residents.

Colin showed the group a graphic in which it highlights the rate of change in Districts for movement by residents for retail and recreation purposes.

**Action – Colin to look further into the graphic, particularly at the rate of change of movement in Cumbria.**

### Strategy Implementation

#### 5. Vaccinate

Colin introduced the item by outlining the vaccination data from NHS England as well as the letter from Peter Rooney which sets out the story so far. Keen to hear from Peter Rooney to hear what the next steps are for North Cumbria.

Peter Rooney thanked the group for his invitation to attend the meeting and welcomed questions from the group. But first he provided an update on the vaccination programme so far:

- He explained that there are a number of ways to access vaccination data, one way is through localised GP data, showing the vaccination record of people registered to a GP in North Cumbria
- As of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 128,607 people registered with a GP had been vaccinated in the North of Cumbria
- Just over 274,000 need to be vaccinated in the North of Cumbria in total
- The vast majority of people who have received their vaccination in the North, have done through one of the North hospital hubs and primary care networks (however the hospital is now being reserved for second jabs only)
- When it comes to booking a vaccination, the booking system has 2 ways: either through the GP or the national booking system
- The challenge for North Cumbria is the lack of a mass vaccination centre which means people are having to book at Kendal and Ulverston
- The intention is to open a mass vaccination centre in Penrith on 25/03/21, however this will still be relatively small due to workforce capacity
- Continuing to work with colleagues in Newcastle to help support Penrith centre with workforce

- A further 2 community pharmacy vaccine centres are looking to open in North Cumbria
- One reason as to why there was not a mass vaccination centre in the North originally is equity in terms of access, those in rural areas may not have been able to attend the mass centre, meaning that fewer people may have been vaccinated overall

Peter then went on to look ahead at the vaccination programme over the next few weeks/months:

- Cumbria set to be allocated 24,000 vaccines this week, this is nationally determined to enable everyone to meet the national policy of vaccinating cohorts 1-9 by 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Going forward, based on projections of maximum flow, with all of the mass vaccination centres, primary care networks and community pharmacies, we are believed to have more than enough capacity to distribute the vaccines
- However, by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, GPs have to decide whether they are going to carry on administering vaccines past cohorts 1-9, as it is no longer a requirement
- Longer term, if an annual vaccination is required, or a booster vaccination, and children need vaccinated as well, a more substantial system will need to be established

The group then went on to ask Peter questions around the vaccination programme.

Peter McCall commented on the geographical inequity that Peter Rooney talked about in terms of rurality, however Carlisle had not been mentioned, and they are feeling a bit left behind.

Peter Rooney responded that in Carlisle, there are currently 2 primary care networks providing vaccines, and work is being done with these networks to ensure that there is equity in the North of the county as well as the rest of the country (ensuring they are not being left behind).

Peter McCall also asked whether there is enough capacity to distribute the 24,000 vaccines we are receiving this week?

Peter Rooney assured the group that with all of the vaccination sites we have, we do have the right capacity to be able to meet the demands of the cohorts and future demands.

Peter Thornton asked what would happen if coronavirus vaccines will be required annually, will the PCN be able to provide this as well as business as usual?

Peter Rooney said that we have such a good primary care network that they will have a part to play, but a blended approach will be needed in order to ensure they can still do their own work. This will likely be guided by the national position/picture.

In relation to the next cohort of people receiving the vaccination, Katherine commented that those who live and work in North Cumbria, may not be as grateful having to travel distances to receive their vaccination. Important to think about the comms around this. May also feel left behind as we do not have what the South has.

Peter Rooney agreed that there may be the perception of the North being left behind, but in reality they are being vaccinated at the same rate as others. Peter also reiterated that had there been 2 mass vaccination centres in the North, those unable to travel from rural areas, perhaps lacking a car etc, would have been more of an equity problem.

Colin commented that with regards to equity, highest level of vaccinations is in Grange-By-Sands and lowest in Denton Holme. While this will in part reflect the age profile of the areas, more work needs done to ensure there is equity of access and uptake across the board. North Cumbria has now established an equity Board to get around this issue.

The group thanked Peter for attending the meeting and clarifying a number of details. Peter Rooney thanked the group for his invitation and welcomed the scrutiny.

6.	<p><b>Prevent (lockdown/restrictions)</b></p> <p>Colin gave an update around COVID-security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He informed the group that Districts were given some COVID funding to support their compliance activities which will continue for a little while</li> <li>• However, he then asked whether it will need to be this board, the Health Protection Board, that goes back to the Districts to ask what resources they will need in terms of COVID compliance?</li> </ul> <p>Andy responded that, from a police perspective, yes, we will need to go back to the Districts to ask what they need. Important for it to be a local management responsibility, not just for the police to respond, given the pressure they are already under.</p> <p>Katherine agreed that yes it will be useful to get an understanding from localities as to what they will need. There is some money available for resourcing, so we should be looking ahead and asking them to think about what they will find useful in order to have a safe opening/recovery.</p> <p>Peter Thornton asked if there is a deadline for Districts getting back to us.</p> <p>Katherine hoped by the end of the month.</p> <p>Peter McCall suggested it would be worth a discussion around the clarification of roles between the different organisations when it comes to COVID-security.</p>
7.	<p><b>Case/incident/outbreak response</b></p>
	<p><b>Test</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
	<p><b>Trace</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
	<p><b>Isolate</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
8.	<p><b>Treat</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
9.	<p><b>Communicate</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
	<p><b>Other Key Business</b></p>
10.	<p><b>“Roadmap” out of lockdown</b> No strategic issues to discuss</p>
11.	<p><b>Feedback to national co-ordination meetings</b> None noted.</p>
12.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p>