

Health Protection Board

Agenda

Tuesday 6 July 2021

1.	Attendance/apologies Stewart Young – Leader, Cumbria County Council (Chair) Hilary Carrick – Leader of the Opposition, Cumbria County Council Deborah Earl – Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, Cumbria County Council Peter Thornton – Deputy Leader, Cumbria County Council John Readman – Executive Director – People, Cumbria County Council Gillian Shearer – Chief Executive of the OPCC Colin Cox – Director of Public Health, Cumbria County Council	
2.	Review of Outstanding Actions Sarah to send last meeting minutes for Colin – Dated: 15 June 2021	SW – done.
Epidemiology and Overall Situation Reporting		
3.	Epidemiology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National picture<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case rates continuing to rise but not translating into hospitalisations at same rate as previously.• Local picture<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sitting on 250 per 100,000 per week.• Highest rate 370 per 100,000 in Carlisle, Allerdale just below that.• Hospitalisations in south reasonably stable. Figures in north now starting to creep up with 7 today.• Expect things to go up when restrictions eased. <p>Peter Thornton asked what the rise in numbers means, ie. being ill, symptomatic, mild symptoms. There are 10 people in hospital – would these people be in hospital in normal times or is it unusual that they've been admitted? Colin unable to comment on individual cases but national picture shows a combination of those things. Majority of people in hospital not vaccinated and are younger people. 2/3rds of hospital admissions were unvaccinated younger people.</p> <p>Gillian Shearer asked for further detail on transmission. Was it predominately in schools? Colin advised it was not predominately schools – main concern is the 18-25 age group where the surge testing has been.</p> <p>Gillian said that the Director of Health in Lancashire is asking for people to remain wearing masks and asked for Colin's thoughts. Colin advised he would still encourage masks to be worn in closed public places. This is still the rule until 19th July.</p> <p>Stewart was worried about potential problems arising after July 19th. Do we say to care home staff to continue to wear masks? What do they do if they say no? People in community such as home carers – what happens if refusal to wear masks could cause fights. Colin is considering a policy moving forward within the organisation.</p> <p>Deborah was wondering what the impact would be from the England Football finals. Colin stated there would be a risk particularly as people gather indoors to watch it.</p>	CC

	<p>Peter said we should be careful about mixed messages. Key thing is to get everyone vaccinated in the 18-30 range. What benefits can we give this group – to go about their normal life. The message needs to get out loud and clear.</p> <p>Gillian suggested using younger social media platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram to encourage the younger people who are not currently vaccinated?</p> <p>Colin advised that if you've been double vaccinated then from 16th August you won't have to self-isolate if you come into contact with an infected person.</p>	
Strategy Implementation		
4.	<p>Vaccinate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress update <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Vaccination data for HPB 6 July 21.pptx</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going well, BUT – rate of vaccination has slowed in recent weeks. About 55,000 aged 18+ people who have not been vaccinated, 75,000 have had one dose but not two. • Based on current rates of vaccination we're probably still a month away from reaching saturation point where everyone who wants the jab will have had it. • This takes us to early August – mid-August timetable for vaccinations to take effect. This will coincide with ending the requirement to self-isolate. • There remains a deprivation gradient with lower uptake in some areas, including urban Carlisle. • Are we developing a strategy for last 40k – do we go to them, write to them, ring them up. Are we developing a way to get to the last few? • There is scope for mopping up older groups needing vaccines. GPs are still driving uptake of vaccine. We need to get the hard slog on the ground, community vaccine champions, door knocking etc. • Stewart asked if younger people were asking for vaccinations but unable to have it? • Colin mentioned that there may be an element of supply but won't necessarily mean they will have more vaccines than customers. Not hearing about people being turned away for vaccines. • Deborah: St John's Church proactive action – handing out leaflets in Carlisle. • Stewart said that if vaccinations are lower in deprived areas, there are consequences. Should we do something more effective due to the 19th July ending of lockdown - should we be ramping up the vaccination message? • Colin confirmed yes and they were ready to go with final details on community development and resilience approach and would resolve some of that this week. • Stewart thought that lifting everything on 19th July is not a good idea. Regards to pubs and nightclubs, people want the scrum at the bar. There might well be a reaction from staff who have to work in these front-line positions. Staff might say they are not going to work etc. 	
5.	<p>Case/incident/outbreak response</p> <p>Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surge testing – update and next steps • Now in third week of surge test and it has gone pretty well, and we are where we need to get to. • Data – the week before we launched 17,000 tests carried out in Cumbria, 3,400 were in 12–13-year-olds. The week after there were 34,000 tests, 16,500 were 12–13-year-olds. • Last week numbers dropped to 26,000 tests and there was generally a good response to surge testing and there was a good response from schools. We have seen that in schools there hasn't been a massive reservoir of asymptomatic transmission. Action in schools has been identified with positive cases. 	<p>CC</p> <p>CC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed to get through all schools in past 3 weeks and it was proposed NOT to mop up next week with further surge testing as it was the last week of term. School should be school the last week of term as normal. They are encouraging other age groups to get tested instead – there is 4 weeks of surge testing available if required. <p>Trace/isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach in schools has clearly been working in reducing covid transmission but massively disruptive for children and families. National position changing in this with bubbles stopping after 19th July. Colin said that the Secretary of State announced that 2 rounds of testing should occur before the new school term and then potentially if people are identified and contacted, then a lateral daily release strategy should be implemented rather than self-isolation policy. <p>Action for Colin: Gavin Williamson’s speech earlier today to be listened to and to carry on supporting schools whatever approach is implemented.</p>	
Other Key Business		
6.	<p>Feedback to national co-ordination meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree key feedback points Colin said the final decision will be next Monday which will give a clearer indication. Stewart said that some decisions require parliamentary approval but not all decisions. It could turn out differently to what was said yesterday if there is resistance. Colin didn’t think that the decision to unlock on the 19th July would be delayed. There would need to be Parliamentary approval for some aspects of regulations. 	All
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 20 July 2021</p>	