



## OUTBREAK CONTROL ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

At 3.00pm

Remote Teams Meeting

(Teams invitation has been sent)

### Membership

Councillor Moore (Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board) (Chair)  
Councillor Thomas (Mental Health Champion)  
Councillor Harrison (Children in Care Champion)  
Denise McGuckin (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Dr Tim Butler (form NHS England)  
Michael Houghton (NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group)  
Lesley Wharton (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust)  
Craig Blundred (Acting Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Sally Robinson (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Sharon Cooney (Cleveland Police)  
Jill Harrison (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Tony Hanson (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Ed Turner (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Christopher Akers-Belcher (Healthwatch)  
Julian Penton (VCS – Hartlepower)  
Reverend Michelle Delves - Faith Representation  
Jacqueline Mckenzie (Primary Care Network)\*  
Fiona Adamson (GP Federation)\*  
Graham Trory (Primary Care Network)\*  
Carl Parker (Primary Care Network)\*

\* To rotate

### Items

1. Apologies
2. Notes from the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (attached)
3. Coronavirus in Hartlepool – Data Update - Presentation (*Acting Director of Public Health*)
4. Coronavirus - Local and National Restrictions – Verbal Update (Managing Director and Leader of the Council)
5. Covid-19 Community Champions Update – Presentation (*Acting Director of Public Health*)
6. Any other business
7. Date of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (OUTBREAK CONTROL ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP)

## MEETING NOTES

**5 October 2020**

The meeting commenced at 10.45 am and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

### Present:

Shane Moore (Chair)  
 Denise McGuckin (Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council)  
 Councillor Harrison (Children in Care Champion)  
 Councillor Thomas (Mental Health Champion)  
 Dr Tim Butler (NHS England)  
 Michael Houghton (NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group)  
 Craig Blundred (Acting Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council)  
 Sally Robinson (Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)  
 Jill Harrison ((Director of Adults and Community Based Services)  
 Pete Graham as substitute for Sharon Cooney (Cleveland Police)  
 Tony Hanson, (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
 Ed Turner (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
 Juli Simons (VCS – Hartlepower)  
 Michelle Delves (Faith Representative)  
 Jacqueline McKenzie (Primary Care Network)  
 Carl Parker (Primary Care Network)

### Also in attendance:-

Dominic Gardner, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust  
 Councillors Tony Richardson and Mike Young (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Officers: Dean Langstaff, Public Health Intelligence Analyst  
 Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
 Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **16. Apologies for Absence**

Superintendent Sharon Cooney, Cleveland Police, Lesley Wharton, (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust)

## **17. Notes of Meeting held on 11 September 2020**

Confirmed.

## **18. Coronavirus in Hartlepool – Data Update – Presentation** *(Acting Director of Public Health)*

The Acting Director of Public Health and Public Health Intelligence Analyst provided a comprehensive presentation which updated the Working Group on the current outbreak situation in the Borough. Statistical data was provided in relation to the period up to 1 October with cases in Hartlepool higher than the England average and continuing to rise. Covid related death rates in Hartlepool and England remained static. Details of covid cases by ward were also provided with Stranton and Hart Station seeing a higher concentration of cases. It was highlighted that the location of care homes was playing a smaller part in areas of concentration. Whilst it was reported that cases continued to be predominantly in the younger age groups, the impact on vulnerable age groups remained a concern as well as the continuing trend of increases in positivity rates in Hartlepool.

## **19. Coronavirus in Hartlepool – Position Update – Verbal Presentation**

The Acting Director of Public Health advised that the main reason for bringing forward today's meeting was to discuss the current situation given the increasing number of cases in Hartlepool and the decision to introduce local restrictions in Hartlepool similar to other local authorities in the North East. The Group was advised that a full breakdown of restrictions were outlined on the Government website and in the main included residents not being allowed to meet or host people you do not live with in their homes and restrictions on meeting in pubs and restaurants to one household. There were also restrictions on non-essential travel.

Emphasis was placed upon the need for the Group to effectively communicate the restrictions to the community to ensure they were successfully received and could be removed as soon as possible. There was no clear exit strategy from the Government and advice was awaited in this regard. Input from the Group was sought on the most appropriate methods of communicating the restrictions to ensure public buy-in, the advantages of which were outlined. The importance of buy-in from all partner agencies within the Group, key community leaders and Ward Members, as key sources of information was highlighted in order to effectively communicate clear concise positive messages to the public to ensure everyone was clear on what they needed to

do. Feedback, ideas and support from the Group was sought around taking the proposals forward to feed into the planning process. The Acting Director of Public Health commented on the need for joint communication arrangements and the options to utilise Community Champions and Guidance Groups.

In the discussion that followed the Chair indicated that the Council had not supported such stringent restrictions which had recently been imposed by Central Government, the background of which was outlined. Whilst a Member spoke in support of certain restrictions, concerns were raised that the recently imposed restrictions were a step too far particularly around the ban on visiting family members in gardens, the implications of which were shared with the Group.

Concerns were also raised in terms of the confusion within the community in relation to the restrictions, the impact of the recent restrictions on local businesses and decisions of some businesses deciding to close in anticipation of a worsening position. The challenges around conveying a positive message to the public were also discussed. The representative from Hartlepower expressed a commitment to convene meetings of locally based organisations and support local media campaigns to address the confusion in the community. It was suggested that communications should reinforce the importance of effective handwashing and that this be reiterated in schools.

Issues around wellbeing were discussed including the impact of the restrictions on mental health. It was suggested that publicity material should include key messages of the support mechanisms available to individuals. In response to a query raised in relation to the arrangements for group counselling sessions given the rule of six, the Acting Director of Public Health agreed to provide clarification following the meeting.

In concluding the debate, the Managing Director sought commitment from all partner agencies of the Working Group to work with the Council to ensure a joint targeted approach in terms of the communication and engagement process to ensure the correct messages were conveyed to the public in the most appropriate manner.

## **20. Date of next meeting**

It was reported that future meetings may be more frequent given the current position.

Meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

CHAIR