



OUTBREAK CONTROL ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Tuesday 16th March 2021
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 (NHS England)
Karen Hawkins (NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group)
Lesley Wharton (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust)
Craig Blundred (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 11th December 2020 (attached)
3. Coronavirus in Hartlepool - Data Update - Presentation (*Director of Public Health*)
4. Vaccination Update – Presentation (*Director of Public Health*)
5. Hartlepool Outbreak Control Plan – Presentation (*Director of Public Health*)
6. Any other business
7. Date of next meeting – TBC

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (OUTBREAK CONTROL ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP)

MEETING NOTES

11 DECEMBER 2020

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm 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:

Councillor Moore (Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board) (Chair)
Councillor Thomas (Mental Health Champion)
Councillor Harrison (Children in Care Champion)
Craig Blundred (Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council)
Sally Robinson (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Tony Hanson (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Christopher Akers-Belcher (Healthwatch)
Julian Penton (VCS – Hartlepower)

Also in attendance:-

Peter Graham (Cleveland Police) (as substitute for Sharon Cooney)
Gemma Ptak (Hartlepool Borough Council) (as substitute for Jill Harrison)
Councillor Tony Richardson

Officers: David Cosgrove and Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Team

28. Apologies for Absence

Denise McGuckin (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Lesley Wharton (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust)
Sharon Cooney (Cleveland Police)
Jill Harrison (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Ed Turner (Hartlepool Borough Council)

29. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

30. Notes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2020

Confirmed.

31. Coronavirus in Hartlepool - Data Update - Presentation (Director of Public Health)

The Director of Public Health updated the Working Group on the numbers of Covid-19 cases across the Borough. The Director commented that it was hoped the numbers of cases would drop below 200 per 100,000 in the next few days. However, this was still the highest rate in the North East and the 30th highest in the country. Hartlepool's numbers were still tracking higher than the England average.

There was no indication of whether the falling numbers would lead to a move from Tier 3 to Tier 2; it was understood that government would be looking at statistics around over 60's infection rates and the number of hospitalisations but no guidance had been given. The Director considered a move to Tier 2 before Christmas unlikely.

Heat maps showing the areas with the greatest numbers of cases and those with the greatest uptake of testing were shown and the Director commented that the disparity between the two maps was an issue that needed some work to promote testing in those areas with the highest numbers of confirmed cases.

Looking forward the Director highlighted the falling numbers but was concerned at the household mixing that was to be allowed at Christmas. The public would need to be reminded about distancing. The vaccine may be on the way but this was still going to be a long haul and people must still be on their guard against the virus.

The Chair commented that the Tees Valley Leaders and Mayors had pushed for the Tees Valley to be considered on its own in a discussion with the Minister recently as local people had heeded the messages and infection rates were falling.

The Healthwatch representative indicated that Healthwatch was available to support the Council and health colleagues in getting the messages out into the community, particularly those hard to reach sections of the community and those without social media/internet links.

There was a general view among those present that the government's relaxation of the restrictions over the five days of Christmas was ill-advised and the messages to the public needed to be consistent and clear. Reference was made to a letter being circulated by schools to parents which had been drafted by the Director of Public Health and the Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services.

An update at the next meeting was requested on the roll-out of the vaccination programme.

Decision

That the presentation be noted.

32. Covid-19 Community Champions - Presentation *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services gave a presentation on the ongoing work for the roll-out of the Community COVID Champions programme, the development of the training programme and the work with Hartlepool and local VCS organisations.

The existing Street Ambassadors scheme had been working well with the ambassadors focussed around the shopping centre and local schools. There had been 774 contacts with local people. It was commented that the street ambassadors needed to adhere to the same guidance on social distancing and wearing masks if they were to send the right messages to people.

There was comment on the track and trace system and its effectiveness particularly in the take up in shops and bars in the town. The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services indicated that significant work was being undertaken with local businesses and action had been taken with those that were not complying with the regulations.

The Healthwatch representative stated that Healthwatch would assist in anyway it could with the recruitment of Community Champions; it already had a network of volunteers keen to help in any way they could.

Decision

That the presentation be noted and circulated to the Working Group.

33. Support Hub and support for the CEV Population – Update *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services updated the Working Group on the work of the Hartlepool Support Hub and the offer to those who were now defined as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV).

The Working Group was very positive around the work of the hub and its impact on the local community particularly those considered most vulnerable. A Member made reference was made to the recent news reports that future scheduled surgery appointments could be delayed for 2 to 3 years and asked if any such anxieties around delayed appointments was being reported. The

Assistant Director outlined the work around Active Hospitals which Hartlepool was now involved in a pilot with North Tees Hospital and the work with the GP Referral scheme into sport and recreation. The work in this regard with the local VCS community was also welcomed. An update at a future meeting was requested.

Decision

That the report be noted and an update provided to a future meeting.

34. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chair thanked all groups involved for their work during the pandemic. Particular thanks was extended to the Support Hub staff that had made such a significant difference to the local community. The Director of Public Health reinforced the advice around Hands-Face-Space particularly during the Christmas season where the message from all partners to the public needed to be that people must stay on their guard. Small sacrifices now would provide huge payback later.

The Director of Public Health reported that during the meeting the government had announced a reduction in the self-isolation period from 14 days down to 10 days.

The Chair extended season's greetings to all the working group members.

Meeting concluded at 2.10 pm.

CHAIR