

Local Outbreak Engagement Board (Health and Wellbeing Board sub-committee)

Monday 7th February 2022, 1.00pm

Present: Cllr Jason Fazackarley, Roger Batterbury (Healthwatch), Helen Atkinson (Director of Public Health), Councillor Judith Smyth, Councillor Jeanette Smith, Richard Lee (Regulatory Services, PCC), Louise Wilders (HIVE Portsmouth), Matthew Gummerson (Strategic Lead for Intelligence, PCC), Emma Seria-Walker (Public Health), Kelly Nash (Strategy Unit, PCC).

Apologies: Councillor Suzy Horton, Stef Nientowalski (Shaping Portsmouth), Dr Linda Collie (Portsmouth CCG), Sarah Daly (Director of Children's Services), Dominique Le Touze (Consultant in Public Health).

1. Notes of last meeting (10th January 2022)

The notes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Local Intelligence Summary

Matt Gummerson provided an overview of the latest data and key messages.

Data was shared from the national coronavirus infection survey, published on 2nd February. In England, the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) remained high in the week ending 29 January 2022; we estimate that 2,633,100 people in England had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 2,544,100 to 2,725,100), equating to around 1 in 20 people.

In Portsmouth, there have been 2242 new cases in the last 7 days, which is a rate per 100k population of 1044.3 (a small decrease on the previous week). Rates remain highest among persons aged 0-14 years. Since 24/01/2022, rates have increased among persons aged 45-59 years and 60 years and over, but have decreased across all other age bands. Rates in school ages have fallen in the last week but both remain very high.

Latest data shows that 79.9% of the PCCC population eligible for a booster have received one, and we are now seeing significantly reduced demand.

In relation to hospitalisation, there are 129 covid-positive patients in PHUT with 3 in ventilation beds.

There have been 2 deaths in the last 7 days, bringing the total deaths from Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic to 438. Overall deaths are below what is typical for the time of year.

Cllr Fazackarley asked if there was detail about the unvaccinated population, and Emma Seria-Walker reported that there was lower coverage in younger age groups, partly because the programme had been available to them later, but that we also know that uptake is lower in some deprived communities and some ethnic communities.

3. Director of Public Health and Regulatory services update

Helen Atkinson reported that the most significant change from the previous meeting had been the move away from Plan B nationally. The key changes were that working from home guidance changed, and face coverings were no longer required in classrooms (although if there is an outbreak situation in schools then the use of face coverings is still advised) or in other settings such as shops (although still recommended in guidance for places where there are large numbers of people).

From 11th February, there will be further changes to the travel guidance in terms of the tests required to return to the UK if vaccinated (unvaccinated travellers will still need to carry out LFD tests). There have been a number of changes in the care home sector, including around resident isolation requirements and visitor guidance, and PCC continue to support the sector in interpreting and implementing this guidance.

Richard Lee reported that the business regulations expired in January, and the main legislation that now applies is set out in the assurance report. The number 3 regulations are due to expire on 24th March and a national consultation is underway around whether these should be extended. Also noted that businesses still have responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act which covers duties around risk assessment and keeping employees safe from risk and harm. Richard also reported that the CBCO cohort has moved over to support the community champions programme.

In relation to events, it was noted that Covid guidance is being built into the application process for event, including jubilee weekend, where there is a lot of interest in street parties and PCC operated events.

4. Test, Trace and Isolate

Helen Atkinson provided an update.

Contact Tracing

- We've received 428 cases for local contact tracing in the last 7 days (Thu 27/1 - Wed 2/2), an average of 61 a day. The weekly figure is a decrease of 5% on the previous seven day period, when we received 449 cases.
- Both local and national messaging continues to promote self-reporting, which has led to a significant increase in residents completing contact tracing online for themselves. 65% of all Portsmouth cases self-reported in the seven days to 26/1, up from 60% the previous week.
- The overall completion rate for Portsmouth residents through the combined efforts of the national and local teams together with self-reporting was 89% in the seven days to 26/1, up from 86% the previous week.
- This exceeded the national performance of an 87% completion rate, and was just short of the South East region's 90% completion rate.
- In the week to 2/2, the service's recently appointed Self-Isolation Support Officer contacted 201 self-isolating residents (or parents of self-isolating children) who indicated in the contact tracing interview that they had a support need, successfully speaking to and supporting 131 (65%) of them. Residents have required:
 - advice about Self-Isolation Support Payments (SISP) applications

- support to ensure families have sufficient food to last them through self-isolation
- support to address financial hardship relating to self-isolation through discretionary payments from the LA Practical Support Fund for those not eligible for SISP
- mental health support

Testing update

- In the last 7 days the ATS team have handed out 1572 test at home kits, most of these have been test kits of 20.
- The team have conducted 81 supervised tests.
- Stock wise, we have 1086 test at home 20's and 7053 test at home 7's in stock
- The ATS team have 2 staff off sick (1 with COVID),
- Paulsgrove, Cosham and Charles Dickins community centres are still assisting with the distribution of test at home Kits from their reception desks, which has been a huge help.
- We are currently operating an offsite ATS at the Guildhall for Dance Live staff and volunteers - this was to assist the event going ahead, but also offering us learnings towards options for supporting a possible 'Hotel' operation
- The LTS operated at 43% last week verses 48% the previous week

Cllr Smyth asked if it was Ok to use older kits which instructed swabs of nose and throat as per newer kits (so just taking a nose swab) or whether this diminished the effectiveness of the test. Helen replied that whilst it was understandable that people want to not carry out throat swabbing, advice is always to carry out tests as per the instructions. If kits that required only a nasal swab were not readily available in pharmacies, then these could be obtained from the ATS.

5. Vaccination

Emma Seria-Walker provided an update:

Uptake – the picture in Portsmouth:

- 1st dose – 79.9% (80+ yr olds above 96%; 60+ year olds above 91%)
- 2nd dose – 74% (80+ yr olds above 95%; 60+ year olds above 90%)
- Booster – 55.8% (all 12+ year olds); 79.9% of the eligible population
- Varies hugely by:
 - Geographic area within Portsmouth – low uptake correlates with areas of deprivation for 1st and 2nd doses
 - Age – younger age groups
 - Ethnicity – Black Caribbean; White Other; Chinese
 - Key groups - people experiencing homelessness; substance misuse service users etc.; students

Update:

- Continuing to identify opportunities to mobilise outreach and in reach models
- Pop up clinics in key locations are up and running
- Outreach continuing for people experiencing homelessness and substance misuse service users
- Working group being set up – hyper local approach
- Community Champions supporting engagement and messaging
- Campaigns – ongoing work, Eastern European work
- [Coronavirus vaccinations - Portsmouth City Council](#)

In relation to the booster programme specifically:

Current phase:

- Anyone aged 16+ yrs is able to book an appointment online via the National Booking System if they are eligible for a booster i.e. 3 months after 2nd dose (or 3rd dose if immunosuppressed) – the system will allow you to make an appointment from 2 months post 2nd dose, but you will not show you an appointment as available until the time you are eligible
- Anyone aged 16+ is able to attend a Walk In clinic and receive a booster vaccination

Delivery in Portsmouth:

- Via PCN invite – all 5 PCNs are delivering vaccinations across multiple sites within their practices, many are now offering Walk In provision
- Via National Booking System – 2 PCNs are now bookable online too
- The Hospital Hub vaccination site at QA has been re-established to offer vaccinations
- Via Walk In at St James – all ages 12+, all doses (not just boosters)
- Via Walk In at any of the Pop Up Clinics – all ages 12+, all doses (not just boosters)

In relation to vaccinations for 6-11 year olds and 12-15 year olds:

- Solent NHS Trust school immunisation team continue to deliver programme in Portsmouth. Visits have started for 2nd doses
- Home schooled children offered vaccination at St James's
- All children aged 12-15 can now attend a 'Walk In' offer at St James's for 1st and 2nd doses
- Appointments are also bookable on NBS
- 12+ year olds able to access vaccinations at Pop Up Clinics
- 5-11 year – roll out started on 31st January 2022 through primary care via invitations to eligible children in the cohort.

There were no questions.

6. Assurance report

The assurance report was considered and the Board were satisfied with the information provided, and confirmed they were assured local activity was appropriate and effective. Cllr Smyth asked where the governance of the group currently sat, and Helen Atkinson confirmed that this is through the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was noted that it is not yet clear from government what the longer term expectation is of local authorities in relation to health protection duties.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Future dates

Future meeting dates are now established until March 2022:

- 7th March 2022
- 4th April 2022