

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

Monday 7th March 2022, 1.00pm

Present: Cllr Jason Fazackarley, 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: Roger Batterbury (Healthwatch), 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 (7th February 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. In England, based on the Percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the week ending 26th February 2022 it was estimated that around 1 in 30 people had covid.

In Portsmouth, there have been 718 new recorded infections in the last 7 days, which is a rate per 100k population of 334.4 (a 37.4% decrease on the previous week). Rates are highest among persons aged 30-44, although they are decreasing across all age bands.

80.2% of the city's population aged 12+ have now received 1 dose of covid-19 vaccination with 57.1% having received a booster/3rd dose.

In the last 7 days there have been 104 patients admitted or diagnosed in PHU with covid and 109 patients currently in hospital with covid, with one patient in a ventilation bed.

In the last 7 days, there has been 1 covid-related deaths, bringing the total over the course of the pandemic to 444. Overall deaths remain below what is typical for the time of year.

Matt also information on the future scenarios modelled by SAGE. All scenarios assume that a stable position is eventually reached over several years.

The reasonable best case assumes a small resurgence of infection in Autumn/Winter 22-23 and the reasonable worst case a large wave of infection with increased level of severe disease. The central scenarios are considered to be the most likely:

- Central optimistic assumes that there will be a seasonal wave of infections in Autumn/Winter with a comparable size and severity of the current omicron wave
- Central pessimistic assumes that in the next 12-18 months emergence of a new variant of concern results in a large wave of infections, potentially at short notice and out of Autumn/Winter. However, severe disease and mortality remain

concentrated in certain groups (and lower than pre-vaccination) e.g. unvaccinated vulnerable and elderly.

Cllr Jeanette Smith asked how robust is the data now that testing and reporting has ceased. Matt Gummerson responded that the local data will become increasingly unreliable and therefore we will stop reporting on the website because of this. The data from the ONS infections survey will be more important but won't be Portsmouth specific.

Cllr Jason Fazackarley noted that the level of at least one vaccinations appears stuck at around 80%. Emma Seria-Walker responded that there are future campaigns planned around spring boosters for 75+ and vulnerable groups; and that there is ongoing work with pop-up clinics and harder to reach groups. The offer is retained for those who haven't had other doses.

Cllr Judith Smyth asked what the impact is on hospitals. Matt replied that the numbers of severely unwell patients receiving critical care is relatively small, but that this is adding to the overall pressures.

3. Director of Public Health and Regulatory services update

Helen Atkinson and Richard Lee gave an overview of the government's Living with Covid strategy. This is structured around four principles:

- Living with Covid-19 - removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safe behaviours through public health advice
- Protect the most vulnerable to covid-19 - vaccination and deploying targeted testing
- Maintaining resilience - ongoing surveillance, contingency planning and ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency
- Securing innovations and opportunities, including investment in life sciences.

Changes in testing and isolation have already taken effect, with further changes - including the removal of free tests - taking effect as of 1st April.

It was agreed to circulate the slides with the papers for the meeting.

4. Test, Trace and Isolate

Dominique Le Touze provided an update.

Testing update

- Week ending 26/2 the ATS team have handed out 2,589 test at home kits, and conducted 56 supervised tests.
- Stock wise, we have 2390 test at home 7's in stock and approx. 54,000 supervised 'innova' tests
- We placed orders on the 22nd for an additional 4,032 test at home and another order for the same on the 28th (yesterday). As of yet we are awaiting delivery confirmation and/or agreed quantities. The lack of communication is quite normal, and it is difficult to chase anyone for further information.

- Paulsgrove, Cosham and Charles Dickens community centres are still assisting with the distribution of test at home 7's from their reception desks, and we have asked them to drop down to one box per person (the same has been instructed at the ATS and community engagements).
- Due to stock levels and the impending end date of the 31st March, we have pulled all engagements in high footfall areas, such as supermarkets, business parks and highstreets. We will continue with Community Centres, Libraries and try to support certain Vaccination pop-ups that appear in these types of settings.
- The LTS operated at 11% (286 Tests) last week (w/e 26/2), versus 21% the previous week. Numbers of tests are not shared, but we estimate this to be around 87 tests.

Contract tracing

The LCTS successfully completed contact tracing with 689 or 45% of cases received from NHS Test and Trace in the 4 weeks to 16/02/2022.

- We also made contact with a further 147 or 21% of cases, but for various reasons (reluctance/refusal to provide details of close contacts being the most common) were unable to gather all relevant information from these residents to allow us to close them as completed.
- 58% of all cases self-reported in the seven days to 16/02/2022, down from 61% the previous week, 64% the week before that, and 65% in the first week of this monthly reporting period.
- In the 4 weeks to 16/02/2022, the overall completion rate for Portsmouth residents through the combined efforts of the national and local teams together with self-reporting was 87%. This matched the regional average and exceeded the national completion rate (85%).

Self-isolation support

- In the 4 weeks to 24/02/2022, the service's Self-Isolation Support Officer contacted 525 self-isolating residents (or parents of self-isolating children) who had indicated in the contact tracing interview that they had a support need, successfully making contact with 328 of them (62%). 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.

There were no questions.

5. Vaccination

Emma Seria-Walker provided updates on the programme:

Current focus:

- Improving uptake to reduce inequalities in vaccination rates
- Continuation of the booster programme
- Continuation of 12-15 year olds - 2nd dose roll out

- 5-11 year olds - high risk

Uptake in Portsmouth varies hugely by:

- Geographic area within Portsmouth - low uptake correlates with areas of deprivation for 1st and 2nd doses
- Age - lower take up among younger people
- Ethnicity - lower uptake among black Caribbean, White Other and Chinese population
- Lower uptake among people experiencing homelessness, substance misuse service users.

Key actions underway:

- Continuing to identify opportunities to mobilise outreach and inreach models
- Pop-up clinics in key locations up and running
- Outreach continuing for people experiencing homelessness and substance misuse service users
- Working Group set up - hyper-local approach
- Community champions supporting engagement and messaging
- Campaigns - ongoing work with Eastern European communities
- Local web information

Booster programme:

- Continues to be delivered in the city via PCNs (by invitation); national booking system; hospital hub; walk-in at St James's; walk in at pop-up clinics.

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.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Future dates

Future meeting dates are now established until March 2022:

- 4th April 2022