

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021
7.00 PM

Venue: [Peterborough City Council's YouTube Page](#)
Contact: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer at
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AGENDA

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| 6. | Appendix to Cabinet Member For Adult Social Care, Health And Public Health Portfolio Progress Report Including Managing Covid-19 Public Health Update | 3 - 8 |
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Committee Members:

Councillors: K Aitken (Chair), A Ali, S Barkham, C Burbage, S Hemraj, S Qayyum,
B Rush (Vice Chair), N Sandford, N Simons and S Warren

Substitutes: Councillors: G Casey, D Fower, T Haynes and A Iqbal

Co-opted Member (Non-Voting): Parish Councillor June Bull

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Paulina Ford on telephone 01733 452508 or by email – paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

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HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
15 MARCH 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Dr Liz Robin	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald	
Contact Officer(s):	Dr Liz Robin	Tel. 01733 207176

MANAGING COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE
Appendix to Cabinet Member For Adult Social Care, Health And Public Health Portfolio
Progress Report

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Health Scrutiny Committee at the request of the Health Scrutiny Committee group representatives, as an appendix to the Cabinet Member For Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health Portfolio Progress Report

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The local response to the Covid-19 pandemic was last scrutinised by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on January 12th 2021. Since the last report to Health Scrutiny Committee, national lockdown has continued, and a national Covid-19 Response Plan Spring 2021 was published in February, with a Roadmap for coming out of lockdown. The first step in the Roadmap has now taken place, with the reopening of schools on March 8th

4.2 Epidemiology of cases

Nationally and locally, cases of Covid-19 reached their peak in early January and have fallen since then due to the impact of lockdown. Cases in Peterborough have fallen more slowly than in other areas and at the time of writing Peterborough City Council has the seventh highest rate of Covid-19 cases in England.

This reflects the picture during the November lockdown, when cases in Peterborough stabilised but did not fall, and also during summer 2020, when Peterborough had higher case rates than the national average. There are a number of local authorities in a similar position, described as having 'Enduring Transmission' of Covid-19.

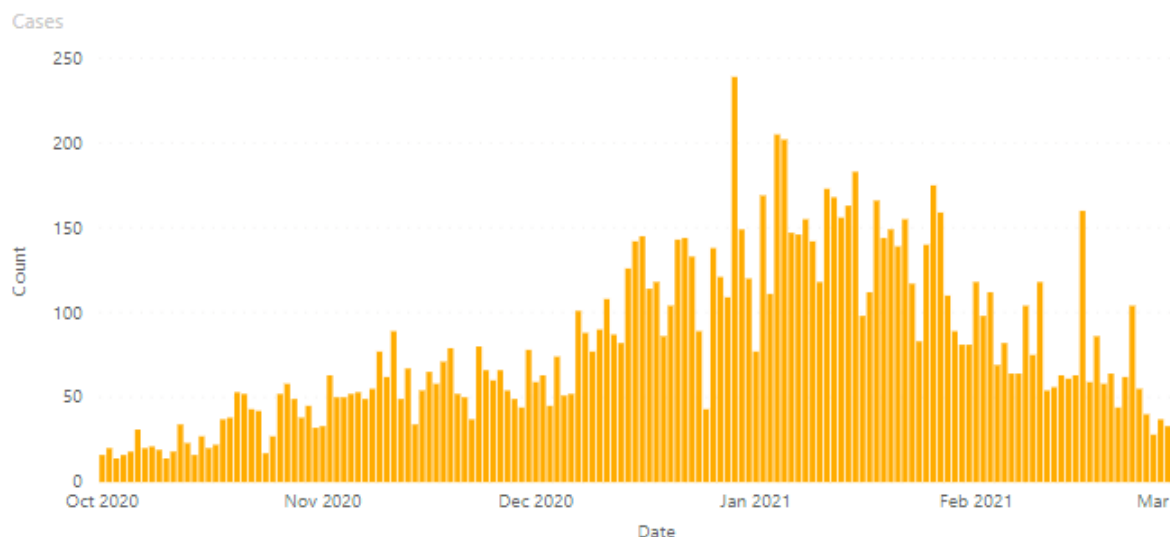
Case rates are updated daily, and a further verbal update will be provided at the Scrutiny meeting.

Covid-19 case rates for the week ending 6th March

Area	Weekly incidence (cases per 100,000)	7 day change in case rate
Peterborough	141	-23%

Cambridgeshire	53	-39%
East of England	49	-31%
England	60	-30%

Chart: Peterborough: Number of Covid-19 cases to 6th March



Please note - data for the last three days on the chart are incomplete so more cases are likely to be added

4.3 Deaths

Sadly, there have been 355 Covid-19 related deaths in Peterborough in the period from March to 26th February 2021. There were nine Covid-19 related deaths of a Peterborough resident in the week ending 26th February (deaths registered up to 6th March 2021).

4.4 Vaccinations

Statistics on Covid-19 vaccination are released weekly. By 7th March a total of 57,778 Peterborough residents had received at least one vaccination dose. Further information on vaccination rates is available on [Statistics » COVID-19 Vaccinations \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/covid-19/vaccinations/)

4.5 Hospital admissions

The numbers of patients with Covid-19 in hospital have fallen significantly since the January peak. This reflects the impact of lockdown and a similar fall was seen after the first wave of Covid-19 infection. However the fall has been faster locally amongst the over 75 age group, indicating a potential effect from the vaccination programme, which has also been seen nationally.

4.6 Prevention work with communities and businesses

The communications team have developed the 'This Depends on Us' campaign to emphasise that unless we all comply with current Covid-19 rules and keep the spread of infection low, it won't be possible to keep lifting restrictions in line with the government's road map out of lockdown. This is part of a wider proactive communications strategy.

Our Communities and Safety Team continues to work closely with local community and faith leaders and voluntary sector organisations, to ensure that the latest Covid-19 key messages are widely understood.

Public health staff are advising on Covid-19 safe preparations for key events in April and May, including local elections.

There is ongoing work in partnership with Environmental Health and the Health and Safety Executive to provide advice and support to businesses

4.7 Rapid Testing

We continue to offer regular rapid testing for people without symptoms at our local Community Rapid Testing Sites - and we now have two such sites operational, one at St Marks Church on Lincoln Road and one at Nene Valley Community Centre. We are supporting local workplaces to introduce their own rapid testing programmes

Considerable work has taken place through the Education directorate to support the safe return of pupils to school, and in particular to enable rapid testing for school staff and secondary school pupils. The new national offer of home tests for the households of schoolchildren has been publicised. More information about the various rapid testing options now available is on www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-community-testing

4.8 Contact tracing

Further appointments have been made to the in-house contact tracing team, which will enable work to pilot enhanced (backward) contact tracing to start. A sustainable model is being developed which combines dedicated contact tracing staff, with surge capacity for peaks of demand through trained staff who can be redeployed.

4.9 Self-isolation

The Council's self isolation support centre provides supportive calls for those self isolating and refer them to local services and voluntary groups where necessary. The national Test and Trace support payment scheme for people who are self-isolating has been extended to 30th June 2021, and now also applies to people who have to stay home to look after a child who is self-isolating.

4.10 Outbreak management

The Surveillance Group continues to meet daily to review the latest data from Public Health England, NHS Test and Trace, the local NHS and other relevant sources for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This information is summarised and passed on to the public health led Outbreak Management Team which oversees the management of local clusters and outbreak of Covid-19, through the work of multi-agency 'cells'. These cells are:

- Workplace Cell
- Vulnerable Populations Cell
- Care Home Cell
- Education Cell
- NHS Healthcare arrangements.

While outbreaks in care homes and schools have reduced, outbreaks in workplaces which operate with front line staff during lockdown remain relatively frequent.

4.11 Peterborough Incident Management Team and Rapid Community Response

A regular Peterborough Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting is held with representation from Public Health England and NHS England as well as local authority and CCG staff. This discusses the latest epidemiology of Covid-19 in Peterborough, reviews the risk assessment, and works through the different aspects of response and any further actions to be taken. The IMT recommendations feed into the Peterborough Rapid Response Team which meets twice weekly to oversee delivery of the local community response including marshals and enforcement.

4.12 Enduring transmission

The phenomenon of 'enduring transmission' of Covid-19 is increasingly recognised, associated with social and economic factors. In both Peterborough and Fenland, Covid-19 case rates have been slower to fall during lockdown than in most of the rest of England. This is likely to be associated with a range of factors such as people continuing to work during lockdown in low-wage and insecure employment - including agency work and zero hours contracts in sectors such as agriculture, packing, distribution and construction. Other factors may be living in crowded housing; sharing transport to work; and lack of information or exposure to misinformation about Covid-19 and preventive measures.

At the end of February a Cabinet Office Covid-19 field team visited Peterborough and Fenland to find out more about the factors that may be causing enduring transmission locally. They met with a wide range of community and voluntary sector representatives, public sector leads, and local employers. The visit was successful and demonstrated the range of activity in place across the system to address the spread of Covid-19. It also stimulated discussion and reflection on the root causes of Enduring Transmission, leading to further actions under development with support from regional and national colleagues.

4.13 Supporting Covid-19 vaccination uptake

A range of work is taking place to ensure that all communities and residents receive reliable information about Covid-19 vaccines, that any misinformation or lack of trust is recognised and addressed sensitively so that people feel confident to take up the vaccine, and to understand whether there are practical issues around venues or appointment times that could be worked on to support vaccine uptake - such as pop up clinics or mobile vaccination units.

4.14 Updating the Local Outbreak Management Plan

In line with the development of the national road map out of lockdown, and updates to the Contain Framework, all upper tier local authorities have been asked to update their Local Outbreak Management Plans (previously called Local Outbreak Control Plans). The updates are expected to include plans for surge capacity in the event of a new variant being identified locally, plans to address enduring transmission, and updated information on local rapid testing programmes and local enhanced contact tracing. The draft updated Local Outbreak Management Plan was submitted to regional Test and Trace colleagues on 12th March and the final version will be approved by the end of March.

4.15 Local Outbreak Engagement Board

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) meets monthly and is co-chaired by Cllr John Holdich as Chair of Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board. At the most recent meeting of the LOEB the Board discussed the latest epidemiology and response for the area, the Cabinet Office Covid-19 field team visit to review enduring transmission in Peterborough and Fenland, the national Roadmap out of Lockdown, and how best to communicate this, and a breakdown of the local allocation of the national Test and Trace Grant and Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The papers for the meeting are available on [Local Outbreak Engagement Board March 2021](#) and a video of the meeting is on the Peterborough City Council YouTube page.

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