

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
3 NOVEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Dr Liz Robin, Director Public Health	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Public Health	
Contact Officer(s):	Dr Liz Robin, Director Public Health	Tel. 01733 207176

MANAGING COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Director of Public Health	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Health Scrutiny Committee notes and comments on the Managing Covid-19: Public Health update.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Health Scrutiny Committee following at the request of the Health Scrutiny Committee group representatives, as part of the 2020/21 Health Scrutiny Committee work programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide updated information to the Committee on the Covid-19 pandemic in Peterborough and its management.
- 2.2 This report is for the Health Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:
- 1.Public Health
- 2.3 This report links to Corporate Priorities 6 and 7:
6. Keep all our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
7. Achieve the best health and wellbeing for the city
- 2.4 This report supports the Children in Care Pledge:
- We will help encourage you to be **healthy**

3. TIMESCALES

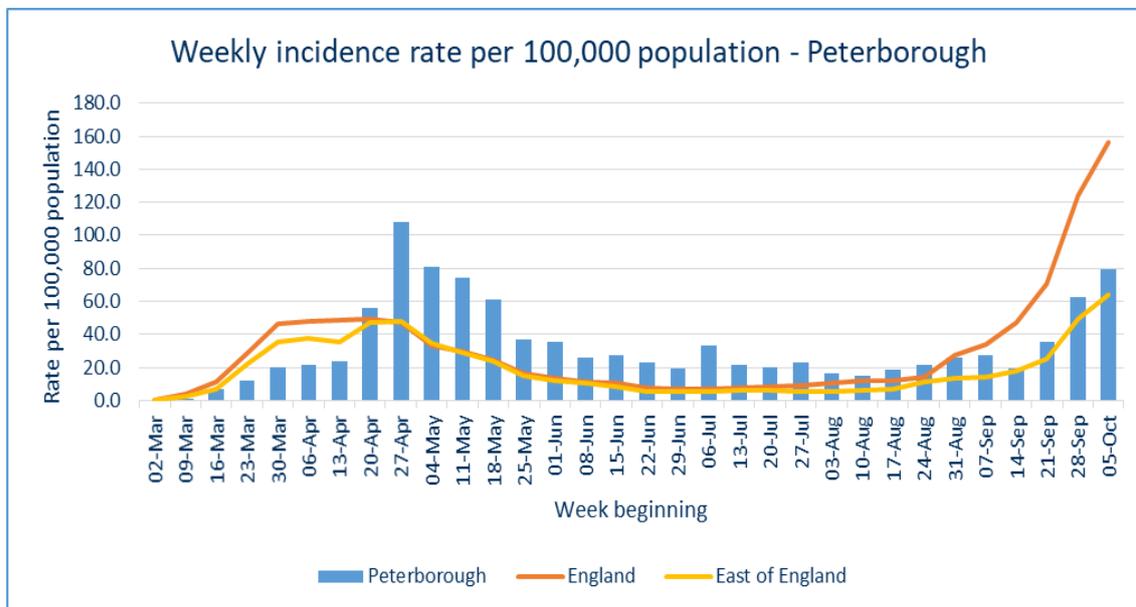
Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
---	-----------	----------------------------------	-----

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The local response to the Covid-19 pandemic was last scrutinised by the Health Committee at the meeting on 21st September.

4.2 Epidemiology of cases

Nationally rates of Covid-19 increased during September, and an increase was also seen in Peterborough from mid-September to October.



4.3 Deaths

Sadly, there were 115 Covid-19 related deaths in Peterborough in the period from March to 9th October 2020. Covid-19 related death rates in Peterborough are less than the national average since the start of the pandemic. There was one Covid-19 related death of a Peterborough resident in the week ending 9th October (deaths registered up to 17th October).

4.4 Local outbreak control plan

There has been ongoing focus on implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP), including joint work with the regional Public Health England Health Protection Team to directly manage local clusters and outbreaks.

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace>

4.5 Outbreak Management

The public health led Surveillance Group meets 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 Outbreak Management Team which works closely with the Public Health England Health Protection Team to oversee the management of local clusters and outbreak of Covid-19, through the work of multi-agency 'cells'. These cells are:

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

The membership of each Cell includes the agencies relevant to prevent and control outbreaks in that area of work. For example the Care Home Cell includes CCG, Adult Social Care, Public Health and NHS Community Service representatives; while the Workplace Cell has strong input from District/City Council Environmental Health Officers, who can visit affected businesses and provide advice and monitoring of their infection control and other outbreak control measures.

4.6 Governance

The overall implementation of the LOCP is overseen by the multi-agency Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health Protection Board which meets weekly and is chaired by the Director of Public Health. This Board includes membership from Public Health England and has a strong focus on the local epidemiology of and trends for Covid-19, as well as current plans and actions to prevent and control outbreaks - in order to provide strategic leadership and planning for the future.

The Member-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board, jointly Chaired by Cllr John Holdich from Peterborough City Council and Cllr Roger Hickford from Cambridgeshire County Council, last met on 5th October. This Board meets in public and provides political leadership and engagement with local residents for outbreak prevention, early identification and control. The last meeting can be watched on YouTube. The link is: <https://youtu.be/TC1aBDa1w-M>

The Local Resilience Forum Strategic Co-ordination Group, co-chaired by Gillian Beasley and by Jan Thomas, the CCG Accountable Officer, plays an important role in supporting Covid-19 outbreak prevention and management through bringing together the resources of the wider public sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, when the resources needed go beyond the scope of the Health Protection Board. A document describing the roles and responsibilities of a range of organisations involved in delivering the LOCP has been agreed through the LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group and published alongside our LOCP.

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace>

4.7 Schools

There has been a significant workload for both the Education Directorate and the Public Health Directorate working together, to provide advice and support for schools, when they have one or more cases of Covid-19 amongst staff or pupils.

A Peterborough and Cambridgeshire head-teachers briefing and Q&A session on 28th September with updates from the Director of Education and Director of Public Health, was attended by over 250 participants.

4.8 Care Homes

There has been ongoing focus on Care Homes and Domiciliary Care. Public health staff work closely with the Adult Social Care Directorate and with NHS colleagues to ensure that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Care Home Support Plan continues to be implemented effectively, with ongoing infection control support and training for Care Homes where required.

4.9 Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce

A joint operation in central Peterborough across the Council's regulatory services, community safety services and Cambridgeshire constabulary has provided a visible presence to support and where necessary enforce Covid-19 safe behaviours.

4.10 Testing facilities

A new Local Testing Site opened next to Gladstone Park Community Centre on October 14th. This will be open 8am to 8pm seven days a week and provide improved accessibility to testing for the local community.

4.11 Local enhanced contact tracing

This service, led by Environmental Health Officers, contacts people who have had a positive Covid-19 test who could not be followed up by the national Test and Trace call centre service, and interviews them to ensure that they receive advice and provide information about who they have been in close contact with. It continues to have a high success rate of 70-90% over the past few weeks.

4.12 Advice on events

Advice on Covid-19 safety for people organising events is available on <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-event-organisation>

For larger events, the multi-agency Peterborough Safety Advisory Group should be consulted to provide advice - and public health specialist advice is sought for those which are highest risk. A protocol for implementation of Contain Framework powers to issue directions relating to events, premises and public spaces has been developed.

Campaigns and information are being delivered to encourage members of the public to celebrate Halloween, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day in Covid-19 safe ways.

4.12 Winter Surge

The Health Protection Board and wider Council directorates are actively planning for a potential surge of cases during the winter months - considering the impact of a combination of Covid-19 and other winter viruses such as influenza. Ensuring effective flu vaccination for vulnerable groups is a high priority - as this should reduce demand for both Covid-19 testing and hospital capacity.

4.13 Peterborough Summit

A successful summit bringing together political, community and faith leaders in Peterborough with lead officers from a range of local organisations, was held via Zoom on Friday October 2nd. The event was titled 'Keeping Peterborough safe and open for Business and Leisure: A summit for Peterborough'. It celebrated the success of local community leadership in stopping the spread of coronavirus and keeping local rates stable, and gathered ideas for actions to take going forward.

The Summit can be seen on YouTube. The link is: <https://youtu.be/NPAGopE4G20>

4.14 New national system of Local Alert Levels

The national system of three local Covid-19 alert levels for local authority areas, with different restrictions and national support for each level, was announced earlier this month. Peterborough is currently at the Medium (lowest) local alert level. Work is ongoing on a new Covid-19 action plan for Peterborough, which will be updated verbally at the Scrutiny Committee. Some further national funding will be available through a new Outbreak Management Fund for local authorities.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 No consultations have been undertaken by the Council on this paper. However there is close working with community leaders on the overall response to the pandemic, and on preparation of appropriate materials for communication.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough HealthWatch have gathered views from members of the public and patients on health and social care services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The reports are available on <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/news-and-reports>

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 This Report provides an update on the current situation with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic and its management in Peterborough, in order to ensure that the Committee has up to date information about this and can conduct appropriate scrutiny.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the response to Covid-19 because this is a key issue for health and wellbeing in Peterborough at the current time.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Committee could have chosen not to scrutinise updated information on the Covid-19 pandemic and its management in Peterborough. However, this would have omitted a key issue for Peterborough residents' health and wellbeing.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 Peterborough City Council has received a Test and Trace grant from national government of £1,017,883 to fund the costs of outbreak management. This is allocated through business cases to the Finance Sub-Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Protection Board. Several costs (e.g. staffing, IT) are shared with Cambridgeshire, which maximises value for money.

The wider financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic for the Council are very significant and are described in Finance papers to Cabinet and full Council. Funding has also been received for local Marshals. Some additional funding for prevention and management of Covid-19 outbreaks will be received through the national Outbreak Management Fund.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The Coronavirus Act (2020) and subsequent associated regulations have brought in new legal powers for the Council in relation to management of outbreaks.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 Outcomes from Covid-19 have been shown to be worse for older people, men, people with a range of long term health conditions, black and ethnic minority communities, and people living in areas of deprivation. These factors are considered when planning for Covid-19 prevention and outbreak management.

Rural Implications

- 9.4 Rates of Covid-19 infection are generally lower in rural areas than in more densely populated urban areas. Analysis indicates that this is also the case in Peterborough, although there are significant numbers of cases in rural areas also.

- 9.5 **Carbon Impact Assessment**

Neutral impact. This report provides an update on the current position and will not result in any changes that will have a direct impact on carbon emissions.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan and the associated Roles and Responsibilities document are available on

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None