

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
12 JANUARY 2021	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	
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MANAGING COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Director of Public Health	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Health Scrutiny Committee notes and comments on the Managing Covid-19: Public Health update, and the flu vaccination update from the Clinical Commissioning Group.</p>	

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 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. The Committee also requested that an update on flu vaccination from the Clinical Commissioning Group was included in this report.

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
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

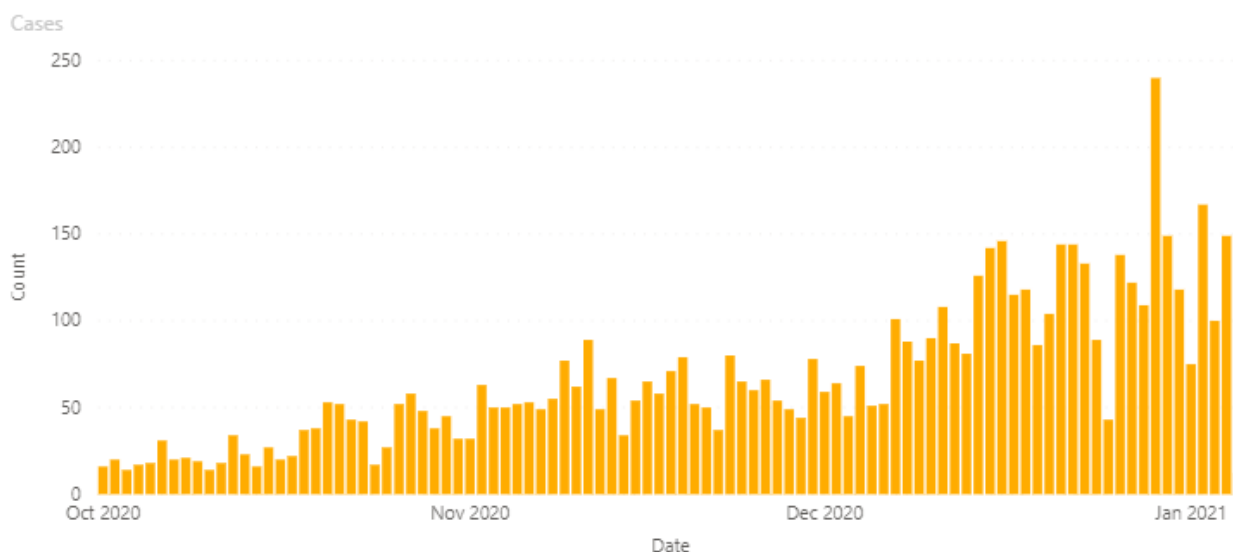
4.1 The local response to the Covid-19 pandemic was last scrutinised by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3 November.

4.2 Epidemiology of cases

Nationally rates of Covid-19 have been increasing, with a particularly rapid increase seen in London, the South East and the East of England. This is related to a new variant of Covid-19 which transmits between people more easily. Case rates in Peterborough didn't fall as rapidly as in other areas during the 'circuit breaker' lockdown in November 2020. However, more recently Covid-19 case rates have risen more slowly in Peterborough than elsewhere, which means that current rates are below the England and East of England average.

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

Chart: Peterborough: Number of Covid-19 cases to 5th January



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

Covid-19 case rates for the week ending 2nd January

Area	Weekly incidence (cases per 100,000)	7 day change in case rate
Peterborough	486	24%
Cambridgeshire	493	92%
East of England	798	41%
England	612	51%

4.3 Deaths

Sadly, there have been 177 Covid-19 related deaths in Peterborough in the period from March to 25th December 2020. There were eight Covid-19 related deaths of a Peterborough resident in the week ending 25th December (deaths registered up to 2nd January 2021).

4.4 National restrictions

Since the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on November 3rd, Peterborough was entered into the national lockdown which started on November 5th. On December 3rd Peterborough came out of lockdown into Tier 2 restrictions. On December 20th Peterborough entered Tier 4 'Stay

at Home' restrictions, which meant that forming of Christmas bubbles with other households was not permitted. On January 4th the United Kingdom's Chief Medical Officers advised that the country should move to alert level 5, meaning that if action is not taken NHS capacity may be overwhelmed within 21 days, and Peterborough went back into national lockdown restrictions.

The national lockdown is designed to reduce the more rapid spread of the new variant of Covid-19, and therefore is more restrictive than the lockdown in November 2020. It reflects the high rates of new Covid-19 cases and of hospital admissions, which are now above the level seen in the first Covid-19 wave.

The current national lockdown messages have returned to 'Stay Home; Protect the NHS; Save Lives' with the following key points:

- Coronavirus (Covid 19) is spreading fast
- Do not leave your home unless necessary
- 1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading the virus without knowing it

4.5 The Local Outbreak Control Plan and Outbreak Management

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, Council Directorates and wider partners to directly manage local clusters and outbreaks.

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

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 directorates and 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 City Council Environmental Health Officers, who can visit affected businesses and provide advice and monitoring of their infection control and other outbreak control measures. The Education Cell is chaired by the Director of Education and jointly staffed by the Education and Public Health directorates.

The workload of the outbreak management team and its cells has grown along with the overall number of cases, and the outbreak management system continued to operate throughout the festive period.

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 21st December. 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 on the Peterborough City Council YouTube page.

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/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. Towards the end of the autumn term, increasing numbers of school outbreaks were seen in Peterborough, requiring closure of year groups in some cases.

Under national lockdown, both primary and secondary schools are closed to children, with the exception of those who are vulnerable or who are the children of critical workers. There is a nationally commissioned programme of rapid testing, using lateral flow tests.

4.8 Care Homes

Adult Social Care, NHS, and public health staff work together to support outbreak management, infection control support and training for Care Homes. As rates of Covid-19 in the community increase there is a higher risk of outbreaks within Care Homes, and vaccinating Care Home residents and staff is a national priority.

4.9 Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce

There is ongoing joint working across the Council's regulatory services, community safety services and Cambridgeshire constabulary on providing a visible presence to enforce Covid-19 restrictions and regulations. This has been strengthened by employment of Covid-19 marshals within the Council's community safety services.

4.10 Testing facilities

For patients with symptoms, there continue to be testing available through booked appointments at the Drive Through testing centre at Peterborough Showground, and at Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) which attend sites in Peterborough on different days of the week. There is also Local Testing Site at Gladstone Park Community Centre which is open seven days a week.

More recently rapid (lateral flow tests) have been offered on a very local level, in areas where clusters of cases have been identified. A bid is being put forward to the Department of Health and Social Care for an expanded rapid community testing programme across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

4.11 Local enhanced contact tracing

This service 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 information, and their close contacts are identified. While the service was piloted in Peterborough, it has now been rolled out to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough wide. While it has

been very successful, the current high rates of cases, which have increased by a factor of around x20 since the service was first put in place, means that the service has to prioritise its activities, and the service model needs ongoing review and development.

4.12 The new Covid-19 strain

Public health officers have reviewed the evidence provided by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) on the new variant of Covid-19 which has a rate of transmission thought to be 50-75% higher than the previous variants. The SAGE paper makes various recommendations - based on the same control measures being appropriate for the new variant, but applied with even more rigour. These recommendations have been shared with the Council's joint management team and with partner agencies to ensure that we are taking all possible measures to reduce transmission.

4.13 Vaccination

Vaccination - starting with the groups of people who are most vulnerable to Covid-19 infection and for health and care workers, is the highest priority to reduce the impact of Covid-19 and bring the pandemic under control. The Covid-19 vaccination programme is being managed nationally by the NHS, and co-ordinated locally by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group.

5. **UPDATE ON FLU VACCINATION FROM THE C&P CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

- 5.1 At the previous meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed that an update would be provided by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group on the existing flu vaccination programme, as part of this paper. The update is as follows:

System flu vaccination campaign 2020/21

There has been additional focus on influenza immunisation delivery this year. NHS E/I have asked CCGs to co-ordinate local delivery of this programme and links with the NHSE Flu Plan Submission on 20th September 2020.

The statutory responsibility for immunisation delivery and uptake sits with NHS England/Innovation supported by the Public Health England.

In addition, health providers themselves have a responsibility to protect their staff and decrease nosocomial transmission (disease transmission while in a healthcare/care setting) by ensuring vaccination of health and care workers. These occupational health vaccination programmes are funded direct by the providers.

The 2020-21 Campaign

In 2020-21 increased emphasis was placed on the influenza vaccination programme for the following reasons:

- Pandemic flu remains a significant risk to health economies and wider society
- Seasonal flu can adversely impact health service delivery and at this phase in recovering from the first wave of covid this additional service pressure could have a negative impact on health outcomes.

The need for good infection prevention and control including social distancing to contain covid cases could decrease the efficiency of delivery of influenza vaccinations.

Supply of flu vaccine from the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) for Primary Care, Trusts and Community Pharmacy was confirmed and has clear processes stated on how and when to order additional stock supplies.

Governance

- A CCG Influenza Immunisation Group has met weekly, chaired by the Acting Medical Director.
- Weekly data reports primarily to Health Gold, with the uptake information appearing in the Integrated Performance Report and also going to the System Recovery Oversight Group, the A&E Delivery Boards and the Joint Commissioning Group.
- Contractual responsibilities sit with NHS E/I. Contractual review under negotiation regarding additional offer as eligibility groups are expanded.
- Flu Leads attend Regional monthly meetings and ensure Task and Finish group share communication and identify risks and barriers early.
- Flu Leads also work in partnership with the Mass Vaccine Task and Finish local and regional group and share any lessons learned regarding programme delivery.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 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 throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 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. It also provides the requested information on the flu vaccination programme.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 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.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 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.

10. 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. Peterborough has also received a Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) initial grant of £1,618,072. Further COMF funding will be received on a monthly basis. 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.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The Coronavirus Act (2020) has 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 high across Peterborough in both urban and rural areas at present

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.5 No change from carbon impact assessment from the Covid-19 report to the previous Health Scrutiny Committee in November.

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 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks>

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None

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