

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 22 October 2020  
**Report for:** Information/Discussion  
**Report of:** Director of Public Health

### **Report Title**

**Update paper to Pandemic Scrutiny committee on COVID-19 Programme in Trafford**

### **Summary**

This report outlines the progress made in the recent period in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper outlines key activities within each work programme including testing, track and trace, data and intelligence, community engagement and PPE/infection control.

The Committee are asked to note that the data provided are accurate as of 14th October, but are subject to rapid change. A verbal update will be made at the meeting.

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee are asked to:**

1. Note the content of this report by way of an update on the COVID-19 situation in Trafford.
2. Consider ways in which members of the Committee can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation including engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.

#### **Contact person for access to background papers and further information:**

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## **1.0 Headline Data**

- 1.1 Rates of infection have been increasing significantly over the past weeks.
- 1.2 We are now seeing over 125 new cases every day in Trafford.
- 1.3 There were 894 confirmed cases during the week 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October which is equivalent to 377 cases per 100,000 residents. There may be further cases to be added due to data delays with reporting of results. This is a sharp increase over the previous week (27<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October), when we had 627 confirmed cases, and a rate of 264/100,000.
- 1.4 Our cases are spread across the borough, with rates over 200/100,000 in all wards bar one.
- 1.5 The highest incidence rate is in our 17-21 year olds, and within that the 18/19 year olds stand out. Overall rates are highest in the working age population but the incidence in people aged 65 and over is 131/100,000. This impact of Covid-19 is likely to be greatest in this age group. Our lowest rates are in our children aged under 16.
- 1.6 Performance monitoring against PHE intelligence exceedance data (network triggers) continues with ongoing exploration of demographics to understand patterns and causes to feed into our 10 point action plan.

## **2.0 Testing in Trafford**

- 2.1 The availability of increased testing has demonstrated the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Trafford community which have risen significantly since the easing of lockdown restrictions. The known infection rate is higher now than at the time of the last lockdown decision in March 2020.
- 2.2 Over a 14 day period until Monday 05 October, the majority (83.3%) of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites.
- 2.3 The positivity rate for testing current stands at 11.5%.
- 2.4 The National Testing Programme is continuing to experience exceptionally high demand, although the situation is improving from previous weeks.
- 2.5 Home Testing Kits continue to be available and the closest Local Testing Site is usually provided as an option to individuals seeking a test. There still appear to be an issue with accessing drive-through sites, with the closest site rarely appearing as an option when booking a test.

- 2.6 Testing sites in Trafford Park and Partington have been operational for a number of weeks and are well used. The team are exploring mobilising a third local testing site due to the increase in cases in Trafford.
- 2.7 The Mobile Testing Site will be in place during October at Trafford House but has been redeployed for a number of dates to other areas in GM where rates are higher.
- 2.8 Redeployment of testing sites to other areas could act to skew infection rate data if fewer cases are being identified due to reduced testing capacity.
- 2.9 The recruitment of a business as usual swabbing team is ongoing. As well as outbreaks, work is ongoing to understand how the swabbing team can support in the testing of priority groups.
- 2.10 Supported Living & Extra Care Social Care Team are part of a GM testing pilot. Many settings have begun to order kits as part of this.

### **3.0 Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

- 3.1 The stock position at New Smithfield Market (Manchester and Trafford PPE warehouse) for all PPE lines are within healthy parameters.
- 3.2 National supply lines for PPE are recovering and PPE is being manufactured in the UK reducing the risk of overseas freight, customs and imports issues we previously experienced and minimising the potential implications of Brexit.
- 3.3 The Department of Health & Social Care have now published their [PPE strategy: stabilise and build resilience](#). This report sets out the government's strategy for preparing for a second wave of COVID-19 or concurrent pandemic in England alongside seasonal winter pressures and covers the supply and logistics for distribution of PPE.
- 3.4 Central to the strategy is the mobilisation of the national PPE portal which can be used by all adult social care residential care homes, domiciliary care providers, children's social care settings, GPs, community pharmacies, dentists and optometrists in England.
- 3.5 The portal is intended to meet all COVID-19 needs for free.
- 3.6 Local Resilience Forum drops from the DHSC are received for 3rd sector organisations not supported by the portal – these are distributed through the mutual aid hub.

- 3.7 The portal product range is continually being expanded and weekly provider order limits increased based on modelled demand. The mobilisation of this portal forms a critical dependence of the scale and scope of the Trafford and Manchester Mutual Aid Hub.
- 3.8 A GM PPE strategy continues to evolve and shape in response to the national plans and provides a key foundation to support local transitional arrangements.
- 3.9 The online PPE order form is live for providers to submit PPE requests, simplifying the ordering process and reducing resource requirements. Feedback has been positive.
- 3.10 PPE for winter flu will be access via the national portal but the team have secured additional supplies via GM to ensure locality resilience.

#### **4.0 Contact tracing**

- 4.1 Local contact tracing was initiated on the 9th September 2020.
- 4.2 System issues are currently impacting the robustness of activity but are rapidly being addressed where possible:
- There are systemic problems with the timely release of National data to localities hampering local contact tracing efforts, resulting in the possible spread of the infection as contacts cannot be traced within the incubation period.
  - There are quality issues with the data being released, requiring dedicated capacity for data mining and prioritisation logic to be applied before it can be released to the contact tracing team
  - The volume of activity (caseloads) is increasing and processes for managing activity is being rapidly developed to cope with the pace and scope of work
- 4.3 Resource capacity for contact tracing is being increased (the Access Trafford team went live to support the core team on 07/10/2020)
- 4.4 There are opportunities for streamlining systems and processes to help build capacity and the team are working hard to identify efficiencies and intelligent solutions with colleagues.
- 4.5 A systemic model able to withstand the requirement for operational flexibility due to a second wave or national lockdown are actively being developed.

4.6 The Single Point Of Contact team continue to support schools, local businesses and partner organisations to manage positive cases and outbreaks.

## **5.0 Community Engagement**

5.1 To support the Public Engagement Board in its duty to communicate simple and clear preventative measures to our staff, residents and local employers, an improved system governance structure has been mobilised to deliver our system Community Engagement response.

5.2 A weekly Covid-19 Co-ordination Engagement Group has been established to support the work of the Board and co-ordinate the COVID-19 engagement response across the locality. This group will use local data and intelligence to update and lead the intensive 10 point action plan for engagement using localised networks for disseminating information and engaging with residents.

5.3 A weekly COVID-19 Enforcement group has also been mobilised to drive enforcement activity and ensure national legislation and local lockdown guidance is implemented in licenced premises, neighbourhoods and open space.

5.4 A virtual network has been established to ensure we have good system reach for key messages in hard to reach and other groups and disseminate key information to communities for wider circulation.

5.5 Key updates from these groups:

- Officers from Licensing, GMP, Environmental Health and elected members have visited town centres to check current legislation is being adhered to and businesses, licensed premises, and residents understand what is required of them.
- Where outbreaks have occurred officers are engaging with the business owners and managers. Further operations will be held in town centres to include evenings and weekend to monitor compliance with the regulations.
- The Community Safety Team, Transport for Greater Manchester and GMP have undertaken a face covering compliance operations on public transport to ensure people are aware of the rules.
- Work is ongoing to ensure business owners are clear on COVID secure workplace practice.

- Reports of gatherings within residential premises have been attended by GMP and the Community Safety Team. A proportionate approach is taken but fixed penalties can and have been issued.
- A joined-up approach between the council, GMP and the UK Border Control for reports of individuals or families in breach of the quarantine rules returning from certain countries is being progressed.
- Officers of the council and GMP are working closely with event organisers to ensure regulations are adhered to and that any events can be delivered as safely as possible
- Localised networks developed to disseminate info to faith leaders, 'activists' and community organisations. Faith Leaders disseminate weekly stakeholder briefing to congregations.
- Urdu and Punjabi posters have been delivered around Old Trafford and Stretford
- 25,000 leaflets printed in Arabic, Gujarati and Urdu have been developed for distribution after afternoon prayers by Mosque Leaders.
- Stakeholder briefings are now being circulated weekly by Trafford Business, Community Safety and Partnerships and Communities.
- Targeted work has been undertaken with education partners around safe return to school and there is ongoing engagement with schools and head teachers to ensure up to date messaging on websites etc is available.
- Free posters are being developed by the cabinet office in different languages for distribution around high prevalence areas or areas with high spread rates within Trafford.
- Ongoing communications work for staff and partners to reinforce messaging around restriction measures, local and national rules and good COVID-19 practice to ensure clarity of messaging.

## **Recommendations**

- 1 Note the content of this report by way of an update on the COVID-19 situation in Trafford

- 2 Consider ways in which members of the Committee can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation including engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.