

Notice of Meeting

Local Outbreak Engagement Board (Public)

Friday, 23rd October, 2020 at 10.00 am

This meeting will be held in a virtual format in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Please note: The Council will be live streaming its meetings.

This meeting can be streamed live here: <https://westberks.gov.uk/loeblive>

You can view all streamed Council meetings here:
<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/councilmeetingslive>

Date of despatch of Agenda: 15 October 2020

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Gordon Oliver on 01635 519486 or e-mail: Gordon.Oliver1@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk



Agenda - Local Outbreak Engagement Board (Public) to be held on Friday, 23 October 2020 (continued)

To: Councillor Howard Woollaston (Chairman), Councillor Lynne Doherty, Councillor Dominic Boeck, Councillor Graham Bridgman, Councillor Steve Masters, Councillor Martha Vickers, Nick Carter, Shairoz Claridge, Tessa Lindfield, Meradin Peachey, Matthew Pearce and Andy Sharp

Also To: Mandip Bilkhu, Catherine Greaves and Sean Murphy

Substitutes: Councillor Alan Macro, Councillor Rick Jones, Councillor Joanne Stewart and Sam Burrows

Agenda

Part I

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- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). | |
| 2 | Minutes
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of this Board held on 25 September 2020. | 1 - 4 |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest
To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct . | |
| 4 | Covid-19 Situational Report | Verbal Report |
| 5 | Local Incidents | Verbal Report |
| 6 | Local Alert System | Verbal Report |
| 7 | Public Events | Verbal Report |
| 8 | Communications Updates | Verbal Report |
| 9 | Agenda for the Next Public Meeting Dated 06 November 2020 | |
| 10 | Any Other Business | |

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance



West Berkshire
C O U N C I L

**Agenda - Local Outbreak Engagement Board (Public) to be held on Friday, 23 October
2020** *(continued)*

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact
Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.



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DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD (PUBLIC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

Councillors Present: Graham Bridgman, Lynne Doherty, Steve Masters and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Rachel Johnson (Senior Programme Officer), Matthew Pearce (Head of Public Health and Wellbeing) and Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Meradin Peachey (Deputy Director of Public Health for Berkshire) and James Townsend (Policy Officer- Executive Support)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Mandip Bilkhu, Councillor Dominic Boeck, Tessa Lindfield and Councillor Martha Vickers

PART I

18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Martha Vickers, Councillor Dominic Boeck, Tessa Lindfield and Mandip Bilkhu.

19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

20 Minutes of the previous meeting dated 28 August

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 28 August 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

21 Covid-19 situational update

Matt Pearce provided an update on the Covid-19 situation in West Berkshire. He stated that all data presented was correct as of Thursday 24 September 2020.

National data:

- He noted that as of the 24th September 2020, there had been 416,363 confirmed cases of Covid-19 across the UK, resulting in 41,902 deaths. He stated that, according to the epidemiology curve, there was a clear up-turn in cases.
- He noted that the testing capacity was now much greater than in the first spike of Covid-19.

Local Cases:

- As of Thursday 24 September, 583 West Berkshire residents had tested positive for Covid-19. He further noted that 4,259 cases had been detected across Berkshire as a whole, with Reading reporting the highest number of cases at 940.
- He noted that it was expected that the true number of cases in West Berkshire would be higher as many asymptomatic cases would go un-detected.

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- He stated that the newly detected rates of Covid-19 in West Berkshire was steadily increasing. Since the start of the outbreak, the number of Covid-19 cases in West Berkshire per 100,000 people was 367.9, which was lower than the national and regional averages.
- He further noted that in the previous 7 days, West Berkshire had seen 23 confirmed cases.

Death Rates:

- He stated that West Berkshire had recorded no deaths from Covid-19 in previous weeks and that the age standardised death rate for West Berkshire was similar to the national average.

Covid-19 Testing:

- He noted that whilst there had been no decrease in capacity for testing, demand for testing was increasing and as such sites in areas with higher prevalence had been prioritised.
- It was estimated that around 25% of people trying to book a test were not eligible.
- He further noted that the positivity rate in West Berkshire was around 1%.
- He stated that areas with lower prevalence of the virus will have reductions in capacity, so sites may appear to be empty and less bookings would be available.
- He stated that the key message was to reinforce that you should only get a test if you were eligible.

Councillor Woollaston stated that the Covid-19 application stated West Berkshire was a medium risk area. He asked for clarification.

Matt Pearce stated that no areas were classed as low risk as this correlated to zero risk of Covid-19, so medium was the lowest bracket of risk available.

22 Local incidents update

Matt Pearce stated that there had been a fairly significant rise in the number of incidents across West Berkshire. He noted that in the 7 days prior, there had been 5 incidents, mostly in schools and nurseries. He stated that there were a range of measures that would follow up any incidents, including a risk assessment by Public Health England and an inspection to check the facilities were Covid-19 secure.

Councillor Doherty asked for reassurances that the Local Outbreak Plan provided the necessary tools to deal with any outbreaks.

Matt Pearce stated that outbreaks did not always result in an incident management team meeting. He noted that the Thames Valley Police incident was dealt with by the incident management team.

23 West Berkshire Covid-19 website update

Rachel Johnson provided an outline of the new Covid-19 website for West Berkshire. She stated that the site could be reached via berkshirepublichealth.co.uk

She outlined that the website would enable residents to see how many cases there were in the local area and across Berkshire, to access guidance around Covid-19 and keep up to date with the local picture of Covid-19. She also noted that the site outlined the

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number of deaths, the 7 day picture of cases, details of the first spike and comparisons with other regions of the UK.

24 Communications update

Martin Dunscombe provided an update on the work of the communications team on Covid-19. He stated that the team had been working with Berkshire youth to help get across messages around Covid-19 to younger generations and the need to protect loved ones. He also noted that an informative video had been shared on the testing process at Newbury Showground. He further stated that there had been various messaging through different social media platforms around need to only get a test if you had symptoms. He stated that the communications team had shared information across various platforms on the new NHS Covid-19 app, whilst also working with the Community Hub to produce a weekly bulletin in order to stay in close contact with community groups. He further noted that contact details of the community support hub had been and continued to be shared widely to ensure residents knew the hub was there should they need it.

Councillor Doherty noted her thanks for the great work of the communications team during Covid-19 and praised their proactive approach for enabling the Council to engage with its residents.

25 Community Hub update

Susan Powell provided an update on the work of the Community Hub. She stated that the hub was created in March in response to the pandemic to ensure the most vulnerable in our community were supported, such as those who have been required to shield. She noted that the hub has formed and continued to form strong bonds with other community groups, such as through the weekly hub bulletin. She noted that gradually calls to the hub have reduced, but it remained ready should there be a rise in calls. She stated that the hub remained in close contact with Adult Social Care to assist those in need. She noted that the hub provided an opportunity for a renewed community support network across West Berkshire.

Councillor Doherty noted her thanks to the Community Hub and the vital work it had done. She also stated that it was reassuring to hear the hub were communicating contact details should residents need it in the future. She also asked if there were reassurances that community groups were ready to assist should they be needed.

Susan Powell stated that community groups continued to reassure the hub that they were ready to provide support again should they be needed and that the hub was in frequent contact with them to ensure this.

Councillor Masters also noted his thanks to the community hub and its excellent work.

26 Any other Business

Councillor Masters asked what provisions were being taken for those who did not have access to a smartphone in regard to the NHS Covid-19 app.

Matt Pearce stated that the public protection partnership had been working with business who were required to take individuals' details. He also noted that the test and trace

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system would be able to contact these individuals separately. He also noted that West Berkshire, along with Slough were working to develop a system that would complement the national test and trace system.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 11.02 am)