

Public Document Pack

Executive Board, 16th December 2020

Late Item of Business: Agenda Item 7

'Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic: Response & Recovery Plan'

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Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Chief Executive

Report to Executive Board

Date: 16 December 2020

Subject: Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary

- This report updates Executive Board on the latest coronavirus (Covid-19) position, following the end of national restrictions in England and the reintroduction of a revised Covid Alert Tier system, with Leeds entering Tier 3: Very High Alert restrictions from 2 December 2020. A Government review of which areas are in the three Covid Alert Tiers is expected around 16 December and this report outlines the latest data that will feed into that review. The report describes ongoing work towards rolling out a Covid-19 vaccination in Leeds, outbreak management, community testing, the launch of a local contact tracing system, current pressures on the health system, and the support being provided to people and businesses. The Response & Recovery Plan at Annex A provides an update on current key actions, issues and risks and planned activity from each strand of the multiagency command and control arrangements. Annex B provides the latest dashboard including key data and analysis. Looking ahead, Annex C provides a draft integrated winter plan to help deal with the ongoing pandemic.

1. Main issues

- On 2 December, it was announced that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine had been approved by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), after passing all three safety and efficacy data phases. JCVI notes that the vaccine appears to be safe and well-tolerated, with no clinically concerning safety observations. The vaccine is administered in two doses 21 days apart and offers up to 95 per cent protection against

Covid-19. The UK has already ordered 40 million doses, which is enough to vaccinate 20 million people. A further 310 million doses of other vaccines have also been ordered from six other vaccine candidates. The Government has insisted the public exercise patience given the significant logistical challenges of rolling out vaccines across the UK, and to keep on complying with regulations in the meantime. We are still awaiting the approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on other vaccinations such as the Oxford/AstraZeneca & Moderna vaccines. Further information on vaccination can be found in the Health and Social Care section in this report.

- From the week commencing the 7 December, approximately 800,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine will be available in UK, with residents in care homes and their carers taking priority, along with health staff and the over 80s. This [eligibility decision](#) is based on a national framework from the Government. Given the huge local logistical challenges ahead, we will draw on our strong partnership from across the city and nationally for a joint city response to the rollout of the vaccine. It will also require a strong communications and engagement strategy, as we promote the benefits of vaccination as well as dispel any misinformation. We are optimistic that vaccinations, along with other public health safety measures, hold the key to a new normality, but there are significant challenges ahead that we plan to tackle head on with our partners.
- Until a vaccine is widely available, we will need to continue our full public health measures to control the virus, including complying with Government restrictions. The Government is expected to review which areas are in the three tiers of the Covid Alert Tier system around 16 December. The position between Tier 2 and 3 is finely balanced, with risks associated with each, either for continued closure of hospitality or a potential third wave of Covid-19 impacting on the NHS especially given relaxation in rules for Christmas. Maintaining public engagement and compliance is key whichever Tier Leeds is placed in, with confidence and trust in the Tier system and decision making being crucial so that this is seen as fair and proportionate.
- Regardless of which Tier Leeds is placed in, our relentless focus remains on taking the full set of actions, including public engagement, to reduce infection rates across Leeds. This includes being vigilant about preventing and managing outbreaks, supporting self-isolation, extensive communications and public engagement about behaviour and compliance, and multi-agency enforcement activity, all delivered through the strongest possible partnership with our communities. Our proactive and determined approach to drive down infection rates will continue as part of our integrated plan for winter, including crucially prioritising effective rollout of the vaccination.
- We anticipate that the Government will be using data from 9 December to inform their decisions to be made on 16 December, with an expected announcement to be made on 17 December, and any changes to Tiers taking effect from 19 December. We realise this makes planning very difficult for those businesses and organisations who might be affected. The position for Leeds as at 9 December demonstrates a strong and sustained improvement in all five key areas that the Government will be using as indicators. In the four-week period up to 9 December, infection rates reduced by 67.2%, test positivity rates reduced by 61.5%, the infection rate in over 60s reduced by 67.1%, and Covid-19 patients in hospital reduced by 45.2%. Hospital capacity remains a concern, partly because the significant role LTHT plays across the broader area, although partners are working hard to manage this. Covid-related deaths have also started to decline recently and cases and outbreaks in settings are stable and being managed proactively. Whilst

there are pros and cons of Tier 2/3 and risks with either scenario, on balance we would recommend Tier 2 based on the improvements in the indicators combined with our relentless determination across all partners and communities to keep infection rates down. We think this will help maintain the public confidence and a greater commitment to follow the guidance and for everyone to break the chain of transmission whilst we push for the most effective rollout of the vaccination.

- Until that review concludes, and from 2 December, Leeds continues to follow Tier 3 restrictions, with the main headlines including: no household mixing indoors or outdoors at a private dwelling; no mixing outdoors except when in open public spaces such as parks which is subject to the rule of 6; working from home whenever possible; hospitality businesses are only allowed to operate a takeaway service; accommodation businesses have to close; gyms, leisure centres and close contact services (such as hairdressers and barbers) can open in a Covid-secure manner; education settings remaining open and operating in a Covid-secure manner; weddings or civil partnership ceremonies can go ahead with a maximum of 15 guests (with no reception); and funerals can go ahead with up to 30 guests (a maximum of 15 people for wakes). The main distinctions between Tier 3 and Tier 2 are that under Tier 2, restaurants and cafes (and pubs and bars operating as a restaurant) can open, accommodation and entertainment businesses can open, wedding receptions are permitted with up to 15 guests and public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows), spectator sports and business events is permitted, limited to capacity limits (whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors) and subject to social contact rules.
- Throughout the pandemic the Council and partners have established the rapidly changing implications for services and taken the necessary steps to change the delivery of services as required. These changes have been communicated to members and to the public and are available on the leeds.gov.uk website. The experience of rapidly adapting services during two national lockdowns has put us in a strong position to deliver services in Covid-secure ways, and these arrangements will continue under Very High (Tier 3). For example, risk assessments have been established, PPE supplies in place, premises made Covid-secure and the workforce and public are now very familiar with the behaviours required to minimise transmission risk and many services continue to be delivered remotely with staff working from home.
- The Leeds position continues to be that restrictions are just one element of responding to the virus and controlling the rate of infection. This report also describes the broad range of activity being undertaken across the multiagency partnership to slow the rate of infection, using data and intelligence to inform action, including testing, tracing (both national and local), support to self-isolate, managing outbreaks, preventative work, communications and engagement, compliance and enforcement.
- The Government confirmed on 26 November new financial support for areas in Very High (Tier 3). The Contain Outbreak Management Fund has been extended and will provide monthly payments to local authorities until the end of the financial year, in recognition of the ongoing public health and outbreak management costs of tackling Covid-19. For those authorities in Tier 3, this funding is £4 per head of population per month (for those in tier 2, it is £2 per head of population per month). Funding to support businesses affected by Tier 2 restrictions have also been backdated, details of which can be found in the business and economy section of this report.

- Our localised contact tracing service is now live. The service complements the national Test and Trace system, and takes cases where the national service fails to progress. Crucially, the service joins up advice and provides support for those who have been advised to self-isolate when needed, delivered through the contact centre and our community hubs. Support includes food shopping, medicine deliveries, befriending and assessing eligibility for financial support. We continue to draw upon all our resources, including elected members and the third sector, to aid with tracing, and there will be follow-up activity including door knocking where appropriate to ensure people understand the need to self-isolate and know how to access support.
- Multiagency arrangements continue to respond to emerging issues and develop our recovery approach, adapting to reflect the changing circumstances. As well as responding to the implications of exiting national lockdown and entering into Very High (Tier 3) restrictions, each of the groups are looking ahead to the risks and challenges of the months ahead, including winter pressures on the health and care system, potential for extreme weather and flooding, latent demand on services, and continued uncertainty around EU Exit (please see a separate report on the Executive Board agenda on this subject).
- Our recovery approach continues to be driven by our shared ambition and values, with the overriding priority of tackling poverty and inequalities consistent with our vision of a strong economy and a compassionate and caring city. Annex A provides an up to date Response and Recovery Plan, outlining the actions completed, underway and planned in each area of the multiagency command and control arrangements. These are: local outbreak management; health and social care; infrastructure and supplies; business and economy; citizens and communities; organisational impact; and media and communications.
- This document also comprises a risk log in relation to each strand, and overall corporate risks are set out in this report. At Annex B, the Leeds Strategic Coordination Group (SCG Gold) Covid-19 reporting dashboard sets out key data and analysis. The financial implications of responding to Covid-19, additional costs and lost income, remain a significant concern and a summary is provided within this report. A separate paper about the council's finances on the Executive Board agenda outlines the latest position in much greater detail.
- Some examples, since the last report, of activity and impact across the city are as follows and are depicted in an infographic at the end of this section:
 - Approximately 39,000 Covid-19 tests took place at twelve testing sites in the city in November, including around 17,500 tests at Temple Green.
 - 975 doses of Covid-19 vaccine delivered to Leeds, with the first vaccinations taking place on 8 December.
 - More than £6.6m paid to local businesses through new business support grant schemes introduced from November.
 - £445,500 paid to 891 people eligible for a £500 financial support grant to allow them to self-isolate.
 - 34,000 children to be provided with free school meals over the Christmas and February half term holidays
 - 13 Active Leeds leisure centres reopened on 2 December.

- 700,000 people reached through Facebook posts between 10 November and 8 December.
- 1.9 million items of PPE distributed in November
- 11 Covid Marshalls ensuring businesses are Covid-secure
- 2000 tonnes of additional waste, above normal levels, collected in November.

Covid-19: Summary of council and city response

December 2020



17,500

Covid tests at Temple Green in November



34,000

children will receive free school meals over the Christmas holidays



£6.6m+

paid to support local businesses since November



1.9m

items of PPE distributed in November



£445,500

paid to help people to self-isolate



700,000

people reached through Facebook posts (10 Nov- 8 Dec)



11

Covid Marshalls ensuring businesses are Covid-secure



13

leisure centres reopened on 2 December



2000

tonnes more waste than normal levels collected in November

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

2.1 The updated Best Council Plan 2020-2025 reflects the current Covid-19 context, while maintaining the three pillar priorities of inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; and climate change, under the overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities. Covid-19 continues to have a hugely significant impact on all areas of the Best Council Plan, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected by the pandemic, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions and present long-term challenges for the city. Our city ambitions, particularly our overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities, will be key to guiding our recovery, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 The financial implications of responding to Covid-19, additional costs and lost income, remain a significant concern and a summary is provided within this report at section 8. A separate report about the council's finances on the Executive Board agenda outlines the latest position in much greater detail.

4. Recommendations

Executive Board is requested to:

- a) Note the change in national restrictions from 2 December, with the introduction of a revised Tier system and West Yorkshire placed in Tier 3. Note that this is due to be reviewed on 16 December and a verbal update on the latest position will be provided to Executive Board.
- b) Note the extensive work being undertaken across the partnerships to control the spread of the virus, prepare for Covid-19 vaccination, undertake local contact tracing, prepare for asymptomatic community testing, protect the health service, and deliver support to vulnerable people and to businesses, and agree that these priorities continue to be progressed.
- c) Note the concurrent pressures on the system, which include winter pressures on the health and care system, flood risk and extreme weather, local government finance and capacity concerns and continued uncertainty around EU Exit.
- d) Use this report as context for the more detailed financial implications of coronavirus that are covered in Finance reports that are also on the Executive Board agenda

1. Purpose of this report

1.1. This ninth report updates Executive Board on the coronavirus (Covid-19) response across the city including the recovery approach, outbreak management, and current issues and risks. It focuses particularly on the impact of entering into Tier 3 (Very High) restrictions, current developments and the support in place for people and businesses. The city's multi-agency command and control arrangements continue to be used with the Response and Recovery plan, aiming to mitigate the effects of the outbreak on those in the city, especially the most vulnerable. At Annex A the Response and Recovery Plan incorporates a one-page summary of the current key issues across the strands, and a refreshed one-page summary of the Outbreak Control Plan. This document also incorporates risk management. At Annex B, the

latest dashboard provides key data and analysis. Annex C provides a look ahead with a draft integrated winter plan, which will form the basis of the next Executive Board update report.

2. Background information

- 2.1. On 26 November, it was announced that Leeds, along with the rest of West Yorkshire, would be placed in Tier 3 (Very High) restrictions as of 2 December, at the end of the national lockdown. The Government's new targeted Tier system was outlined in the [Winter Plan](#). These restrictions allow domestic and international travel subject to Tier 3 advice; retail shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector have reopened; collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume; and people will no longer be limited to seeing only one other person in outdoor public spaces such as parks – the rule of 6 will now apply as it did in the previous set of tiers. These are all subject to social distancing and adhering to [Tier 3](#) regulations.
- 2.2. All areas in Tier 3 will receive £4 per head of population per month (this is reduced to £2 per head of population per month for areas in Tier 2 restrictions). This funding will come from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, which has been extended until the end of the financial year. The purpose of these tougher restrictions is to continue to reduce the growth rate of the virus, and ensure clearer consistency and messaging. It is hoped that these steps will prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed over the critical months of December and January; ensuring schools, colleges and universities can stay open; ensuring that as many people as possible can continue to work; and help boost the local and national economy in the run up to Christmas.
- 2.3. Every 14 days there will be a review of which tier areas are placed in, with the first review expected on 16 December, and our understanding is that any changes would be implemented on 19 December. In addition, every 28 days there will be review of whether restrictions are still needed, and what these restrictions should be. The first such review is expected on 30 December. At the time of writing this report, little is known about the scope of the review on 16 December other than the key indicators that will be used, which include: case rate per 100,000; testing positivity rate; hospitalisations and hospital capacity; and the case rate in over 60s; and in particular all the trends. We do know that Government will also look at the trajectory of rates and it is thought that data will be used from 9 December. It is not confirmed if Leeds will be considered as a local authority area or as part of West Yorkshire.
- 2.4. The Government refreshed its guidance for the [Christmas period](#) on 29 November. From 23 December to 27 December, Christmas bubbles can be formed of people from no more than three households. A Christmas bubble will enable people to spend time together in private homes, including second homes and caravans, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor places, within the context of the guidance.
- 2.5. National guidance for people who are [clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) to Covid-19](#) has been updated. A text message has been sent to people in Leeds who are in this cohort, and [support remains in place](#). CEV people are advised to: work from home if possible, or talk to employers about reducing risks if working from home is not possible (furlough arrangements may be an option if the risk is too high); children

should go to school; avoid shops if possible, or go at the quietest times; prescriptions arrangements will have to be re-ratified with pharmacies and will no longer necessarily be sent out for free; and CEV people should continue to go outdoors every day, keeping up social contact safely.

- 2.6. On 11 December and following a review of the latest evidence, the UK Chief Medical Officers [advised](#) that the period of self-isolation for people who have come into contact with a positive Covid-19 case, and the quarantine period for people returning from countries not on the travel corridor list, can be reduced from 14 days to 10 days from 14 December.
- 2.7. We continue to emphasise the crucial role of local government in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, including coordinating action across local and regional agencies, and resources for place-based leadership in the Covid-19 response. A recent poll conducted by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) found that the public has higher trust in local councils than in the Government on Covid-19. Those who responded were four and a half times more likely to trust the local council (54%) over Government (12%) to make decisions about how services are provided in their local area. Nine times as many trust local councillors (56%) over Government ministers (6%) to make decisions about their local areas.
- 2.8. National developments continue to progress apace and will be communicated to members via regular briefings. Full details of guidance and communications issued by the government can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

3. Main issues

- 3.1. The Leeds multi-agency command and control arrangements for the outbreak, as described in previous Executive Board reports, have continued to evolve to the changing situation, working with the wider sub-regional level including the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Health and Care Partnership. A chart of the multiagency arrangements is provided in the Response & Recovery Plan at Annex A, together with the December priorities across the response and recovery themes, and a refreshed Outbreak Control Plan. The sections that follow describe the key developments across each of the response and recovery themes: outbreak management; health and social care; infrastructure and supplies; business and economy; citizens and communities; organisational impact; and communications and media.

3.2. Outbreak Management

- 3.3. The number of **Covid-19 cases** are being updated daily on the Government website at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>. During the period of national lockdown restrictions, the local rate of infection fell significantly, from above 400 cases per 100,000 to below 150. As at 10 December the infection rate in Leeds is 142.6 cases per 100,000 people, and there have been 37,259 lab confirmed Covid-19 cases. The rate of Covid-19 tests returning positive results is 5.9%. Since the last report to Executive Board the rate of infection in the over 60s has reduced, in line with the overall rate of infection, and is 136 per 100,000 at 10 December. A harm

minimisation plan for the over 60s is in place and is being implemented across a range of partners.

3.4. Tragically, on 1 December the number of Covid-related **deaths** registered in Leeds passed 1,000. As at 10 December, 1,091 Covid-related deaths have been registered. Of these, 1,066 (98%) were Leeds residents, 675 (62%) were in hospitals, 335 (31%) were in care homes, 28 (2%) in a hospice, and 53 (5%) in the home. To date, 20% of all deaths registered have been Covid-related. There have been excess deaths in eleven of the past twelve weeks compared to 2019.

3.5. The current position against the indicators that Government will use to review the Covid Alert Levels that areas are placed in on 16 December is as follows:

- The latest figures show a statistically significant decrease in infection rates across all age groups in Leeds, down by more than 20% in the last 7 days to 145.1. The infection rate decreased by 65% in four weeks, from 442 cases to 145.1 cases per 100,000.
- Leeds is currently ranking 131st in the country for infection rates, and 4th amongst the core cities.
- We recognise that the rate is still high and we are pushing for further reduction using our full range of actions.
- Test positivity rate has reduced by more than 30% over seven days and over 60% over four weeks.
- The infection rate in over 60s reduced by more than 65% over four weeks.
- As at 10 December, the hospital had 187 confirmed Covid-19 patients, a decrease of 31 from the previous week, including 9 patients in critical care. These numbers remain a significant concern with the NHS and partners working hard to reduce this. Over four weeks this figure reduced by 45%, down from 345 patients. Hospitals are predicted to see a continued, albeit slow, decline in Covid-19 patient numbers.
- Covid-related deaths have also started to decline recently.
- Cases in settings and outbreaks are stable and very proactively managed by the full range of partners as the bedrock of our approach: with cases in 17 care homes (from a recent high of 47); 5134 pupils and 360 staff self-isolating (compared to the recent peak of 12,989 pupils and 828 education staff self-isolating); and cases in only 3 workplaces and an outbreak in a prison.

3.6. As the government undertakes the Covid Alert Level review, it is crucial that there is public engagement and trust that will lead to the right behaviour to help reduce infection rates. This includes that they see the system as being “fair” in relation to restrictions and balanced judgements about health and the economy. Our current insight and softer intelligence through social media and other community engagement suggests an expectation of Tier 2 for Leeds given reductions in rates and comparisons with other areas in Tier 2. People in the city appear to be worried about the relaxation of restrictions over Christmas, with many saying that they understand the broader message about reducing contact and don’t want to see rates rise. Inevitably there will be some who will break the rules and increase contact, and we are seeking the managing those risk. Elected members, MPs, and the full range of partners, particularly local community organisations, are engaged in messaging so that all parts of the community are reached and understand the city-wide drive to reduce infection and prevent pressure on the NHS.

- 3.7. Although it is a very difficult balance to strike, the economic and broader health and wellbeing benefits to be gained from being placed in Tier 2 appear to marginally outweigh the risks of losing public confidence if the system keeps Leeds in Tier 3. We are concerned about increasing contact taking place in households with continued Tier 3 restrictions, whereas Tier 2 offers a slight easing and could have a positive psychological effect. Whilst opening hospitality just before Christmas will regrettably be too late for some businesses to survive, we consider that it will be a lifeline for many businesses, all of whom have invested in Covid-secure premises and dealt with the continued uncertainty for months. We have the partnership context to proactively plan for the best possible compliance and enforcement activity to deal with the safe reopening of hospitality in the city.
- 3.8. Whilst we are understandably nervous about the risks of third wave particularly on the NHS, given the relaxations of restrictions over Christmas, the significant additional challenges on the workforce with the vaccination programme, and the regular winter pressures, we also recognise the broader health and wellbeing benefits of moving into Tier 2. We remain determined to continue with all the partnership actions in our outbreak plan that we know drive down infection rates to avoid pressure on the NHS. This includes excellent and extensive infection prevention and control practice and advice, being vigilant to manage individual cases to prevent outbreaks, being proactive to deal with community transmission, effective use of targeted testing and tracing to support self-isolation, strong partnership work on hospital discharge and health and social care, targeted multi-agency compliance and enforcement work, and relentless communications and community engagement work. Our extensive multi-agency arrangements all work to monitor the situation closely and act quickly, and plan ahead as a system as far as possible through our integrated winter plan.
- 3.9. Whilst there are pros and cons of Tier 2/3 and risks with either scenario, on balance we would recommend Tier 2 based on the improvements in the indicators combined with our relentless determination across all partners and communities to keep infection rates down. We think this will help maintain the public confidence and a greater commitment to follow the guidance and for everyone to break the chain of transmission whilst we push for the most effective rollout of the vaccination. Annex D provides a copy of the submission made to Government from the city.
- 3.10. The pattern of transmission of the virus in Leeds has been one of broad and dynamic **community transmission**, with all wards of the city affected, although the rate of infection has reduced significantly. In those wards with the highest transmission rates, targeted and focused joint services arrangements have been in place, linked to local engagement plans developed with elected members, using their knowledge of the ward and the community networks and forums. Local action is heavily linked into city-wide action, strategies, and approaches, working in partnership with a range of agencies and neighbourhood organisations.
- 3.11. Covid-19 situations continue to be managed across different settings such as care homes, education settings, prisons and workplaces, reflecting the pattern of widespread transmission in the community. A **vigilant approach** to managing outbreaks continues, in partnership with PHE and including frequent Incident Management Team meetings attended by a range of services and partners, to review the latest data and epidemiology and to coordinate the response to any incidents in settings across the city and in communities more broadly.

- 3.12. Strong **governance** arrangements for outbreak management are in place, with Executive Board providing strategic political oversight. Given the unique challenges of the pandemic, an Outbreak Control Board and Member Outbreak Control Board were established, and regular member seminars delivered to engage all councillors. The Leeds Outbreak Control Plan has been published in full on the council website and is being periodically reviewed and refreshed to reflect the latest context, with these Executive Board papers providing regular updates of progress and issues. A one-page summary of the plan is included with this report at Annex A.
- 3.13. As at 9 December there are 17 care homes that are reporting cases of Covid-19, an improving picture and down from a peak of 47 homes during the second wave of the pandemic. Appropriate control measures are in place and all homes are receiving support from Public Health and Adult Social Care. Environmental Health continue to contact and support a number of workplaces across a range of services that are reporting cases. Schools and colleges are taking the appropriate steps to isolate cases and trace contacts, with support from the Public Health England and the council. University cases are at their lowest since early September, with just eleven students and no staff ill with Covid-19 at 8 December. All universities are working closely with Public Health England and Leeds City Council and have robust prevention measures and outbreak control measures in place.
- 3.14. No schools are currently closed and the number of pupils and staff self-isolating is reducing – currently around 5,000 pupils and fewer than 400 staff, with around 100 ‘bubbles’ closed. This compares to a peak of 12,989 pupils and 828 staff self-isolating, with 206 ‘bubbles’ closed, on 20th November. Schools and colleges are increasingly able to respond to cases of Covid-19 independently and are taking the correct steps to minimise the impact and avoid disbanding bubbles. Remote learning is in place for pupils required to self-isolate, with laptops provided for some pupils, and schools are sharing learning and good practice via Zoom calls between the council and Heads. Cases in Leeds colleges are also stabilising and reducing, with colleges preparing for the end of term on 18 December.
- 3.15. Since the last report to Executive Board, a **local contact tracing service**, Connect & Support, has been launched, which aims to increase the number of people who are contacted because they need to self-isolate, by making contact with local residents whom the national system have been unable to make contact with after one day. The service dovetails with national contact tracing and provides a targeted local service that ensures that people who need to isolate are provided with advice and support and referred to local support services if needed to allow them to isolate. The service will aim to improve contact tracing rates of individuals who have tested positive to a minimum of 80% as an aspirational target. Residents will be given advice and guidance to help them isolate for the required length of time, and will be asked if they need any support or help delivered through a community hub. This includes help with food shopping, medicines, befriending/welfare support, dog walking and financial support (if eligible). Using local knowledge and the latest information, the service will begin in areas of Leeds where case numbers mean greater support and outreach is needed, before quickly being scaled up to serve the rest of the city. As with all of our Covid working arrangements, we will also use our close partnerships in education, business, health and social care and local leadership to maximise the impact and effectiveness of this service.

- 3.16. Leeds has expressed an interest in the national **community testing** programme offered by the Government to Tier 3 local authorities, using lateral flow Covid-19 tests. This is in addition to the 10,000 tests that Directors of Public Health received to use to scale up activity. Community testing in Leeds will take a targeted approach, building on the existing testing programme including universities, the care sector and prisons, and identifying where further testing would be beneficial amongst communities or workforces at higher risk. We are working with partners, such as retail, about the logistical set up and optimum timing of this approach. There remain some concerns about the effectiveness and impact of these tests and about the capacity of partners to deliver additional testing as well as other priorities such as vaccination rollout. We are learning from the evaluation of the Liverpool model and liaising closely with our neighbours and other core cities about the approach being taken to use this form of testing as part of the solution.
- 3.17. The city's universities also received an allocation of 15,000 lateral flow tests to allow asymptomatic testing of students that wish to travel during the 'student travel window' of 3-9 December. Testing began on 30 November and one asymptomatic positive case was identified from the 15,000 tests across all the universities in the city. Leeds Beckett University is also taking part in a national pilot to offer antibody testing to students, which gives an indication of whether individuals have been infected by the virus in the past and developed antibodies. It is anticipated that by the end of the 'student travel window' on 9 December, around 95% of students will have left the city. The Department for Education has published advice about the staggered return of university students in the New Year, which will involve offering tests to all returning students to identify and isolate asymptomatic cases. Universities are to be provided with sufficient tests to offer students two lateral flow tests delivered three days apart.
- 3.18. **Health and Social Care**
- 3.19. Despite declining levels of infection in the city, some pressure remains on Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTH) with the combination of Covid-19 patients, winter pressures and trying to maintain planned surgery. At 10 December, there were 187 confirmed Covid-19 patients in a hospital bed, including nine patients in critical care. This is a decrease of 31 inpatients since the previous week. Extensive work has been undertaken across health and social care partners to manage patient flow from LTH through use of community beds and increased GP and hospice in-reach. Some planned operations have been postponed, with a period where only essential operations went ahead.
- 3.20. **Primary care** services continue to remain open however all initial appointments are over the phone or online, usually by video call. People who need to be seen face-to-face will be invited in. Across healthcare services there is a need to manage expectations as people are increasingly likely to experience a delay, or find appointments or treatments cancelled. The NHS will continue to provide care in a safe, low risk environment for people needing urgent or emergency treatment. Through various communications means, people are being reminded of the appropriate routes to access health services, including mental health and wellbeing support.
- 3.21. A mail drop to every home is taking place 7-16 December to highlight the pressures on the NHS and advise how to access services, as well as highlighting support available from the council. This will be accompanied by an information booklet which

will be available in a range of formats. Ahead of Christmas a mental health communications campaign will be launched to encourage self-care and reasons to be positive, aimed at adults, and Mindmate will be delivering a digital campaign to children and young people. A campaign aimed at the over 60s will encourage older residents to stay active, connected and safe while minimising physical contact with others.

- 3.22. **Care homes** that are affected by Covid-19 incidents are being supported by Public Health and Adult Social Care with the appropriate control measures in place. Outbreaks are generally shorter and better managed than during the first wave of the pandemic due to the experience and learning that has taken place this year. From 7 December the Government released lateral flow tests into care homes, as part of a national effort to allow visiting to care home residents. However, due to concerns about the accuracy of these tests, a different approach has been developed for the care homes that are managed by Leeds City Council. This involves the use of PCR tests which will be offered to relatives who wish to visit a care home resident two days before the proposed visit. PPE and other precautions will remain in place. Due to the considerable effort of adult social care staff to put this system in place, from the week beginning 14 December, the first face-to-face visits without the use of screens will be able to take place in Leeds care homes since February.
- 3.23. Operational planning for a **vaccine rollout** in Leeds and West Yorkshire has been taking place for some time, with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as the lead provider for vaccination in Leeds. Leeds is one of fifty 'hospital hub' sites chosen to take delivery of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. To get this far has been a full collaborative partnership effort with health and care partners across the city working together to deliver this crucial moment as Leeds forms part of the first wave of the largest immunisation programme in the history of the NHS. Developments are taking place at considerable pace and the information provided in this report reflects the picture at the time of writing.
- 3.24. From 7-11 December, 975 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were delivered to Leeds and vaccinations began on 8 December, with 500 people vaccinated in the first three days including 200 care home staff. Further to the final advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI), care home staff, people over 80 and prioritised frontline health and social care workers will be the first people to be vaccinated in Leeds.
- 3.25. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is hard to move between sites, which will restrict where the vaccine can be delivered to and administered from. Thackray Museum of Medicine has been established as the first vaccination site in the city, staffed by LTHT staff, and a second site will be staffed by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. A local campaign is being developed, in line with national messaging, to encourage retired NHS staff to return to the service to support the vaccination programme.
- 3.26. To safeguard the health of the city and save lives it will be necessary to encourage the greatest possible uptake of Covid-19 vaccination, and ensure that people who are eligible for flu vaccination access both the flu and Covid-19 vaccinations. Across the partnership there will be a strong focus on encouraging uptake of vaccination and work will take place in all communities and community and faith leaders and elected members to promote the vaccine. A rapid review of which approaches work best with different communities is underway to inform the plans, including direct engagement

with communities. Equally, it is also necessary to contain the understandable excitement about the vaccine and manage expectations, as it will be the New Year before the vaccine is more widely available. Residents are asked not to contact their GP to enquire about receiving the vaccine, and to await their invitation, at which point it is important that people attend their appointment. There is a prioritisation framework in place that considers the key risk factors in particular age and clinical risk.

3.27. We are awaiting further information about the funding position for vaccination rollout, as it is clear that this will be a major logistical exercise for local authorities, NHS trusts and their partners, particularly as local authorities also plan for community testing and face ongoing financial pressure responding to the pandemic. We continue to push for full cost recovery for all spend, and an understanding that all aspects of council budgets will be impacted, not just social care and public health.

3.28. The vaccine programme represents the best of #TeamLeeds. We have pulled together key services to mobilise workforce, buildings and plans. We will be regularly updating people and encouraging everyone to act as community vaccine champions, talking to their friends and neighbours about the importance of getting the vaccine when the time comes.

3.29. **Support for Residents (Citizens & Communities)**

3.30. We continue to promote information to residents about **accessing support** via the leeds.gov.uk website, including help with accessing food, paying council tax, self-isolation support, medicine, mental health support and information for families with children and young people. Anybody in need of support is encouraged to contact the Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) on 0113 3760330.

3.31. **Free school meals** will be provided for eligible children across the city over the Christmas break and February half-term. This will be paid for via the Covid Winter Grant Fund, announced by the Government on 8 November 2020. The grant will enable local authorities to better support vulnerable children, families and individuals. Additional support will be provided to families receiving Council Tax support through the Council Tax Hardship grant. Leeds City Council was allocated £2.84 million; £1.6 million of that amount is being set aside to provide free meals, helping an estimated 34,000 children across the city.

3.32. Plans for the allocation of the **Winter Support** programme are also being made, provided by Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This new £16 million grant, delivered across England through charity FareShare, will allow thousands local charities to distribute food to people struggling as a result of the pandemic. This forms part of the wider Government winter support package and will help those who are vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 to access healthy and nutritious food through front-line charities throughout the winter, starting this week.

3.33. **Self-Isolation Support** payments of £500 are available to eligible individuals who are required to self-isolate and who face loss of income as a result. Between 12 October and 11 December, 2115 applications were received; of these, 1946 (92%) had been assessed, 1019 (52%) were successful, and all successful applications had been paid. In addition to the statutory element of this award, the council received funding for 486 grants under a discretionary element of the scheme. In December, the criteria

for this discretionary award were relaxed in attempt to reach more people in need of financial support. Of the 1019 claims paid up to 11 December, 844 (83%) were from the main award and 175 (17%) were from the discretionary award. A long-standing issue with this scheme had been that people who were instructed to self-isolate via the NHS Covid-19 app were not eligible for financial support, and this issue was raised with Government. On 10 December the Government announced that people advised to self-isolate via the app will now be eligible for financial support if they meet the other eligibility criteria. A new feature has been added to the latest version of the app (version 4) to allow people who have been advised to self-isolate to be assessed for eligibility for financial support. Eligible individuals will be advised to register with the Test & Trace service after which they can claim financial support through the council's webpage.

- 3.34. The council has been invited by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to apply for funding from its **Community Champions** scheme. Up to £25 million is available to local authorities in highest need to improve the reach of official public health guidance, and other messaging or communications about the virus into specific places and groups most at risk from Covid-19. It will be focused to those from BAME communities and/or those with disabilities. The process is not a competitive bid process and it is understood that all applying eligible local authorities will be supported by MHCLG officials to receive a level of funding.
- 3.35. **Community Care Volunteer Hubs** remain operational with funding until the end of 2020. Food, shopping, prescription and welfare support activity continues to be delivered. Voluntary Action Leeds continue to recruit flexible volunteers to meet the requirements of the hubs. To support the increased food supply arrangements, additional volunteers will be required, which is being publicised through various channels. Libraries and Community Hubs that were open before the national lockdown have now reopened. A new wedge based model for the support hubs has been developed with the Communities Team. Christmas cover is being arranged to ensure provision over the period and the new arrangements should be in place by the end of January. Volunteering numbers are holding up well. A piece of community-led research to evaluate the support hub model is being undertaken by the University of Leeds.
- 3.36. We continue to maintain contact and support for those who are **clinically extremely vulnerable** (CEV) to Covid-19 (also known as the shielding cohort). Guidance from Government is clear that those who are CEV should go outdoors every day, keeping up social contact safely in order to lessen any mental health impacts from lockdown. There still remain CEV children and young people (CYP) who are advised not attend school due to the nature of their medical condition, which is updated weekly by the department for health and is issued nationally. As of 20 November, there were 613 CYP aged between 0-18 in Leeds who were on the CEV list. We remain in contact with all our schools, including those of CEV CYP's. Schools continue to provide home learning resources for those affected CEV CYP.
- 3.37. **Domestic violence and abuse** cases continues to be monitored, but there have been a decrease in reports. New governance arrangements in respect of a Covid-19 Bronze group have been embedded. Work is taking place alongside 16 Days of Action to target communities of interest including LGBT+, disability and faith. The Domestic Abuse Bill will become law as of 1 April 2021, and ahead of this the statutory

Domestic Violence and Abuse Local Partnership Board has commissioned a review of MARAC arrangements in the city.

3.38. Eleven **Covid Marshals** have now been trained and deployed. Since Wednesday 2 December, the Marshals have been engaging with members of the public, and also provide advice and support to businesses to comply with Covid-secure rules in the main retail areas of the city. The Marshals concentrate in city centre during the day and student population areas on weekend evenings, with regular reviews to monitor how well this is working and advise students who are travelling home. They have also been providing LCC floor graphics to assist with queue management. It is hoped they will provide a reassuring on-the-ground presence for the public, especially during December, where city centre footfall is expected to increase in the lead up to Christmas. In addition, the City Centre Management team are supporting businesses, visitors and residents in the city centre in an ambassadorial role. Renewed and new safety collateral was installed around the city centre, as well as some key district and town locations, in preparation for the re-opening of retail. The council continues to work with key partners such as West Yorkshire Police, major hospitality and retail businesses, and Leeds BID, to ensure all services and businesses are working together to deliver a safe and successful re-opening.

3.39. **Support for Businesses (Business & Economy)**

3.40. The government has announced a number of financial support schemes, administered through local authorities, to assist businesses who have been financially impacted by the period of the national lockdown, as well as backdated support for businesses affected by Tier 2 restrictions. In total, £36,795,313 of business support funding has been allocated to Leeds. We are working to understand local needs and direct financial respond accordingly, however with the finite funding allocated to the city it will unfortunately not be possible to meet the needs of all businesses. We continue to highlight the gaps in financial support to Government. The full details of support available to businesses is available on the council website at leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/business.

3.41. Business premises forced to close during the national lockdown restrictions of 5 November to 2 December can apply for grants worth up to £3,000 through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) scheme. Properties with a rateable value of £15k or under can receive grants of £1,334 per month; properties with a rateable value of between £15k and £51k can receive grants of £2,000 per month; and properties with a rateable value of £51k or over can receive grants of £3,000 per month. The scheme launched on 9 November and up to 7 December, 3400 grants have been processed, with a value of £5.4 million paid out. The total value of this fund is just under £13 million.

3.42. On 23 November the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) scheme was launched, with an allocation of almost £8 million. Hospitality and accommodation businesses that experienced significant loss of income during the 6-week period spent under Tier 2 restrictions can apply for a one-off grant worth up to £3,150 through this scheme. Up to 7 December, 600 grants have been processed with a value of £1.1 million paid out.

3.43. In addition, the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is a single allocation based on £20 per head of population for each local authority to use to run a discretionary grant

scheme. The council has been allocated just under £16 million for this fund, which is being used for two schemes. The first discretionary scheme launched on 25 November to help businesses severely impacted by the pandemic pay fixed property costs incurred over the period October 2020 to March 2021. Businesses could apply over a two-week period and the scheme closed on 8 December. The scheme was open to businesses incurring £4,000 or more of fixed property costs per annum who can demonstrate a loss of income due to Covid-19 of at least 30% during the 2020/21 tax year. In total, 1248 applications were received to this fund and grants to a total value of £83,880 were paid.

3.44. The second Discretionary Grant Fund was launched on 4 December to support businesses that have been trading for less than three years and have been severely impacted by Covid-19, which are based from domestic properties or from non-domestic premises with annual property costs below £4,000 per annum. The scheme, which is open until 17 December, will provide a grant of up to £1,000. Up to 8 December, 74 applications had been received.

3.45. Under the Local Restriction Support Grant (Sector) scheme, businesses that were required to close in March and which have never been able to re-open (for example nightclubs) will be paid grants of up to £3,000 for every four-week period that they have to remain closed. The scheme began on 1 November with no back-dating.

3.46. The government has recently announced an additional £1,000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led' pubs in Tiers 2 and 3 (those that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food). We await further guidance about how this will be implemented.

3.47. Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

3.48. **Infrastructure and Supplies Impact**

3.49. Since the end of lockdown and entering into Tier 3, there are no major inconveniences to business and retail from travelling into and out of Leeds. In the lead up to Christmas, roads are expected to be very busy in the centre of Leeds as well as shopping hubs located across the city, with some congestion unavoidable. Adverse weather conditions may impact travel networks, however, routine timetables remain in-place from before lockdown. The West Yorkshire Metro website is regularly updated for commuters to find the latest travel information and any possible changes, and we continue to work with all our partners to understand and deliver transport needs, and mitigate any risks or issues that may arise.

3.50. December is always a busy time in Leeds in the run up to Christmas, and increased activity and levels of congestion in the city centre and key districts remain a possible risk. Our Covid Marshals will be essential to help with ensure everyone remains safe whilst they visit the city centre, as well as providing advice to businesses to operate in a Covid-secure way. We have updated our communications plan to convey public health safety messages, to pre-plan visits, and continue to encourage working from home and active travel measures where possible.

3.51. City centre footfall increased significantly on the first day of Tier 3 restrictions, with the opening of non-essential retail. On Wednesday 2 December footfall on Briggate was 23,809, and overall city centre footfall was -47.3% compared to the same day

last year. This represents a significant increase on previous weeks, with footfall as low as -82.8% on Sunday 22 November. On the last day of national restrictions, Tuesday 1 December, footfall was -69.3% and actual recorded footfall on Briggate was 10,255.

3.52. The majority of students returned home during the organised travel corridor window of 3-9 December. While a significant logistical challenge, a smooth transition was achieved through the joint working across the partnership. Additional buses were on standby, as well as an enhanced staff presence during this time providing support and advice to students and ensuring public health safety guidance was followed.

3.53. Weekly PPE stock from the Department for Health and Social Care continues to be received across the city; over 900,000 gloves, 294,000 aprons and over 90,000 masks were distributed in Leeds during the month of November alone. Supplies of PPE are now being delivered to educational settings from the government supply stock and GP surgeries continue to receive bulk supply of PPE from us working in collaboration with CCG colleagues. Leeds has been chosen as a pilot site to deliver PPE to informal carers in the city which starts on 7 December.

3.54. **Organisational Impact**

3.55. In line with Government guidance and regulations for Tier 3, some council services that were closed during national lockdown restrictions reopened from 2 December. The thirteen Active Leeds leisure centres that were open prior to national lockdown have reopened, although indoor fitness classes have been suspended in line with Tier 3 restrictions. All community hubs and libraries that were open prior to the national lockdown have reopened and are delivering the same services they were prior to the 5th November. However, hubs and libraries are operating on reduced staffing numbers to allow support to continue to essential Covid-related services such as local contact tracing, administering self-isolation payments, and supporting adult social care. In line with national guidance, indoor museum and gallery venues remain closed, although some shops within venues are open and some cafes are operating takeaway services. The grounds at Kirkstall Abbey, Temple Newsam and Lotherton are open. Details for each site are set out on the Leeds Museums and Galleries website. Legal services continue to support decision-making about service changes through interpreting Government guidance and regulations, and the Digital Information Service have ensured that council [webpages](#) contain up-to-date information about service provision. A flexible approach to staff redeployment continues to be in place to support essential services.

3.56. Current Government advice is that people who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) to Covid-19 should work from home where possible, and where this is not possible, speak to their employer about minimising risk to ensure that they can work safely from their workplace. Within the council, 439 staff are identified as CEV, of whom 195 cannot undertake their role from home. Occupational Health are supporting services to undertake individual risk assessments of these individuals to determine whether they can return to their workplace safely from 7th December, with CEV staff who work in adult or children's social care being prioritised. CEV staff whose risk assessment determines that they cannot return to their normal role will be reallocated to a lower risk role where this is possible. Communications have been sent to staff and managers to explain this process, and there continues to be frequent and regular engagement with the Trade Unions on CEV staff and all other health and

safety issues. Training on undertaking individual risk assessments has been mandated for managers; 1,200 managers have undertaken the training so far and this will continue to be progressed across services.

3.57. Staff wellbeing continues to be a high priority as the pandemic progresses and we head into winter. The full results of the third staff wellbeing pulse survey are being analysed and follow-up calls have taken place to those who requested this. In light of the continued disruption to council services and working practices this year, managers will be undertaking a mid-year check-in with staff, with a focus on wellbeing, rather than a mid-year appraisal. The #TeamLeedsBeWell wellbeing offer continues to be promoted to staff through different channels.

3.58. To celebrate the great work carried out across the organisation this year under such challenging circumstances, a Recognition Week is taking place during the week of 7-11 December. Colleagues have been encouraged to share 'thank you' messages for teams and individuals under different themes including 'working as a team for Leeds' and 'working with communities'. The messages were shared on InSite, the LCC Colleagues Facebook group and on Twitter. As part of Recognition Week an informal virtual event took place on 8 December for senior leaders to offer their thanks to staff across the organisation.

3.59. Looking ahead, once the vaccination programme has been fully rolled out and made available to all of the workforce, there will be a transition to new working arrangements to allow people to return to office-based working if they chose to or need to do so to undertake their role. The programme undertaken over the summer and into autumn to adapt the office estate, and data gathered through the staff home working survey, mean that good preparations are in place and engagement will continue on the best approach to this.

3.60. **Communications and Media**

3.61. Communication and engagement with residents remains central to our Covid-19 response, but is particularly important now to help residents to understand the new Tier 3 restrictions and encourage compliance going forward. This will be critical if regulations or tier placement change in the future. We continue to promote the crucial public health actions of making space, washing hands, wearing face coverings, accessing testing when symptomatic and self-isolating when required. The communications plan has been refreshed, based on learning undertaken over the course of the pandemic, and will include messages around staying safe in the lead up to Christmas. It will also include the most up-to-date information around vaccinations, where and when these can be accessed and who by, going forward. We are determined to fight misinformation about vaccinations, as we realise how dangerous this can be for the future of our collective health and safety. As local leaders, elected members and MPs are amongst our biggest champions to fight this cause. Digital signposting for support remains in place and well visited, as well as weekly mailshots with key messages and useful information.

3.62. This updated communication approach remains dynamic, targeted and key in getting messaging out to residents, as we move into a new period of Covid-19 response and a critical time of the year for the NHS and care services. By using the latest data, and insight from social media monitoring, we can focus these messages based on evidence of transmission in particular settings and amongst particular demographics.

Elected members and local organisations play a key leadership role in engaging the public, encouraging compliance and encouraging neighbourliness, with communication campaigns and messages working alongside on-the-ground interventions from colleagues in the Communities Team crucial for ensuring the effective use of local knowledge and groups for messaging. #TogetherLeeds is being used to help brand communications and highlight how the city works together, this originated in the voluntary sector communications material and also in work with some communication organisations in the city.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1. Given the fast-moving pace of change throughout the pandemic and particularly in recent weeks, it has not always been possible to consult about service change in the usual way, and indeed there has often been no choice about changes due to the need to comply with regulations, often with little time to prepare. Every effort continues to be made to keep the public informed of changes, using our full scope of communication methods. Ward members continue to play a key role in engaging the public, particularly in encouraging neighbourliness, volunteering to help the vulnerable, and encouraging people to play their part in minimising spread of the virus. Engagement with stakeholders has continued and in many cases has been strengthened. This includes regular written updates to elected members and MPs and partners, an FAQ document for members, weekly messages to the public, press releases and press conferences, regular thank you notes to staff and calls with MPs, head teachers, universities, colleges, VCFS, and businesses. Engagement with staff has continued including via staff surveys, Staff Network groups, and a staff Facebook group.

5. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

5.1 Minimising the impacts of the pandemic on the most vulnerable is central to our response and recovery planning. There is significant concern about the impacts of the pandemic on exacerbating poverty and inequalities, which is a key focus for our recovery from the pandemic as set out in our Response and Recovery Plan. As the pandemic progresses and we approach the difficult months of January and February, issues such as poor mental health, social isolation, digital exclusion and others present a risk to residents.

5.2 The Communities of Interest Network was established by Forum Central, Health Watch, Voluntary Action Leeds and the council's Communities Team to understand the compound nature of the social and economic inequality in Leeds directly related to Covid-19. The network is made up of key partners who provide specialist support to the city's diverse communities. The members of this network have a wide reach into, and a trusted relationship with, communities of interest, some of whom have not traditionally engaged with mainstream service providers and organisations.

5.3 In addition, we continue work to better understand the economic impacts, both on individuals and communities. Many local businesses have faced considerable pressure through the national lockdown and into Tier 3, with concerns regarding

business closures and redundancies. The economic impacts of the pandemic are reported to members through fortnightly briefing notes. To date, young people and low earners have been most affected, as they are most prevalent in the hardest hit sectors. The precise impacts on our communities will be continue to be analysed as more data becomes available and will be reported to members through briefing notes and future Executive Board reports.

6. Council policies and the Best Council Plan

6.1 The updated Best Council Plan 2020-2025 reflects the current Covid-19 context, while maintaining the three pillar priorities of inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; and climate change, under the overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities. Covid-19 continues to have a hugely significant impact on all areas of the Best Council Plan, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected by the pandemic, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions and present long-term challenges for the city. Our city ambitions, particularly our overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities, will be key to guiding our recovery, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

7. Climate Emergency

7.1 In line with our city ambitions, responding to the Climate Emergency is a key priority as we move through our response and recovery, with a focus on continuing to improve air quality and work towards a carbon neutral city by 2030. Previous national lockdown measures, and ongoing encouragement for people to work from home where possible and stay at home as much as possible under Tier 3 restrictions have aided our fight against climate change and reduce air pollution and carbon emissions. In the run up to Christmas however, it is anticipated that traffic flows are likely to increase.

7.2 During the pandemic a number of active travel schemes have been progressed, including segregated cycle lanes and School Streets to encourage active travel to school, to support people to walk and cycle. In addition, a number of infrastructure schemes to support carbon reduction, such as the Leeds PIPES district heating network, and Connecting Leeds city centre improvements for public transport and pedestrians, have progressed well and sometimes ahead of schedule, during the pandemic. We continue to monitor the implications of national policy developments – such as the Government's recent announcement of a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

8. Resources, procurement and value for money

8.1 The financial impact of the pandemic, in terms of both additional costs and lost income, remains a significant concern. Whilst the council continues to make every effort possible to protect the front line delivery of services, it is clear that the position remains challenging. The financial impact of the pandemic continues to be regularly reported to Executive Board, as part of the regular monitoring and budget planning reports. A separate report on the agenda sets out the current

position and how the Council intends to achieve a balanced budget position for 2020/21. A further report sets out the draft budget for 2021/2022.

8.2. To cover the period of the national lockdown between 5 November and 2 December the Government provided £15.9m “Additional Restrictions Grant” funding to Leeds to passport to local businesses and aid economic recovery. Funding was also provided for closed businesses - Leeds received £13.0m for this “Local Restrictions Support Grant”.

8.3. The council received £4.1m from Government in summer to support outbreak control. This has been used to increase our capacity across Public Health, Environmental Health, Infection Prevention Control, the voluntary sector, communications, etc. Further to this, during the second national lockdown local authorities received £8 per head to support local public health activity, calculated as circa £6.4m for Leeds, to spend on enhanced community testing and contact tracing, communications, direct and indirect support for the third sector, schools, hardship funding and self-isolation support, support for rough sleepers, and compliance and enforcement. Following the end of the national lockdown, Leeds moved to a Tier 3 position. Whilst in this tier, funding will be received at £4 per head per month to continue this support, equating to just under £3.2m per month. Should Leeds move in to Tier 2, the funding would be reduced to £2 per head per month, equating to £1.6m per month. Plans are in development for the application of this funding to relevant activity to deliver aspects of the response and recovery plan and particularly outbreak management.

9. Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

9.1. With the agreement of the Chair, given the significance of this issue, it is appropriate for the Board to receive an update at this meeting. However, this report is coming to Executive Board as a late paper due to the fast paced nature of developments of this issue and in order to ensure Board Members receive the most up to date information as possible. A further verbal update on developments since the publication of this report will be provided at the Board meeting.

10. Risk management

10.1. The risks related to coronavirus continue to be monitored through Executive Board reports and the council’s risk management processes, for example under two of the main standing risks of “Major incident in the city” and “Major Business continuity issue for the council”. Other corporate risks, such as those relating to the council’s budget and the Leeds economy have also been updated to reflect the impact of the outbreak. More specific risks relating to coronavirus are reported through the monthly Executive Board process and are managed through the multiagency arrangements established at the start of the pandemic. The annexed Response & Recovery Plan sets out current risks and actions across each of the themes.

10.2. During this period, we continue to be conscious of concurrent events, such as winter pressures on the health and social care system, alongside recovery on planned surgery, and Covid-19; extreme weather and flood risk; and the end of the EU exit transition period, with continued uncertainty about future trade

arrangements. These factors and others, including spending reviews and budget planning, election planning, and dealing with suppressed demand as services reopen, present local authorities with a 'perfect storm' of concurrent pressures in the months ahead. A separate report on the Executive Board agenda for this month details the council's preparations for EU Exit. For other events, we are using our normal emergency planning approach to prepare for, and manage, these events.

- 10.3. The risks are administered on the council's corporate risk register through a specific risk on the coronavirus pandemic, which are described as: risk of fatalities and serious illness; significant disruption to the city and to council services in the short- to medium-term and long-term negative economic impact; greater impact on more vulnerable and disadvantaged. The risk is currently rated as very high. Full details of risks and actions are set out in relevant sections of the Response and Recovery plan at Annex A.

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 Significant international progress in developing safe and effective Covid-19 vaccinations provides hope for a way out of restrictions and a return to normal life. Across West Yorkshire there has been extensive planning to prepare for a vaccine rollout and ensure that those most at risk are offered vaccination first. However, until such a time that enough of the population is immune, restrictions and social distancing will need to remain in place to keep the city safe, which will require continued patience and cooperation of residents, who have already made considerable sacrifices over the course of 2020. Likewise, the proactive partnership activity across the city will continue to focus on preventing cases becoming outbreaks, preventing community transmission, ensuring compliance and enforcement, and limiting pressure on the NHS. A relaxation of restrictions over Christmas will provide respite for many families, however the virus remains ever present and it is imperative that everyone continues to follow restrictions and practice hand washing, making space, wearing a face covering, and getting tested and self-isolating when required to ensure that case rates do not rise again and protect the health service over the challenging months of January and February.
- 11.2 The downward trajectory of infection rates during the period of national lockdown is encouraging, and must be sustained. As government decisions are made about Covid Alert levels, it is crucial to find the optimum balance between the implications of Covid-19 and broader physical and mental health, along with the economic and social issues both in the short and long term. Local areas are well placed to balance these dynamics and help plot the best route through these difficult decisions to help maintain public engagement and compliance. As a city, we continually stress that restrictions are only part of the overall strategy, emphasising all the other public health interventions as being crucial. For example being vigilant about preventing and managing outbreaks, supporting self-isolation, extensive communications and public engagement about behaviour and compliance, and multi-agency enforcement activity, all delivered through the strongest possible partnership with our communities. Our proactive and determined approach to drive down infection rates will continue as part of our integrated plan for winter, including crucially prioritising effective rollout of the vaccination.
- 11.3 Whilst there are pros and cons of Tier 2/3 and risks with either scenario, on balance we would recommend Tier 2 based on the improvements in the indicators combined

with our relentless determination across all partners and communities to keep infection rates down. We think this will help maintain the public confidence and a greater commitment to follow the guidance and for everyone to break the chain of transmission whilst we push for the most effective rollout of the vaccination.

12. Recommendations

Executive Board is requested to:

- a) Note the change in national restrictions from 2 December, with the introduction of a revised Tier system and West Yorkshire placed in Tier 3. Note that this is due to be reviewed on 16 December and a verbal update on the latest position will be provided to Executive Board. Annex D provides the city's position in relation to the Covid Alert Review.
- b) Note the extensive work being undertaken across the partnerships to control the spread of the virus, prepare for Covid-19 vaccination, undertake local contact tracing, prepare for asymptomatic community testing, protect the health service, and deliver support to vulnerable people and to businesses, and agree that these priorities continue to be progressed.
- c) Note the concurrent pressures on the system, which include winter pressures on the health and care system, flood risk and extreme weather, local government finance and capacity concerns and uncertainty around EU Exit.
- d) Use this report as context for the more detailed financial implications of coronavirus that are covered in Finance reports that are also on the Executive Board agenda.

e) Background documents¹

None.

f) Appendices:

Annex A: Leeds Strategic Response and Recovery Plan & Risk Log – coronavirus (Covid-19)

Annex B: Leeds Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG Gold) Dashboard- 7 December 2020

Annex C: Draft Leeds Integrated Winter Plan

Annex D: Leeds submission to Government about Covid Alert Levels Review

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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December 2020

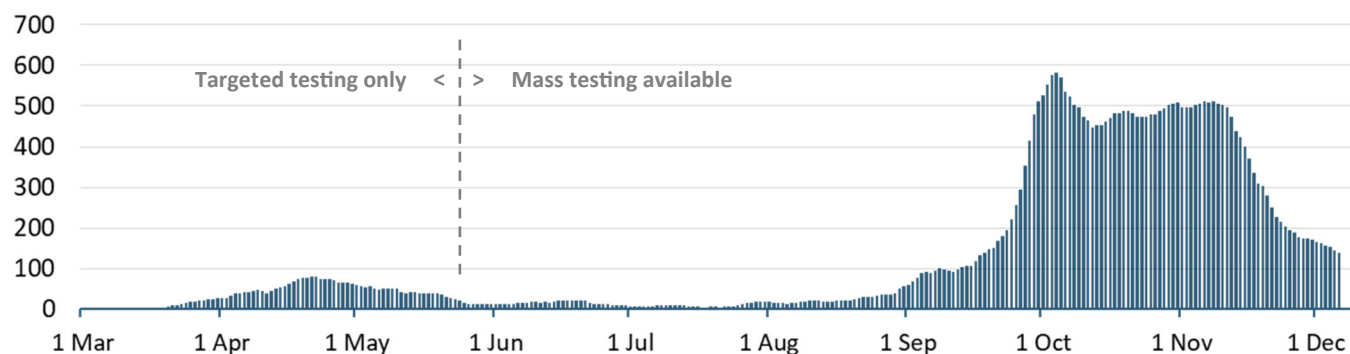
The framework for this Response & Recovery plan has remained broadly the same since March, although the priorities have changed with each phase. The ambition is for the council and city to be as prepared as possible given the unprecedented challenges, rapidly changing context, the resources and information available. The multi-agency arrangements continue to be refined regularly to drive delivery of this plan, combined with the efforts of individual organisations and the community more broadly. It is set within the context of the government's strategy to tackle Covid-19. The plan is driven by our shared ambition and values, with the overriding priority of tackling poverty and inequalities through a combination of a strong economy and a compassionate city. Supporting objectives are:

- Minimise the effect of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the city, especially the most vulnerable
 - Proactively respond to intelligence to target support within available context, resources and powers
 - Ensure provision of essential services, focusing on individuals, families, communities and businesses most affected, whilst encouraging communities to engage and provide support themselves
 - Minimise the effect of the pandemic on local economy, resuming economic activity safely and appropriately
 - Ensure our recovery and renewal is underpinned by Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change
- Our priorities remain to allow safe travel, safe public spaces in communities, district centres and the city centre, safe delivery of essential services, safe education and safe working – whilst also being aware of EU Exit implications.

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Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds

Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result (either lab-reported or lateral flow device), by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test.



(7 Day Rolling Average)

Source : coronavirus.data.gov.uk (11 December 2020)

Current statistical trends recorded in Leeds show...



New Covid-19 Cases

A steady reduction in rolling 7 day average of confirmed cases in Leeds since early November



Covid-19 Occupied Beds

Average number of beds occupied in Leeds hospitals showing reduction over last 2 weeks



Covid Related Incidents

November recorded a rise in incidents, now returning to similar levels pre-national restrictions



City Centre Footfall

Reduced to an average of 20% usual footfall during November restrictions. Now starting to rise again



Roadside Air Quality

Recorded figures for 2020 remain lower than 2019 and also lower than the national targets for NO₂ levels



Cases in Care homes

Average number of cases in care homes have shown a steady reduction over the last 2 weeks

1. Communications and Media – Donna Cox/ Danni Clayton

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people's campaign targeted 18-34 year olds in Hyde Park, Headingley and Woodhouse area – partnered with Universities to target students • Promotion of holiday hunger schemes and thank you to those who offered to support children, young people and their families • Joint press conference with NHS partner colleagues to raise awareness of pressures on NHS in Leeds due to Covid impact • Preparations and communications in advance of entering Tier 3 restrictions and implications for residents, businesses and workers – new guidance • Direct communications with shielded and vulnerable cohort • Campaign to say thank you to those who are working on the frontline and in our communities • #TogetherLeeds partner engagement and website and asset development • Stay safe, support the NHS, save lives campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Leeds Local Contact Model to target communities • Promoting the city's testing sites • Promoting mental health and wellbeing support and services • Promoting localised public health, community and third sector engagement work via the various Covid outreach and response networks and partnerships • Business communications for promotion of support schemes • Extensive activity from Communities team to make the most of local community communication opportunities. • Production of Winter NHS support services door drop leaflet for all Leeds households • New Tier 3 restrictions and guidance promotion • Promotion of four business grant support schemes • Campaign for safely re-opening the city including revised signage, safe visit and travel messages and #BuyLocal • Over 60's campaign – take additional steps to protect yourself/employees • Localised 'take extra care' campaigns targeting areas with higher cases (changing on a daily/weekly basis, but so far work in Garforth and Swillington and social media campaigns targeting other wards with +300 cases)
Issues and Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion caused by rapid changes to guidance with national restrictions followed by Tier 3, review to tier expected 16 December, and changed restrictions around Christmas, 23-27 December. • Disengagement with and apathy towards guidance and messages. • Confusion around 'mass testing' • Anti-vaccination messages • Lack of trust in messaging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted guidance for tradespeople working in houses – safety guidance, translated into community languages (Romanian) • Customisable preventative measures posters and leaflets created for translation into community languages • Leeds Covid-19 connect and support model promotion • Testing and self-isolation compliance – linked to above and discretionary schemes • Testing site promotion • New government 'open windows and let fresh air circulate' messaging added to digital and social assets, and promoted • Christmas 'bubbles' guidance • Hanukkah celebration message • Vaccination roll-out, priority, safety and efficacy messaging

2. Local Outbreak Management- Victoria Eaton

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local outbreak plan agreed and refreshed plan on a page completed in October. Governance in place, cross border working through Directors of Public Health and LRF, extensive proactive and reactive communications plan in place, with good use of existing multi-agency groups Continued close monitoring of the situation (outbreaks and community transmission) and acceleration/intensifying of actions where required Strong partnership approach in the city including with the voluntary sector Extensive activity on licencing and environmental health Strong links to Public Health England Testing facilities in place and testing strategy completed Strong, proactive partnership working with schools and universities. Launch of local contact tracing service, Connect & Support Harm minimisation plan for the over 60s being implemented across full range of partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive, well attended incident management team meetings for local outbreaks Localised effort in response to clusters and outbreaks e.g. extensive liaison with local services, testing, door to door knocking and more visible enforcement presence Wide communications and engagement, including paid advertising, refined with learning to target causes of transmission. Pushing for more testing and local tracing and use of the App. The Outbreak Management Board and Health Protection Board continue to provide oversight of the implementation of the Leeds Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan. Incident Management Coordinators providing support with community engagement activity, business liaison and some support for IMT activity. Community champions supporting engagement. Regular submissions to government to update on enhanced actions taken to address increasing rates of transmission and to push for key asks, including more support for local testing and tracing, and a more compassionate approach to restrictions to allow some outdoor social contact. Continued work engaging with members and partners to play their full role. Work continued with WY councils, and with Y&H councils, as well as core cities, sharing good practice and experience. Consideration of use of additional lateral flow testing opportunities, as part of existing testing strategy to ensure effective use of resources - have expressed interest in community testing linked to being in Tier 3
Issues & Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of local outbreaks in the city and bordering authority areas not being managed proactively Settings outbreaks- e.g. care, education, workplaces; community clusters; widespread community transmission. Adverse impact on those more vulnerable and the over 60s as we head into winter Not fully understanding and complying with changing Tier restrictions Failing to effectively engage with stakeholders around the city, particularly changes in national messaging (national lockdown to Tier system) - confusion, disengagement, loss of trust etc. Capacity issues e.g. Public Health, Environmental Health Office, testing facilities Last-minute national policy changes that divert resource from evidence base of what works. Vaccination developments leading to complacency about restrictions Increase in cases over Christmas due to relaxed national restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration arrangements with local neighbours Continued engagement with the universities and planning ahead for the start of terms. Continued focus on sufficient accessible testing and turn-around times. Implementing community testing, targeting higher risk cohorts. Joint services approach in localities with highest infection rates.

3. Health & Social Care- Julian Hartley/ Cath Roff/ Tim Ryley

Activity Completed/ Decisions Made	Activity Underway
<p><u>Gold Health and Social Care Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-weekly Gold • Silver reporting directly in person to Gold • Review of Leeds System Resilience Plan and LTHT bed modelling for winter 2020/21 • Review of flu immunisation plan • Agreed NHS Operational Lead for vaccination programme • Commissioned additional community care bed capacity • Refreshed dashboard of measures in place <p><u>Silver (Stabilisation and Reset)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As NHS England move to Level 4, the focus of the group has switched to one of Silver command • Ongoing review of LTHT modelling based on Covid prevalence 	<p><u>Silver (Stabilisation and Reset)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the Leeds System Resilience Plan for winter 2020/21 • Managing increases in activity and pressure on the health and care system • Maximising patient flow from LTHT through community beds • Increased GP and hospice in-reach to patients in LTHT <p><u>Care Homes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New discharge guidance agreed for the Leeds system • Testing nominated family member as part of patient visiting <p><u>Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging uptake of the Covid-19 vaccine • Mail drop to every home planned 7 -16 December highlighting NHS pressures, how to access services and support available from the council. Information booklet for the mail drop to be developed in alternative formats • Mental health pre-Christmas campaign to encourage self-care and reasons for being positive aimed at adults. Mindmate digital campaign to help children and young people, includes wellbeing packs delivered by GIPSIL to 'yet to reach' audiences • Over 60s communications campaign to ensure people stay active, connected and safe while minimising physical contact • Self-care campaign planned to run in New Year linked to reducing pressures on NHS services • Promoting zero tolerance and highlighting incidents of abuse directed towards staff.
Issues & Risks	Activity Planned
<p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of reduced funding to respond due to funding for the NHS stopped or reduced • Risk of not making best use of the Leeds £ due to having to work at pace • Risk of the care home sector being destabilised due to reduction in income and increased costs • Risk of Third Sector organisations being destabilised due to the impact of the pandemic on the economy, charitable donations and the changes needed to working practices <p><u>People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of physical and mental health of the wider health and care workforce worsening • Risk that the workforce does not respond quickly and flexibly enough to meet the needs of hotspot areas • Risk of unsafe working environment due to insufficient supplies of PPE and Testing <p><u>Population</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk that the health and wellbeing of people will be impacted by: Not attending urgent and routine appointments, Close down of services etc. 	<p><u>Gold focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H&SC Winter Plan • Surge control • Care Homes • Harm minimisation Inc. vulnerable groups • Mental Health and Wellbeing • Staffing <p><u>Silver (Stabilisation and Reset) In addition to Gold focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Discharge and flow • City vaccination update • Delivery of the Leeds System Resilience Plan for winter 2020/21 • Flu immunisation update

4. Infrastructure and supplies impact- Gary Bartlett

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued major schemes and increased hours of operation where appropriate during periods of reduced traffic flows. Reviewed scheme work to ensure no major inconvenience to business and retail sector post 2nd December lifting of national restrictions. Roads are expected to be very busy post 2/12 lifting and some congestion is inevitable in the run up to Christmas. Bad weather will also impact network capacity. Appropriate communication plans in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Yorkshire Metro website updated to keep commuters up to date with the latest changes including time tables changes In the process of making plans for the travel window that students have to travel home in. Standby buses in place for the weekend of 5th & 6th at Leeds and Sheffield along with an enhanced staff presence. Transport operators. Liaising with the Universities directly to understand proposed travel plans. Active management of PPE supplies and compliance with the guidance. Stock levels rated excellent.
Issues & Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe transport not provided when needed (e.g. key workers)- ongoing management Increased car journeys into the city due to reduced public transport and ahead of Christmas Schemes not progressed Insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings- ongoing management and stock levels rated excellent Supply chain failure / key supplier ceases trading Insufficient food supplies and distribution, especially in emergency for the most vulnerable Impact of Christmas shopping on city centre and car parks- impact on key workers. Significant outbreaks experienced at the cities Universities and not contained Lack of parking at both LGI and St James' with people missing appointments as a consequence. Impact of infections and self-isolation on key staff. Compliance with face coverings and social distancing. As major schemes continue, a concern for December will be the increased activity and levels of congestion in the city centre and key district centres associated with lifting of the national restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with all partners to understand level of transport demand and prevailing issues Encourage working from home and Active Travel measures Utilise Commonplace to consult with the public about options and changes. Work with partners and internal providers on coordinated solutions with regards to known and unknown high density activities/changes e.g., students returning to university, sporting fixtures, unforeseen protest marches, spontaneous festivals Spare vehicles and drivers will be made available to address any immediate capacity issues and on contracted dedicated school bus services, capacity has been increased to ensure that no applicants were refused a place Social media campaigns are taking place with supporting press releases Train operators looking to introduce 'flexible season tickets' Working on active travel measures including pop up cycle lanes and widening pathways in city centre Good monitoring (track and trace) processes are in place across the university communities. Work continues on major schemes in the city centre. All works across the city are subject to scrutiny in terms of their likely impact, timing and mitigation measures.

5. Business and Economy- Eve Roodhouse

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leeds Economic Recovery Framework outlining our approach to economic recovery centred on Respond, Reset and Renew and Building Resilience- published and approved by Executive Board on 21st October 2020. Business engagement through multiple channels. Understanding new government support schemes. Inclusive Growth Extended Delivery Partnership event took place on 24th November to discuss our approach to economic recovery – over 130 attendees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed): Launched 9th November. Business premises required to close in England are to receive grants worth up to £3,000 for the period 5th November to 2nd December. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open): Launched 23rd November. The Council has received an allocation to pay one-off grants worth up to £3,150 for the 6 week period spent under Tier 2 restrictions to Hospitality and Accommodation businesses. Discretionary Grant Fund (Scheme One): Launched 25th November. To help businesses severely impacted by the pandemic pay fixed property costs incurred over the period October 2020 to March 2021. Businesses could apply initially over a two-week period. The scheme is open to businesses incurring £4,000 or more of fixed property costs per annum who can demonstrate a loss of income due to Covid-19 of at least 30% during the 2020/21 tax year. Discretionary Grant Fund (Scheme Two): Launched on 4th December to support young businesses trading less than three years severely impacted by Covid-19 who are based from domestic properties or from non-domestic premises with annual property costs below £4k per annum. The Scheme will provide a grant of up to £1,000. Appointing a partner to work with us on Economic Recovery and city/ local centres.
Issues and Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to local economy as a result of restrictions, with disproportionate impact on the city centre; a deeper recession and an increase in poverty across Leeds. Impact of Tier 2 restrictions on the Hospitality sector in Leeds prior to national lockdown and impact of national lockdown on Tourism, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sectors. Impact of Tier 3 restrictions on Hospitality sector in particular from 2nd December. Increased job losses through redundancy and restructuring of the economy. Inequalities widened through job losses hitting low earners, BAME people, women, young people the hardest. Gaps in central government interventions to support businesses in more affected sectors leading to increased business failure, higher unemployment, deeper recession. Employees and consumers lack confidence in the safety measures in place in public spaces, including public transport, (prior to national lockdown restrictions) in advance of a vaccine leading to an extended hit to productivity and a slow recovery. Businesses struggle to adopt new requirements for the workplace, e.g. social distancing for customers, staff workspaces and PPE. Uncertainty relating to the ending of the Brexit transition period and the likelihood and scope of any deal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching people to jobs in recruiting sectors and support to retrain via the Employment and Skills Service, Jobcentre Plus and learning providers. Ongoing engagement, support and advice and lobbying of central government. Maintain effective liaison with business, specifically representative bodies to understand impacts on business and the local economy, particularly in the run-up to Christmas and impact on Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sectors. Building capability and capacity to understand how the economy will begin to recover and reshape. Planning and engagement with businesses on the implications of the Brexit withdrawal deal Conversation with the city on economic recovery, city and local centres to be launched in December.

6.Citizens and Communities Impact – James Rogers

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Leeds Executive agreed shadow arrangements for new statutory Domestic Violence and Abuse Local Partnership Board. • Development of risk scenarios and mitigations for those within CEV group with additional vulnerabilities. • Work with National Shielding Team to develop and secure funding offer. • Successful funding bid to MHCLG (Next Steps Accommodation Programme) - arrangements to house those in need. • A remote learning task group established to ensure schools are aware of government guidance. • Daily hot grab bag meals in place for 95% of the schools we service. Access to school meals for children required to self-isolate. • Second Third Sector Resilience Survey undertaken (results due in December 2020). • PHE funding application submitted for a on street Drug and Alcohol Team • Enhanced patrols in partnership with the Universities introduced and Covid Marshals introduced from 2nd December. • Domestic violence and abuse governance arrangements established with Bronze group embedded. • Extended on street primary care team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside 16 Days of Action against domestic violence to target communities of interest including LGBT+, Disability and faith. New statutory Domestic Violence and Abuse Local Partnership Board commissioned review of MARAC arrangements in city. • Contributing to research on involving faith communities in Covid response work. • Maintaining scheduled refuse collections to meet increased demands of households. Potential extra pressure over Christmas. • Communities Team, Parks and Countryside & West Yorkshire Police working to reduce incidents of excess numbers attending funerals. • Progressing Next Steps Accommodation Programme for rough sleepers including supporting out of temporary emergency accommodation; establishing women's only stay safe hub; purchasing x20 1 bed Housing First properties. • Joint partnership work on administering the Winter Hardship Fund. • Ongoing planning with regards to support for families over Christmas. • Self-Isolation payment process in place with revised discretionary scheme to go live in December to bring more people into eligibility in the scheme. • Plans for allocation of the Winter Support Grant. First activity to ensure provision of Free School Meals to all eligible children during Christmas holidays. • Additional support to be provided to families receiving Council Tax support through Council Tax Hardship grant, removing legacy Council Tax debt from their accounts.
Issues and Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term impact of school closures and requirement for pupils and staff to self-isolate on educational attainment and progression. Additional stress placed on school staff, children and young people. Lack of access to digital devices for online learning. • Safeguarding children from risk of significant harm. • 3rd sector resilience and sustainability problems. • Provision of emergency food struggles to meet demand as a result of reduced food supply and/or fragility of the infrastructure which relies heavily on volunteers and 3rd sector organisations. • Inequalities relating to Covid-19 and Communities missed, or not (appropriately) engaged. • Risk of public health issues that a build-up of domestic waste could cause. • Greater call volumes and referrals (LWSS and other routes). • Threat of anti-vaccine and anti-lockdown protests. • Developing apathy to self-isolation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls to LWSS monitored to assess demand and ready to step-up when needed. • Initiative being explored to recruit social workers. • Responding to changing national guidance to support school leaders and young people within all areas of the educational sector. • Increased capacity on the emergency duty team and out of hours to prevent escalation and provide additional support to families. • Continuation of support to shielding and CEV group • Tracking supported by database to receive data on numbers support with finance, care, food, volunteer support, wellbeing support, other. • Allocation of additional funding for locally-led approaches – work underway to shape wedge based proposals and embedding new delivery model. • Regular fortnightly meetings with LWSS, VAL and Volunteer Hubs. • Ongoing operational work with priority target group, Rough Sleeper Count and implementation of PH funding to reduce risk of rough sleeping and infection. • Phase 4 funding proposals need to be communicated with hubs.

7.Organisational Impact- Neil Evans

Activity Completed	Activity Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services resumed subject to Covid-secure guidance and in response to Tier 3 restrictions. • Mobilise and Energise Programme progressed to ensure adequate Covid secure office capacity available across the City • Supported vulnerable colleagues whilst maintaining business continuity through flexible redeployment • Regular manager updates provided to ensure consistency of message • Frequent and regular engagement with trade unions • Managing finances including Early Leavers Initiative • Third staff wellbeing pulse survey completed by 3820 staff. • 1200 managers undertaken training on individual risk assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting clinically extremely vulnerable colleagues and other vulnerable colleagues whilst maintaining business continuity through flexible deployment. • Reviewing and amending all relevant risk assessments • Make the most of the available finance • Managing service change • Promoting wellbeing offer to staff through Team Leeds Be Well initiative.
Issues and Risks	Activity Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant financial pressures (high levels of unexpected expenditure, reduced income) • Problems in maintaining the delivery of critical services as recovery from the pandemic progresses and as staff may be required to self-isolate due to test & trace or testing positive • Workforce pressures: staffing levels unable to fully support critical services, threats to the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of staff. • Lack of social distancing and other mitigation measures in the workplace leading to the issue of a 'Notice of Contravention' from the HSE • Capacity within the council and partners to deal with a concurrent event(s) and with extensive outbreaks • Inconsistency of approach in hosting and delivering events where permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor impact of potential change to Tier category when reviewed in mid-December. • Continue to support clinically extremely vulnerable colleagues to return to the workplace where possible. • Continue to ensure all managers undertake training on individual risk assessments. • Monitor staff absences due to Covid-19. • Full analysis of staff wellbeing survey results.

COVID 19 - Leeds Multi-Agency Arrangements

Existing governance

- Organisational and partnership governance (boards and processes) continue.
- Emergency decision making processes in place where appropriate.

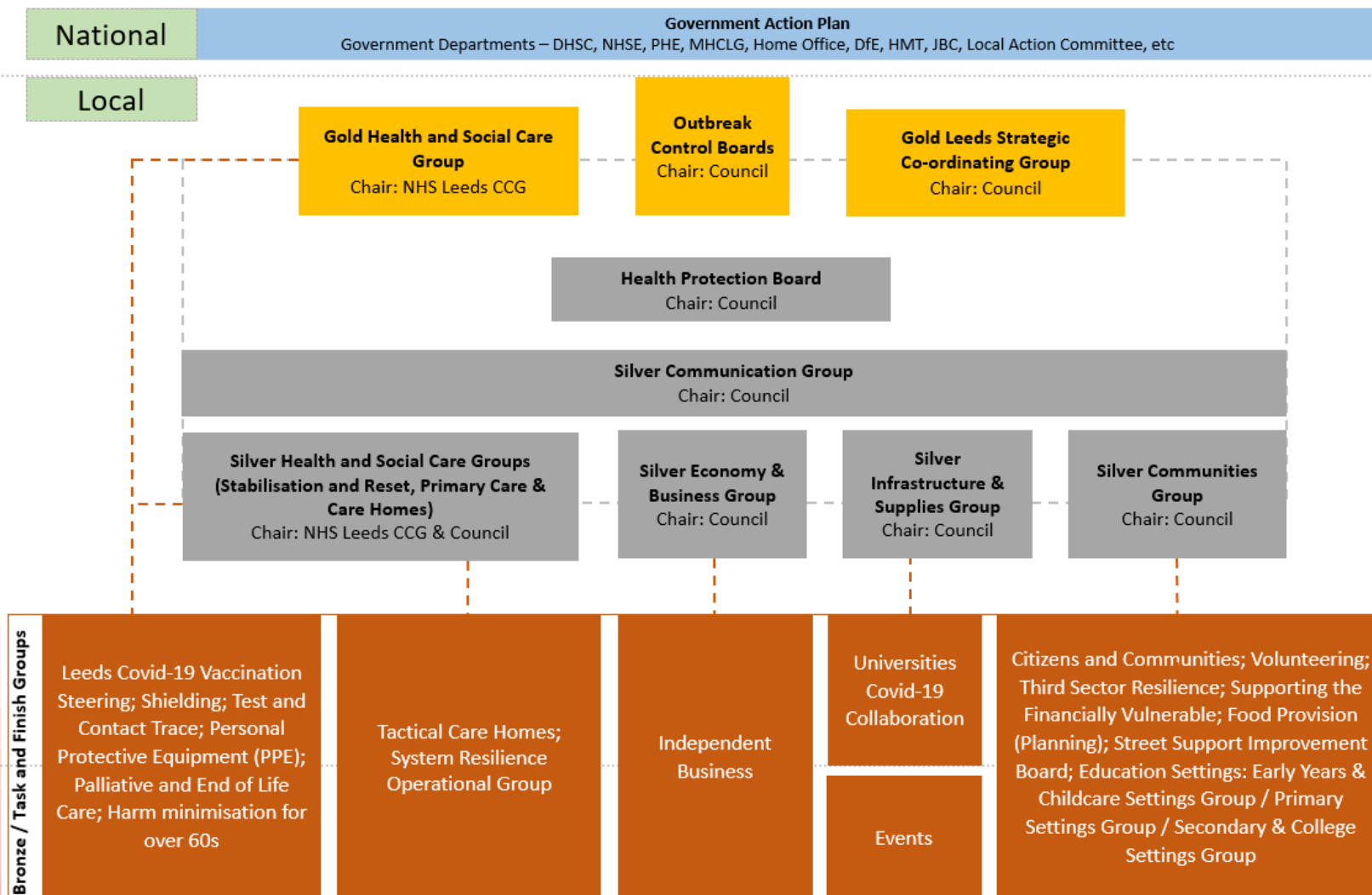
Individual agencies

Gold
Organisational
Leadership Teams

Silver
Organisational
Groups

Bronze / Task and
Finish
Organisational
Groups

Date: 10/12/20



Leeds Outbreak Plan– December 2020

This plan has been developed in the context of the detailed plan published in the summer, combined with all the enhanced planning done as infection rates have risen, and in the context of the broader response and recovery plan. The Leeds approach to prevent transmission of COVID-19 is through intensifying a combination of interventions and measures to **minimise harm, keep people safe and protect vulnerable people**. Whilst there is a national focus on restrictions, the local approach is more comprehensive and informed by the full range of public health measures from infection prevention control, communications, managing outbreaks, prevention, compliance and enforcement. Our focus is to ensure that **more people, to do more of the right thing, more of the time, because they choose to**. The principles are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Proactive, preventative & positive approach, emphasising what people can do to keep themselves and others safe</i>• <i>Building on existing evidence base and public health expertise, including infection prevention control and outbreak management</i>• <i>A community-centred and targeted approach, prioritising the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged communities</i>• <i>Open and transparent communication across sectors and stakeholders</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Co-production, working with people, communities and partners building confidence and trust of the public</i>• <i>Collaborative leadership to engage everyone</i>• <i>Agility, flexible approaches to meet the changing circumstances as the pandemic progresses</i>• <i>Sharing good practice and embedding evaluation and learning to drive ongoing improvement</i>• <i>Guided by intelligence and data, evidence and best practice</i> |
|---|---|

Care homes, education, high risk workplaces and other settings

- Helping care homes, schools, colleges, universities, workplaces and other high risk settings to control the spread of the virus
- Working with Public Health England, Environmental Health, Infection Prevention and Control, and other partners to put targeted control measures in place
- Being vigilant and proactive to prevent cases becoming outbreaks, working with the full range of partners to monitor the data and coordinate activity
- Working with care homes to allow safe visits where appropriate
- Supporting our education settings to stay open, manage any cases of Covid-19 swiftly, and deliver remote learning to pupils who need to self-isolate
- Working with universities to support the student population with issues both on and off campus, and plan ahead for travel around term times.

Community transmission

- Using local and national data to monitor spread of the virus on a daily basis to target additional activity where needed
- Using the skills, knowledge and assets of local councillors, community organisations, local businesses, the third sector and council services to target effective support
- Enhancing joint working further in areas where infection rates rise
- Working with communities and third sector partners to identify and remove barriers to testing, tracing and self-isolating

Local testing capacity

- Providing mobile, drive-through and walk-to testing sites to meet the needs of local communities (eg language, travel, opening times), responding to areas with need for more testing
- Additional local activity such as door knocking to increase testing where testing rates fall
- Influencing the national programme to ensure accessibility, reliability and effective turnaround times
- Planning for targeted testing of people without symptoms of Covid-19 to monitor spread of the virus, in line with a targeted and intelligence led approach

Local contact tracing

- Established a local contact tracing service that works with the national system and aims to reach more people, using our local knowledge and contacts to reach people that the national system has been unable to contact
- Ensuring our local contact tracing offer is available in community languages and reflects the needs of our diverse communities.

- Making use of our public health expertise in contact tracing, and acquiring additional resources where possible
- Ensuring that people who are asked to self-isolate are able to access the support they need, including welfare support, befriending, shopping and delivery of medicines, by joining up across council services and our partners.
- Using intensive actions like door-knocking in communities to reach and engage more people
- Sharing learning with other cities and local authorities, and pushing for more resources to allow us to develop the best possible local contact tracing service

Vaccination

- Supporting the local rollout of Covid-19 vaccination through an integrated delivery plan for all related developments that impact on the system
- Working across our partnerships to put the complex logistical arrangements in place
- Debunking vaccination myths and encouraging take-up, using influential community organisations and leaders to get the message out
- Focusing on getting higher-risk groups to access vaccination as a priority

Compliance and enforcement

- Encouraging people to follow restrictions introduced by the Government, and enforcing where appropriate
- Working with partners including West Yorkshire Police to implement the 4 Es approach (engage, explain, encourage, enforce)
- Providing on-the-ground Covid Marshals to support businesses to follow Covid guidance and provide reassurance for the public
- Providing guidance and advice to businesses on how to be Covid-secure and comply with regulations, through letters, digital communication and visits
- Taking legal action and publicising this where appropriate as a deterrent

Data

- Continually reviewing the latest local and national data and using this proactively to guide our approach
- Being proactive about opportunities to learn and understand more about the virus and continually reviewing how effective our interventions are
- Being open with data, including publishing the latest cases and infection rates on our website, on social media and in our stakeholder communications

Vulnerable people

- Working with our partners to minimise the impact of the pandemic on older and vulnerable people through delivery of a detailed over 60s harm minimisation plan
- Issuing payments to people who need [financial support](#) to self-isolate
- Dedicated helpline for people who need help in relation to Covid-19 (0113 3760330), with our community hubs providing support for those who are self-isolating or vulnerable in every ward
- Providing support to people who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) to Covid-19, with advice, reassurance, and signposting to support

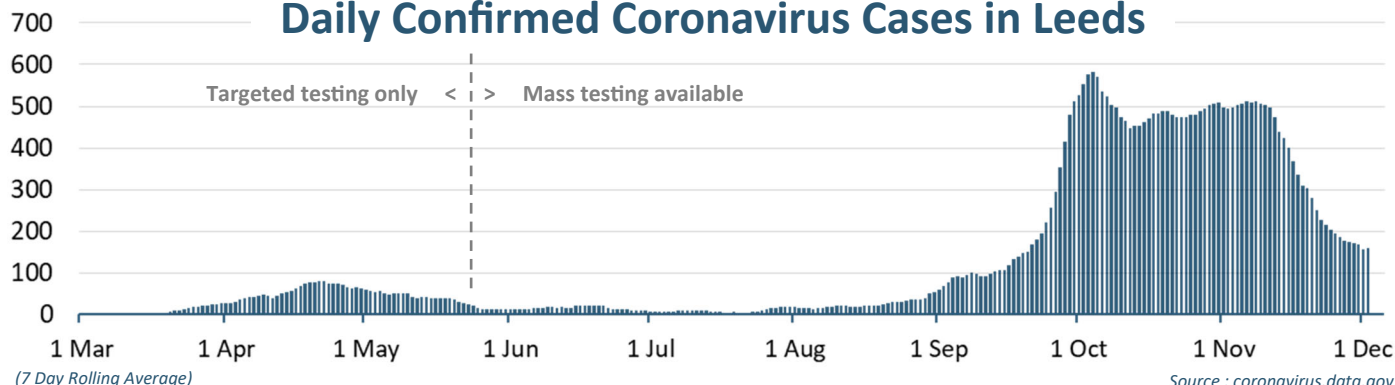
Governance and communications

- Regularly adapting the multi-agency governance arrangements to lead our response to, and recovery from, the pandemic
- Our Outbreak Control Boards bring together key stakeholders to influence the approach to managing the pandemic
- Using all our communications methods to reach people, and adapting and targeting our communications in response to the latest evidence about where and how the virus is spreading
- Working with other local authorities, the health system, the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum and the Core Cities network to influence national policy direction
- Planning ahead for major events and anticipating issues
- Raising awareness of the symptoms of Covid-19, how to [access a test](#), and supporting people to self-isolate
- Promoting hand washing, wearing a face covering where required, and keeping a distance from people not in your household or support bubble
- Encouraging people to use the NHS Covid-19 App and to follow the advice of NHS Test & Trace and local authority contact tracers

Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 7 December 2020

Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds



Headlines for Leeds

The OECD suggests the UK will be among the hardest hit by the pandemic, predicting that by the end of 2021 the UK economy will be more than 6% smaller than before the Covid health crisis. Among the world's major economies, only Argentina is predicted to do worse according to the OECD forecasts.

The most recent business intelligence sees a continuation of a slow trickle of redundancies, primarily due to prolonged low demand for the businesses' service and despite Government support available to them. Many of these businesses are consumer facing and have continued to encounter depressed demand during

Covid restrictions. According to feedback received by WYCA, more than 50% of business in the art, education and business administration, have reported significant reduction of operations during November.

Footfall in the city centre saw a significant increase beginning last Wednesday, driven by shoppers as non-essential retail reopened with the return to a revised Tier 3. However there were still fewer people in the city centre with footfall down -47.3% on same day last year, though an improvement on -69.3% last Tuesday. The Council has been working with partners to strengthen city centre management to ensure the city centre is safe and welcoming to returning shoppers.

The latest 7 day average rate per 100,000 reported for Leeds is 165.5 per 100,000 (266.7 a week before). The latest regional average is 207.8 (338.5 a week before) whilst the latest national average is 162.3 (230.3 a week before).

Leeds is currently recorded the following figures



165.5 New Cases
recorded daily in Leeds
(7 day rolling average)



113 Current Cases
Reported across 19 Care
Homes in Leeds



1066 Registered Deaths
That mention Covid-19, an
increase of 97 over last 14 days



28% Footfall
In Leeds City centre in
comparison to 2019



243 Covid-19 related
Incidents reported to West
Yorkshire Police in last 7 days

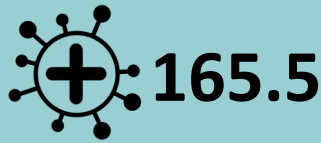


31.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
Nitrogen Dioxide levels.
Below UK target of 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 7 December 2020

Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery



165.5

Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)



113

Current Cases
Reported active in
19 Leeds care homes



175

Covid-19 Beds
Currently occupied at
LTHT hospitals



97

Registered Deaths
mentioning Covid-19
occurring over the
last 14 days

Health Summary

Infection Rates (6th December)

The latest 7 day average rate per 100,000 reported for Leeds is 165.5 per 100,000 (266.7 a week before). The latest regional average is 207.8 (338.5 a week before) whilst the latest national average is 162.3 (230.3 a week before).

The latest available 7 day positivity for Leeds is 8.2% (down from 11.1% this time last week).

Covid-19 Cases

As of the 6th December, The number of patients in COVID occupied beds at LTHT this week is 175 COVID positive patients, down from 246 at this time last week. LYPFT has only 1 COVID positive patients in a bed this week.

This week has seen 114 positive COVID tests carried out within LTHT (down from 148 last week); 99 attributed to inpatients and 15 attributed to new admissions. LYPFT had 0 positive COVID tests in the last week (down from 2 last week)

There are currently 11 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LTHT, down from 13 this time last week.

Care Homes

In total there are 113 active Covid19 case declared in 19 Care Homes in Leeds. These figures have almost halved over the last 2 weeks from 192 cases.

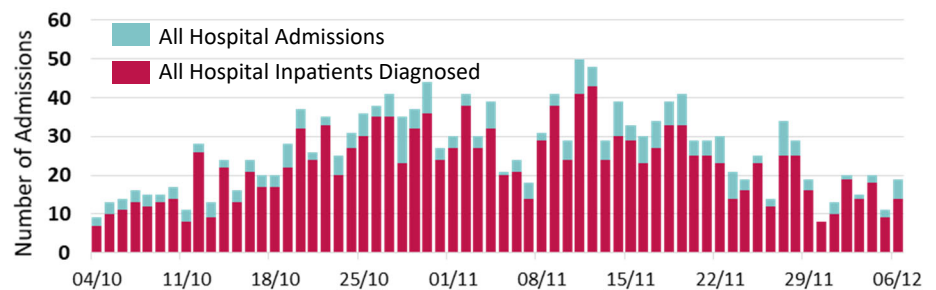
Registered Deaths in Leeds

As of 7 December 2020, a total of 1066 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office. The number of deaths registered where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate has decreased slightly in recent weeks, with 97 Covid-19 deaths recorded to have occurred over the last 14 days (at time of publication).

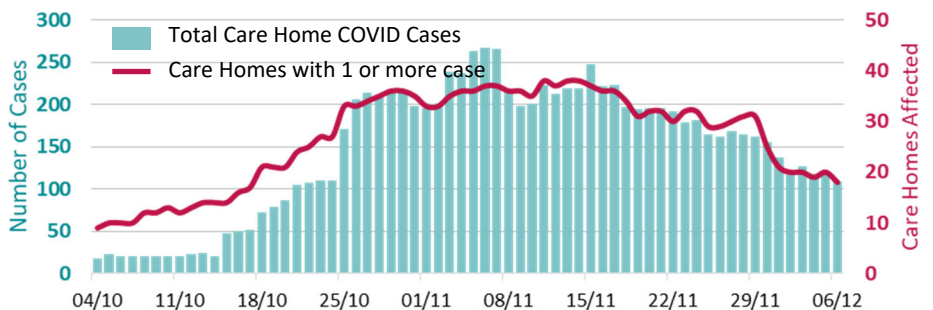
Capacity

Current capacity in LTHT and MYHT hospital based mortuaries is at 52%. This is a reduction from 7 days ago when it was recorded at 59%.

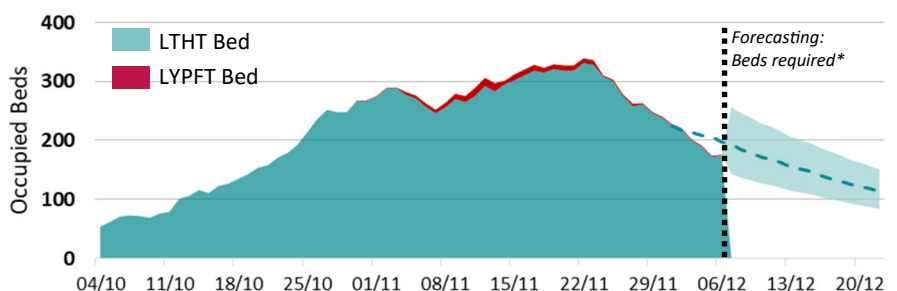
New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients



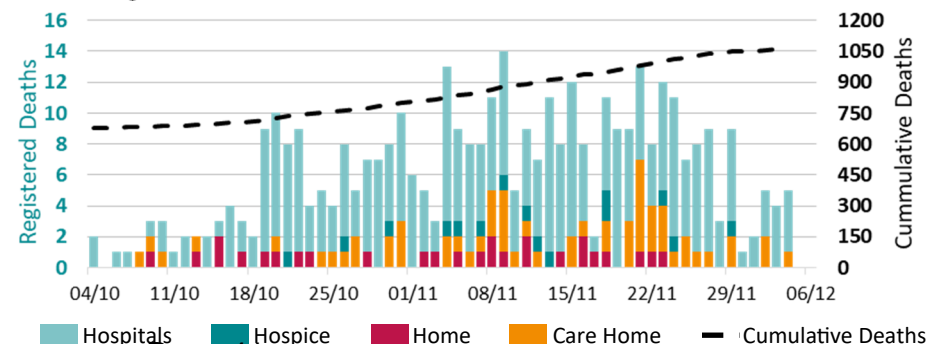
Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19

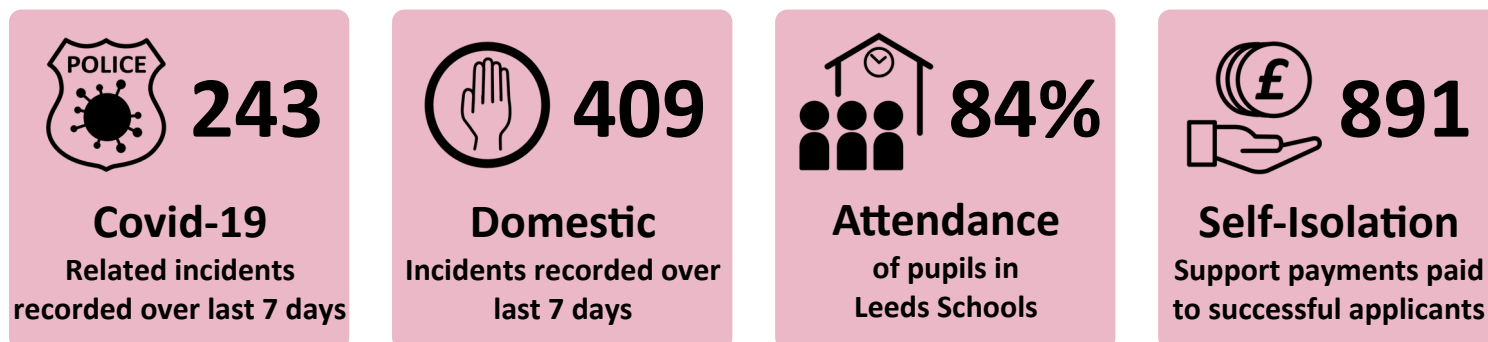


Sources:

- Coronavirus.gov.uk - 5/12/20
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust - 7/12/20
- Leeds Registrars Office - 7/12/20

*The forecast model also uses pillars 1 & 2 testing, 111 telephony, Google mobility, and Apple mobility metrics as "Leading indicators".

Citizens & Community



Citizens & Community Summary

Incidents and Crimes Overview

Crime volume figures remain relatively stable compared to the previous week. Although the district is in Tier 3 (highest restrictions) there has been some increase in recorded footfall in the city centre and there is potential for increased levels of offences (especially theft) in the run up to Christmas.

Following a drop early in the week, Daily Covid incident levels have returned to previous levels and are expected to continue whilst Leeds is in Tier 3.

Children & Education

Based on 241 schools submitting data at least once during the week. Average daily pupil attendance increased to 84% (up from 79% in the previous week) and average daily absence was 8.2% (down from 11.5% the previous week).

LYPFT Mental Health Referrals

Health and care services in Leeds are acutely aware of the wider impact of Covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing. Referrals for urgent mental health services are tracked to monitor the ongoing pressure on this part of the system. The trends in the pattern of referrals have been fairly constant over the past few months, we will continue to track them and highlight any key issues.

Self Isolation Payments

Since September, Leeds has received 2027 self isolation payment applications, Currently Leeds had approved 933 payments, of which 891 have been paid (95%). Currently there are 246 applications to be assessed which is 12.1% of all those received.

Welfare Support

In the previous week there were 762 calls recorded to the Local Welfare Support Service's (LWSS) Helpline, with a 98% answer rate. Further information on the type of support provided will appear in future reports.

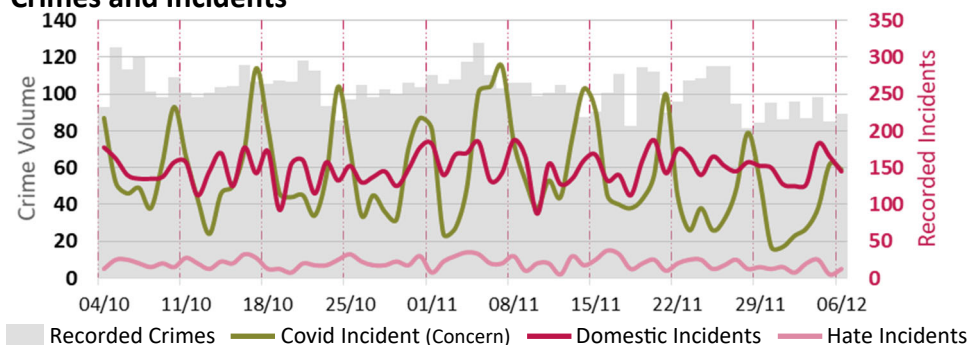
Waste Management & Recycling

Tonnage of waste collected at the kerbside continues to be higher than normal for this period. November has seen tonnage increases double for black and green bins. Brown bins finished the season around 50% up (collections resume in March 2021). To maintain operational bubbles garden crews are now being deployed as support crews.

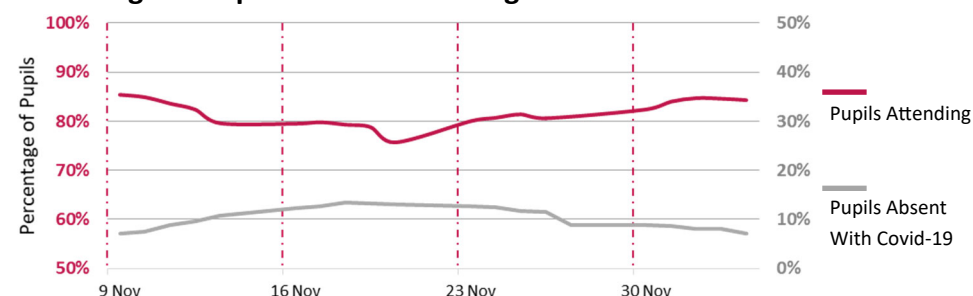
Sources:

- Safer Leeds - 7/12/20
- Children's Services Leeds - 7/12/20
- Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust - 7/12/20
- Leeds City Council Environment Team - 7/12/20

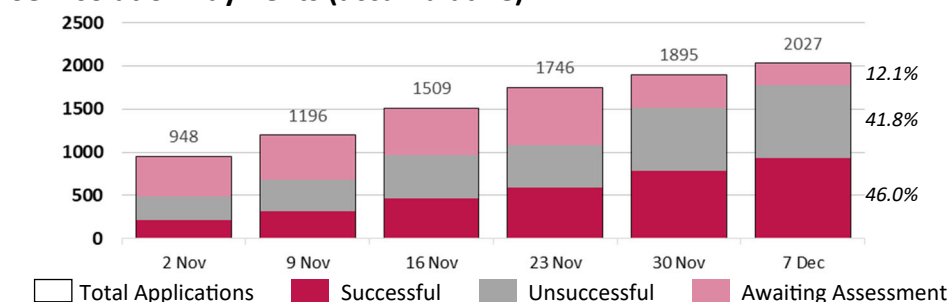
Crimes and Incidents



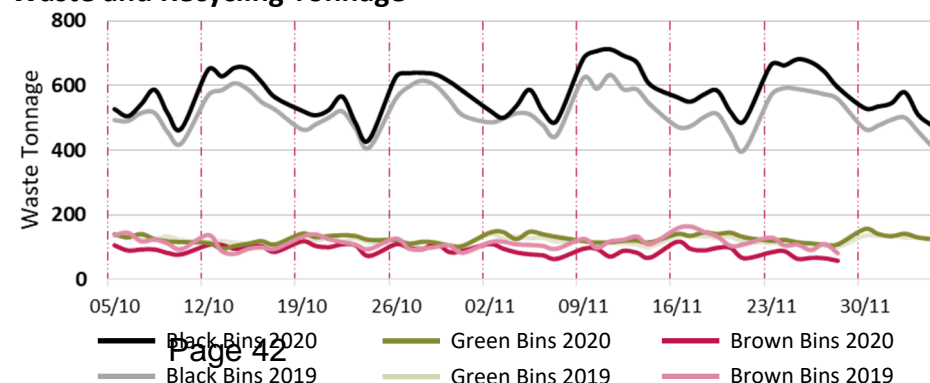
Percentage of Pupils on Roll Attending School



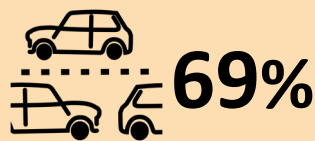
Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



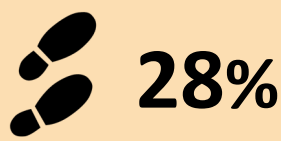
Waste and Recycling Tonnage



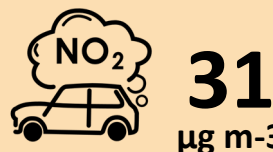
Infrastructure & Supplies



Traffic Flow
Compared to recorded
traffic flow in 2019



Footfall
In Leeds City centre in
comparison to 2019



Nitrogen Dioxide
Levels, lower than UK
target of $40\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$



Thousand
Units of PPE issued
over the last 7 days

Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

Traffic & Pedestrian Flow

Footfall in the city centre saw a significant increase beginning last Wednesday, driven by shoppers as non-essential retail reopened with the return to a revised Tier 3. Overall commuting and traffic patterns have remained fairly constant in recent weeks, though the return to a revised Tier 3 may have an impact.

Leeds Air Quality (October 2020)

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

The effect of the lockdown earlier in the year shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area, since easing of measures began in May, levels of NO_2 have begun to rise slightly to an average of $31\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in October. This indicator would normally record increased levels over the later months of the year.

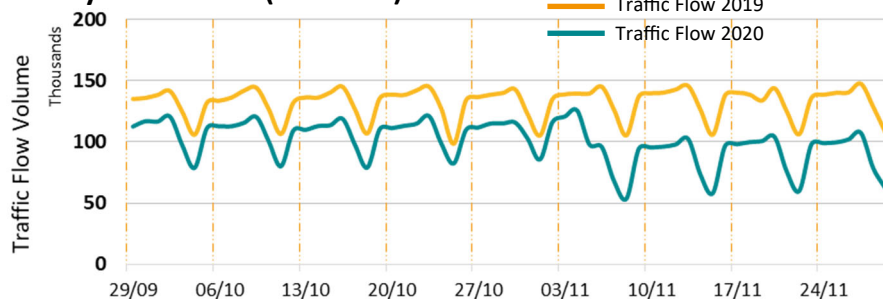
PPE Supplies

LCC stock the levels are still rated as good. DHSC deliveries are arriving weekly and there is ample stock in each order to supply the services within scope. LRF supplies remain high; we continue to see this supply remain static.

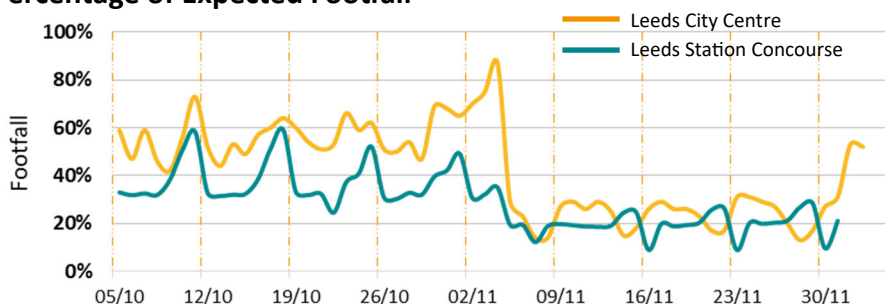
LCC has been invited to be part of a national pilot scheme to support informal carers with their PPE. This will begin on Monday 07/12/2020. Citywide comms are being prepared and Carers Leeds are also supporting with this work.

We have given mutual aid of orange sacks to The University of Leeds to support their student testing programme.

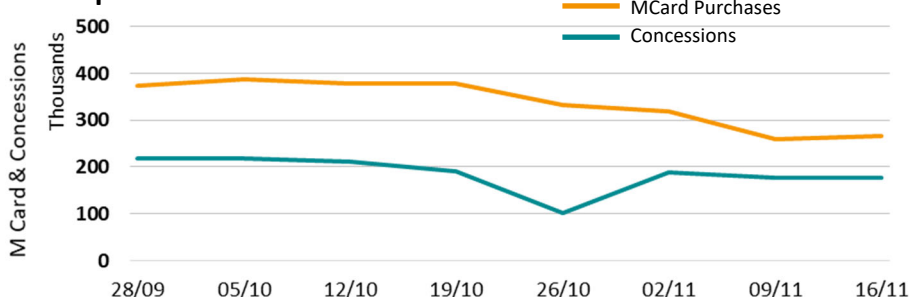
Two-way 24hr Traffic (5 Radials)



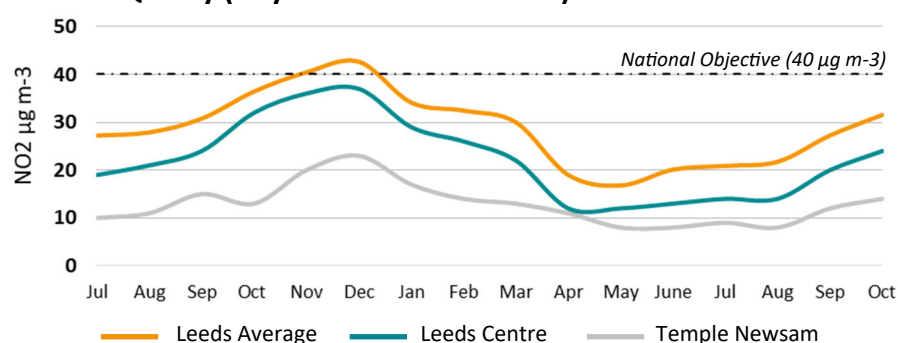
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard purchases and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (July 2019 - October 2020)



Sources:

- West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 7/12/20
- Leeds City Council - 07/12/20

Economy and Business



**Out of Work
Benefits Claimant
Count**



**Million
Of new local restriction
support grants available**

Economy and Business

The OECD suggests the UK will be among the hardest hit by the pandemic, predicting that by the end of 2021 the UK economy will be more than 6% smaller than before the Covid health crisis. Among the world's major economies only Argentina, is predicted to do worse according to the OECD forecasts.

The most recent business intelligence sees a continuation of a slow trickle of redundancies, primarily due to prolonged low demand for the businesses' service and despite Government support available to them. Many of these businesses are consumer facing and have continued to encounter depressed demand during Covid restrictions. According to feedback received by WYCA, more than 50% of business in the art, education and business administration, have reported significant reduction of operations during November.

Footfall in the city centre saw a significant increase beginning last Wednesday, driven by shoppers as non-essential retail reopened with the return to a revised Tier 3. However there were still fewer people in the city centre with footfall down -47.3% on same day last year, though an improvement on -69.3% last Tuesday. The Council has been working with partners to strengthen city centre management to ensure the city centre is safe and welcoming to returning shoppers. Overall commuting and traffic patterns have remained fairly constant in recent weeks, though the return to a revised Tier 3 may have an impact.

Employment

There has been little change in Out of Work Benefit claimants in recent months, since the doubling of claimants in April 2020. In October, there were 35,640 people claiming Out of Work Benefits (6.9%), slightly above regional (6.5%) and national rates (6.3%). The last couple of weeks has seen some recovery in online advertised job vacancies had increased in the previous week in all sectors except hospitality after three weeks of falls. Company liquidations have stabilised, but remain slightly higher than pre-lockdown levels.

Support for Business

The Council has launched several grant schemes announced by government in light of the most recent national restrictions/measures, including:

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) – Business premises required to close in England are to receive grants worth up to £3,000 for the period 5th November to 1st December. Applications for this grant will close on 16 December 2020. To date, 2,966 applications have been issued to a value of £4,754,726.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) – One-off grants worth up to £3,150 for the period spent under Tier 2 restrictions to Hospitality and Accommodation businesses. To date, 358 grants have been issued to a value of £635,769.

Discretionary Grant Fund (Scheme One) – To help businesses severely impacted by the pandemic pay fixed property costs incurred between October 2020 and March 2021. To date, three grants have been issued to a value of £5,800. The deadline to apply for this fund is midnight on 8th December.

Discretionary Grant Fund (Scheme Two) – To support young businesses trading less than three years severely impacted by Covid-19 with annual property costs below £4k per annum. The scheme will provide grants of up to £1,000 each.

The government has also recently announced an additional £1,000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led' pubs in Tiers 2 and 3 (those that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food). The payment would be on top of the existing £3,000 monthly cash grants for businesses. Guidance will follow, though we are encouraging pubs and other businesses to apply to the existing schemes already launched whilst we await further details.

LCC's financial position

The announcement of an additional £20.6m of Government funding in October had reduced the estimated funding gap as a consequence of COVID to £30.5m in November reporting. After taking this reduction into consideration, the Council has made the decision that by utilising one off resources it can manage the financial position in 2020/21 and deliver a balanced budget position. This position estimates that the Council will receive £18.9m of Government compensation in 2020/21 to mitigate sales, fees and charges income losses, but the actual figure will not be known until the financial year end. This position does not reflect the potential effects of any further local or national lockdown arrangements not yet introduced, the impact of which would be reflected in future Financial Health reports to the Council's Executive Board.

The projected overspend for 2021/22 as reported to September's Executive Board in the Medium Term Financial Strategy was £118.8m. To date the Executive Board has agreed that consultation should commence on a range of Budget Savings Proposals totalling £58.2m to address this gap. Additionally £22.4m of corporate measures have been identified.

The Government announced the outcome of Spending Review 2020 on 25th November, which included a range of measures relating to local government. The announcements included:

£1.55bn of additional funding nationally to support local authorities to meet additional COVID expenditure in 2021/22

Confirmation that Government would fund 75% of Council Tax and Business Rates deficits arising in 2020/21 as a consequence of COVID (£762m nationally) and would provide funding to authorities to reflect increased numbers of Local Council Tax Support claimants (£670m nationally)

£300m of additional Social Care funding nationally and confirmation that authorities can continue to fund Adult Social Care through the Adult Social Care Precept in 2021/22 and 2022/23

A public sector pay 'pause' which it is assumed will also apply to local government.

Spending Review announcements determine resources for Government Departments and do not detail allocations of funding to individual local authorities. The Proposed Budget 2021/22 assumes an overall gain of around £27.6m as a consequence of these announcements, but we await clarification of the detail at the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2021/22 which is expected in mid-December.

Further savings options totalling £5.2m will be considered by the December meeting of the Executive Board, reducing the estimated budget gap for 2021/22 to £5.3m. Work continues to identify further savings, with proposals to be taken to the February Executive Board through the 2021/22 Budget Report.

Sources:

Leeds City Council - 7/11/20

Department for work and Pensions - November 2020

Communications Update & Policy Announcements

Policy Announcements

20 November 2020

Free flu vaccinations will be rolled out to over 50s from December.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Care workers looking after people in their own homes will be offered weekly coronavirus tests from 23 November.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Health professionals whose visas were due to expire between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 will have their visa, and those of family dependents, extended for free for one year to allow them to continue responding to Covid-19. This extends the decision earlier in the year to extend visas that were due to expire between 31 March and 1 October 2020.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

23 November 2020

Publication of the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan, including setting out the Tier categories to be introduced at the end of national lockdown restrictions on 2 December. Shops, gyms, personal care, and leisure to reopen, and collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume from 2 December. The revised Tiers will be toughened, and uniform, with no opportunity for local negotiations. Tier allocations will be reviewed every 14 days, with the first review on 16 December. Community testing will be available to Tier 3 areas.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

24 November 2020

The four nations of the UK jointly agreed an approach to allow people to spend time with others over Christmas in a bubble of up to three households between 23-27 December. Those travelling to and from Northern Ireland will be permitted to travel an additional day either side. 'Christmas bubbles' can spend time together in private homes, including second homes and caravans, attend places of worship, or meet in public outdoor places. In the two weeks before and after being in a 'Christmas bubble', people are advised to take extra precautions by limiting contact with people outside their household as much as possible.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

25 November 2020

The Chancellor delivered the Spending Review, including that the government has spent £280bn this year to fight coronavirus and will spend a further £55bn to support public services next year. The economy will contract by 11.3% this year and economic output is not expected to return to pre-crisis levels until Q4 2022. Unemployment predicted to rise to a peak of 7.5% - or 2.6 million people - in Q2 2021. It is forecast to fall in every coming year, hitting 4.4% by the end of 2024. An extra £3bn next year confirmed to support those unemployed. Public sector pay rises will be paused next year - except for NHS staff and those earning less than £24,000. There will be a new UK Infrastructure Bank, headquartered in the North, starting from the spring and a new "levelling up fund" worth £4bn.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

26 November 2020

Announcement of which Tiers different areas of the country will be placed in at the end of national lockdown measures from 2 December. The majority of the country placed in Tiers 2 and 3, with West Yorkshire in Tier 3.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Contain Outbreak Management Fund will be extended to provide monthly payments to councils facing higher restrictions until the end of the financial year. For those authorities in tier 3, this funding will amount to £4 per head of population per month, and for those in tier 2, it will amount to £2 per head of population per month.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

27 November 2020

The government formally requested the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to evaluate whether supply of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be authorised for use.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

29 November 2020

An additional 2 million doses of Moderna vaccine secured by the Government (7 million doses secured in total), which is expected to be available in Europe in spring 2021. In total the Government has secured access to 357 million doses of vaccines from 7 different developers.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

30 November 2020

Retailers can apply to extend their trading hours from Mondays to Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas after 2 December. Local authorities asked to take a positive approach when engaging with retailers who wish to extend their retail opening hours and look to relaxing local restrictions where possible.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Local authorities in Tier 3 areas can apply for a six-week community testing programme to detect asymptomatic cases, suppress the virus and offer a route out of the toughest restrictions. Local Directors of Public Health will determine the best way to target testing, with central government providing operational support and funding based on the number of tests that local authorities aim to deliver over the 6 week programme.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

1 December 2020

Announcement of an additional £1,000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led pubs' (pubs that predominantly serve alcohol) in tiers 2 and 3 that will miss out on business during the Christmas period.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Announcement of a £16 million grant to be delivered through FareShare, to support local charities across England to distribute food to people struggling as a result of the pandemic.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Announcement that over a million Covid-19 tests to be sent out to care homes in December to allow friends and family to visit relatives in care homes if they receive a negative result. Tests are to be administered by homes. In addition, 46 million items of free PPE will be sent to CQC-registered care home providers through the government portal in addition to PPE already available.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

2 December 2020

Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine approved for use in the UK by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), after passing all three safety and efficacy data phases. The UK has ordered 40 million doses, enough to vaccinate 20 million people. From the week commencing 7 December, approximately 800,000 doses will be available in the UK.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Department for Education sets out staggered approach to return to university over a five-week period, with medical students, those on placements or practical courses with a need for in-person teaching prioritised for first return, and other courses initially offered online, and students expected to return to campus by 7 February. Universities to be given facilities to offer all students two lateral flow tests on their return, delivered three days apart, to identify and isolate asymptomatic cases.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

3 December 2020

Ofsted set out a phased approach to return to inspection in 2021, with no graded inspections for education or social care providers planned before the summer term.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Communications Update

Website Visits

Around 20K visited the COVID information web pages last week, of which 12K were new users, consistent with recent weeks

The GovDelivery Covid email bulletin, which is sent out to 114K residents, had an open rate of 28%, lower than recent weeks. Most popular features included guidance on new tiers, exemptions to government restrictions, and to a lesser extent discretionary business support grants.

Council/others

Roll-out of vaccinations:

Comms to care/NHS staff and planning for roll-out across priority groups; sharing national PHE comms assets to pave the way for public campaign.

significant media interest being jointly managed by LTHT, NHS England, NHS Improvement;

Local recruitment campaign for paid and volunteer roles targeting students, with a wider push following;

3,000 responses to a local Healthwatch survey about how people feel about the vaccine

Community testing: preparing for communications around once we know how the bid has been received and to what extent/when the rollout will be.

Over-60s harm minimisation campaign: launching this week with press release, social media and Take Care Leeds web page with resources for friends, family, employers and over-60s themselves.

Local contact tracing Leeds Covid-19 Connect and Support service: continuing to support.

Business support: push in media to encourage firms to apply

Transport: messaging continues around change from lockdown to Tier 3; planning for Christmas movement; continuing to promote campaign on wearing of face coverings.

Tiering/festive season: advice for festive season and associated loosening of restrictions, alongside preparing for adapting messaging around potential change of tiers.

Social media monitoring

What conversations, topics and questions are we seeing discussed that are outside of the general national conversation?

Tier 3 – With Leeds's rates falling, people are asking whether we will be separated from the rest of West Yorkshire and be able to enter tier 2 next week?

Lots of criticism about Nottingham's Christmas market going ahead (it has had to close after one day). As a result of this people are praising councils (including us) for cancelling ours in plenty of time.

What are we seeing being shared and discussed regularly?

Vaccine being rolled out from tomorrow/Vaccine ID card first look—people worried the prospect of venues beginning to ask for proof of vaccination before allowing entry.

Questions around when businesses can expect to receive business grants.

What are we starting to see an increase in?

Christmas - Worries around if Christmas bubbles will lead to national lockdown in January

Tier 3 – With Leeds's rates falling, will we be separated from the rest of West Yorkshire and be able to enter tier 2 next week?

What are the overriding feelings, behaviours and beliefs from people regarding the key and emerging themes?

Positivity around the falling rates in Leeds and what that could mean for our tier.

Businesses keen to understand when they're receive grant funding.

Some cautious around if being allowed to form Christmas bubbles will lead to a national lockdown in January.

Some people worried about the prospect of 'vaccine passports' and what this could mean.

Draft Leeds Integrated Winter Plan – framework for local governance and plan to support the NHS to deliver the vaccine

Integrated national and local planning and governance are essential to ensure effective deliver of the range of crucial priorities hitting local areas, given the anticipated impact on much of the same workforce and infrastructure. Local areas have effective multi-agency arrangements at a local authority level (particularly across councils, NHS and 3rd sector), which work well with the relevant Local Resilience Forum, Integrated Care System and Combined Authority, and have democratic oversight. All the local partnership arrangements have strong national links to government departments, to deliver what is required in this most challenging winter the country may ever face, but we need to ensure that the national plans are integrated and coherent to give the best chance of successful delivery.

This proposed framework is simple with a plan on a page that can be tailored within the broad parameters to meet particular local circumstances. This builds on the Outbreak Planning approach set out in the Contain Framework, with key action areas that can be delivered by local governance arrangements. It is based on the **principles of engaging with communities to build trust and confidence; working preventatively; building on expertise, experience and shared learning; being open with data and insight so everyone can protect themselves and others; considering equality, economic, social and health-related impacts of decisions.**

Key action areas to inform local workforce, resource, infrastructure and communication plans to ensure value for money:

1. **Preventing & managing outbreaks in care homes, education & workplaces with proactive approach** - to prevent cases becoming outbreaks, by monitoring, reporting and learning lessons, sharing guidance
2. **Minimising & dealing with community transmission** – using shared local intelligence to enhance local partnerships, including ward members and community champions. Implementing waste water testing.
3. **Delivering an integrated vaccination plan** – including preparing for rollout across partnerships to put the complex logistical and workforce arrangements in place, using engagement to debunk vaccination myths and encourage take-up, focussing on higher-risk groups. Minimising impact of vaccine rollout on delivery of primary care.
4. **Delivering local testing capacity, including targeted testing at scale** – intelligence led to help find additional cases, containing the virus further, enabling aspects of the economy and education to continue and restrictions to be eased
5. **Enhancing local contact tracing, including support to self-isolate** - to complement national offer, with local knowledge of cultures and languages, learning from others and including community services to help with welfare support, befriending, shopping and delivery of medicines.
6. **Ensuring effective compliance and targeted enforcement** - proactive and responsive intelligence led multi-disciplinary approach with strong follow up and using all tools, including community leadership, and using publicity when appropriate as a deterrence.
7. **Supporting those more at risk** – being sure older people prioritised for testing and vaccination including support to access where needed, clinically extremely vulnerable have advice and support through helplines and volunteer hubs, draw on research for specific cohorts (e.g. BAME, street-users) and tailor actions, and provide support for self-isolation, testing and accessing vaccinations.
8. **Supporting businesses and organisations** – developing a place-based approach to supporting businesses and organisations, including on-street presence; developing and administering financial support schemes and supporting with guidance across sectors
9. **Integrating data across the whole system** – with continued use of dashboards, open data and rounded evaluation
10. **Having effective governance and strong communications and engagement** - place based multi-agency arrangements to deliver an integrated plan with links between related parts of testing, tracing, support to isolate and vaccination. Local Resilience Forums and Strategic Coordination Groups working to coordinate regional/local response, bring together all partners including. local authorities, emergency services, health, universities. Clear links to Integrated Care Systems and Combined Authorities/Local Enterprise Partnerships, all using all possible communications and engagement routes to build trust and plan ahead. Insight led proactive and integrated communication plan.

Draft Leeds Integrated Winter Plan – framework for local governance and plan to support the NHS to deliver the vaccine

Key events and pressures ahead		
Dec 2020	Christmas shopping	2 Dec: WY enters Tier 3
		3-9 Dec: University student travel window
		16 Dec: National review of Tiers that areas are placed in
	First wave vaccine rollout	18 Dec: Schools and colleges close for Christmas
		19 Dec: Anticipated implementation of any change to Tier
		23-27 Dec: Christmas relaxation of restrictions
		30 Dec: Review of restrictions expected
Jan 2021	NHS 'red zone' Possible Covid-19 third wave	1 Jan: End of EU exit transition period
		4 Jan: School term begins
	4 Jan- 5 Feb: Staggered return of university students	January, date tbc: review of Tiers
Feb 2021		15-19 Feb: Schools half term holiday
March 2021	Further vaccine rollout	31 March: End of Tier regulations
April 2021		2-16 April: Schools Easter holiday
May 2021		6 May: Local elections

Annex D – Leeds Submission for Covid Alert Levels

Purpose: Set out the Leeds position ahead of the 16 December government review of Covid Alert Levels, recognising that there are different risks associated with a Tier 2/3 outcome which have been considered with city partners and politicians. It is crucial to find the optimum balance between the implications of Covid and broader physical and mental health, along with the economic and social issues both in the short and long term. Local areas are well placed to balance these dynamics and plot the best route through these difficult decisions to help maintain public engagement and compliance.

Background: The government review on 16 December will be based on data from 9 December and the government's framework in the Winter Plan, and our understanding is that any changes would be implemented on 19 December. As a city, we continually stress that restrictions are only part of the overall strategy, emphasising all the other public health interventions as being crucial. For example being vigilant about preventing and managing outbreaks, supporting self-isolation, extensive communications and public engagement about behaviour and compliance, and multi-agency enforcement activity, all delivered through the strongest possible partnership with our communities. **Our proactive and determined approach to drive down infection rates will continue as part of our integrated plan for winter, including crucially prioritising effective rollout of the vaccination.**

Current position to support Tier 2: The latest position demonstrates strong and sustained improvement in all five key areas of the Covid Alert Review, particularly in the last month, although we are far from complacent:

- Latest figures show a statistically **significant decrease in Leeds all age infection rates**, down by more than 20% in the last 7 days to 145.1. Tracking the last 4 weeks rate per 100,000 shows: 442, 296, 189 and 145 – so **reduced by more than 65% in that period.**
- Leeds is currently **ranking 131st** in the country, and 4th amongst the core cities.
- After a very rapid fall in infection rate during November, the recent trend shows a slower rate of reduction, but now showing green on the PHE SAR case rate change chart.
- We know this is still a high rate and we are **pushing for further reductions with our full range of actions.** Unconfirmed data on NHSD is for continued reductions (125) and test and trace referrals are declining (5th lowest regionally, and lowest in West Yorkshire).
- **Positivity is down** at 6.2%, amber on the PHE chart, so still a concern, but down by more than 30% in the last week. Tracking the last 4 weeks data shows: 16.1%, 11.8%, 9.3%, 6.2%, so **reduced by more than 60% in that period.**
- **Over 60s rate is 139.8**, down by 17 in the last 7 days. Tracking the last 4 weeks shows: 422, 272, 169, 139, so **reduced by more than 65% in that period.**
- As at 10 December, the hospital had 187 confirmed Covid patients (a decrease of 31 from the previous week), including 9 patients in Critical Care. These numbers remain a significant concern with the NHS and partners working hard to reduce this. Tracking the last 4 weeks shows: 345, 301, 208, 189, **so reduced by more than 45% in that period.** Hospitals are predicted to see a continued decline in Covid patient numbers albeit slow.
- Covid related deaths have also started to decline recently.
- **Cases in settings and outbreaks are stable and very proactively managed** by the full range of partners as the bedrock of our approach: with cases in 17 care homes (from a recent high of 47); 5134 pupils and 360 staff self-isolating (compared to the recent peak of 12,989 pupils and 828 education staff self-isolating); cases in only 3 workplaces and an outbreak in a prison.
- Testing rates for PCR tests are still strong, with clear and consistent messages about getting a test, in particular in those communities where testing rates have fallen. Thousands of LFT being delivered through universities and the NHS. From the 15,000 tests across our universities, there has been one positive test so far, although this doesn't make us complacent about community transmission. Planning in place for scaling up of targeted community lateral flow testing to complement existing testing activity to help find the infection and break the chain of transmission.
- During national lockdown, city centre footfall was down by between 70 and 80% compared to the same period last year. The early days of Tier 3 has seen footfall down by between 30 and 40% compared to the same period last year, with retailers reporting positive trading activity.

Rationale for Tier 2: We believe strongly that it is **continued public engagement** and trust that will lead to the right behaviour to help reduce infection rates, so public support and their understanding of decisions is key. This includes that they see the system as being “fair” in relation to restrictions and **balanced judgements about health and the economy**. Our current insight and softer intelligence through social media and other community engagement, suggests an expectation of Tier 2 for Leeds given reductions in rates and comparisons with others in Tier 2. People in the city appear to be worried about the relaxation of Christmas, with many saying they understand the broader message about reducing contact and don’t want to see rates rise. Inevitably there will be some who will break the rules and increase contact, and we are aware of those risks and seeking to manage them. Elected members, MPs, and the full range of partners (particularly local community organisations) are engaged in **messaging so that all parts of the community are reached** and understand the drive to reduce infection and prevent pressure on the NHS.

Although it is difficult, we think the economic and broader health and wellbeing benefits to be gained from a Tier 2 marginally outweigh the risks of losing public confidence if the system keeps Leeds in Tier 3. We worry about increasing contact taking place in households with continued Tier 3 restrictions, whereas Tier 2 just eases some things and could have a positive psychological effect. Whilst opening hospitality just before Christmas will regrettably be too late for some businesses to survive, we think it will be **a lifeline for many businesses**, all of whom have invested in Covid-secure premises and dealt with the continued uncertainty for months. We have the partnership context to **proactively plan for the best possible compliance and enforcement activity** to deal with the safe reopening of hospitality in the city.

Whilst we are understandably nervous about the risks of 3rd wave particularly on the NHS, given the relaxations of Christmas, the significant additional challenges on the workforce with the vaccination programme, and the regular winter pressures, we also recognise the broader health and wellbeing benefits of moving into Tier 2. We remain **determined to continue with all the partnership actions in our outbreak plan that we know drive down infection rates to avoid pressure on the NHS**. This includes excellent and extensive infection prevention and control practise and advice, being vigilant to manage individual cases to prevent outbreaks, being proactive to deal with community transmission, effective use of targeted testing and tracing to support self-isolation, strong partnership work on hospital discharge and health and social care, targeted multi-agency compliance and enforcement work, and relentless communications and community engagement work. Our **extensive multi-agency arrangements** all work to monitor the situation closely and act quickly, and planning ahead as a system as far as possible through our **integrated winter plan**.

Conclusion and recommendation: Whilst there are pros and cons of Tier 2/3 and risks with either scenario, on balance we would recommend Tier 2 based on the improvements in the indicators combined with our relentless determination and actions across all partners and communities to keep infection rates down. We think this will help maintain the public confidence and a greater commitment to follow the guidance and for everyone to break the chain of transmission whilst we push for the most effective rollout of the vaccination.