

Public Document Pack

Executive Board, 23rd June 2021

Late Item of Business: Agenda Item 14:

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

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

Agenda Item 14

Date: 23 June 2021

Report of: Chief Executive

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This pack details the work across the multi-agency partnership on the Covid-19 response and recovery since [the last report](#). The Response and Recovery Plan can be found at **Annex A**, which continues to be the main reporting tool for ongoing work across the seven service areas. The plan sets out the broad range of activities, including a summary plan on a page for the rest of 2021, our vital partnership arrangements, and details of our continued proactive work to try and control the **numbers of cases** across the city and **increase testing, tracing, isolating and crucially vaccination** uptake. The current position is described [at paragraph five – 10](#).
- Our ambitions continue to be: to allow **safe public spaces** in communities, district centres and the city centre, **safe travel, safe delivery** of essential services, **safe education**, and **safe working**. The front page of The Response and Recovery Plan (**Annex A**) lists in full our aims and objectives, including mitigating the increasing effects the virus is having on poverty and inequalities, so we can be a **compassionate city with a strong economy that works for all**. We continue to promote vital, proactive, key messages across all channels: **Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air; Test, Trace, Isolate; and Vaccinate when eligible**. We hope that now more than ever, sharing these messages across a range of platforms will encourage everyone to **play their part**.

Recommendations

- a) Note the latest version of the Response & Recovery Plan at **Annex A, including summary plan on page and risks**.
- b) Note **Annex B**, a summary of national developments since the last meeting of Executive Board and note **Annex C**, the monthly Coronavirus Dashboard.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 This report is being put forward for Executive Board members to note and approve the ongoing work responding to Covid-19, across the system and through partnership working arrangements.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

National and local developments

- 2 Covid-19 has continued to pose significant risks and challenges to public health, the city's economic health, the organisations financial position, and the capacity and delivery of council and partner services.
- 3 All wards across the city have been impacted by the virus and we have continued to regularly engage and update all Councillors, Leeds MP's, and our partners on the local position, including Ward notifications where there are significant increases. The multi-agency command and control arrangements for Leeds continue to evolve to the changing situation, working with the wider sub-regional and regional arrangements. A chart of the multiagency arrangements is provided in **Annex A**.
- 4 We are now in **Phase two** (summer) of our three-Phase plan for the year, which works in tandem with the [national recovery roadmap](#) as communities and the economy gradually reopen. At the time of writing this report, the impact of coronavirus remains significant. N.B: figures published in this report are likely to change between publication and the meeting of Executive Board.
- 5 The Leeds seven-day infection rate is 157.3 per 100,000, around a 91% increase in the last seven days and increasing twice the rate of the national average (as of 18 June). The reported rate for the Yorkshire and Humber region is 81.8; the national rate for England is 75 (as of 18 June). Leeds is reported the highest area in the West Yorkshire sub-region. All areas continue to report an increase in cases. Cases are highest in the 19-24 age group, followed by 18-19 year olds.
- 6 Data indicates that over 90% of new cases in the UK are now the Delta variant, with significantly higher growth compared to the Alpha variant (first identified in Kent). It is believed that the variant is up to 60% more transmissible, and twice as likely to lead to hospitalisation. More information and the risks relating to all reported variants can be found [in the risk section](#).
- 7 Test positivity in Leeds is at 5.8%. The position in Wards continues to be very dynamic and with change taking place often over the highest infection rates: these range from the lowest at 63.9 per 100,000 to the two highest at 337 and 841 per 100,000. The latest figures show rises in 18 Wards. Proactive, targeted work continues, with Members regularly updated.
- 8 Crucially, the cases in the over 60's in Leeds remain relatively low, at 17.4 per 100,000. The outbreak position across settings continues to be busy, in line with the rate of community transmission, with regular updates provided to members and MPs. Hospital numbers remain reasonably steady. This gives a [strong indication that vaccines are working](#), with PHE confirming a [high efficacy against hospitalisation](#) from the Delta variant.
- 9 Deaths in Leeds: up to 18 June, the total number of Covid-related deaths in Leeds is 1,631 where 'COVID-19' or 'corona virus' was mentioned on the death certificate. Overall, 1,582 (97%) were Leeds residents; 1,076 (66%) were in hospitals; 403 deaths (25%) occurred in a care home; 99 (6%) at home; and 53 (3%) in a hospice. To date, 18% of all deaths registered have been Covid-related.

- 10 In Leeds, over 468,000 people have received their first dose, and over 368,000 have received their second as of 18 June. In line with the recent Executive Board paper about vaccination and inequalities, we continue to support rapid rollout, pushing to increase confidence and trying to reach those unvaccinated via several different delivery options: mass sites, pharmacies, targeted community venues and roving buses. The [national dashboard](#) is updated daily with all national figures. Proactive communications from a range of community leaders and Members remain key in this effort.
- 11 The Vaccination Centre at LUFC's Centenary Pavilion is set to close at the end of July when the lease arrangements expire. Alternative locations have been sought in close proximity because of the good transport links and widespread knowledge of the site being used as a mass Vaccination Centre. The nearby park and ride facility has been reviewed for possible location of a marquee to be used as the replacement vaccination centre. The park and ride service has been operating throughout the easing of lockdown restrictions and patronage levels have increased steadily in recent weeks. Given the amount of major works across the city that are ongoing and planned over the next 12 months and with an increasing return to the city, particularly from September onwards, it is important to offer a sustainable transport alternative for commuters and visitors to the city. It is understood the alternative vaccination arrangements at Elland Road are currently proposed to be in place up to March 2022.
- 12 Good progress is being made with the city's third park and ride which is set to open in September at Stourton and Temple Green Park and Ride will partially reopen later this month/ early July as we work with DHSC to remodel the site to also support continued testing. Work is progressing on the extension to Temple Green which should open early 2022.
- 13 Consequently, given this level of park and ride capacity coming on stream and working to support Partners with testing and vaccination, it has been agreed that a marquee for the relocation of the vaccination centre at Elland Road be permitted in the phase 3 area near Lowfields Road. Associated parking will be provided away from the park and ride site nearby. Approximately 200 park and ride parking spaces will be taken up by the marquee. This compromise balances the urgent need for a vaccination centre in this area and maintains capacity in the park and ride service for the city particularly during the expected busier period from September onwards, during the winter months. WYCA and First Bus have been consulted with this proposal.
- 14 On 14 June, the [Prime Minister confirmed](#) that Step 4 will be postponed for four weeks; from 21 June to 19 July (although a review is to take place on 28 June). This was due to the rise in infection rates driven by the Delta variant, and some increases in hospitalisations and deaths.
- 15 The timing will enable more people to get a vaccine and receive a second dose. This variant has increased transmissibly compared to the Alpha 'Kent' variant, with cases increasing locally, regionally, and nationally. The Prime Minister confirmed:
- a) The vaccination programme will be accelerated in the coming weeks:
 - i. Anyone over the age of 40 will now wait eight weeks for a second dose; this will remain 12 weeks for everyone under the age of 40.
 - ii. The Government have set a new target of every adult in the UK to get a first dose by 19 July, and around two thirds of the population to get a second.
 - b) [Two doses provide a high degree of protection](#) against serious illness and death from the Delta variant.
 - c) Social restrictions remaining in-place: including social distancing, wearing face coverings, limits of people you are allowed in homes, and the limit of people that can meet outdoors.
 - d) Capacity limits for sports, pubs and cinemas will remain, and nightclubs will remain closed. Table service in hospitality will remain.
 - e) Weddings, receptions and commemorative events can go ahead with more than 30 guests from 21 June, providing social distancing measures are followed. A table service must be offered, with no dancing or singing.

- f) The easing of [some restrictions for care home residents](#), including: no more self-isolation if they leave their residence (although some exceptions do apply), and extended overnight visits to family and loved ones.

16 The Government's four tests, which determine England progressing through the four-step roadmap are as follows, with C & D remaining a concern for Government and driving the decision to postpone Step 4:

- a) continued success of the vaccine programme;
- b) efficacy of vaccines in reducing hospitalisations and deaths;
- c) infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS; and
- d) the assessment of risks is not fundamentally changed by variants of concern.

Leeds targeted approach

17 Our response to the virus continues to be targeted, so we can positively impact the outcomes of our most vulnerable communities in the city. We have continued to respond to outbreaks with our partners and undertake ongoing proactive work and messaging in wards with higher infection rates, lower income households, higher levels of deprivation, health inequalities, lower uptake of vaccinations, and occurrences of variants of concern.

18 As a result of the significant rises in infection numbers of the Delta variant in the Headingley, Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse areas of the city, there will be enhanced activity in these areas to reduce rates. At the time of writing this report, additional testing (sometimes known as surge testing) is being explored with the Department of Health. Additional work around vaccination, communications, compliance and enforcement is also being explored. Our three-layered targeted approach includes:

- a) Universal offer for PCR, asymptomatic testing and standing up local testing sites.
- b) Additional communications in areas where there are over 30 cases of the variant; promoting proactive key messages (***Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air. Test, Trace, Isolate and Vaccinate***). This will be over a range of channels, including social media, local notice boards and utilising the Covid Marshals.
- c) Intensive door knock in the most affected streets calling on volunteering partners.

19 Tackling poverty and inequality continues to be central to our approach and a key theme across all work carried out across the partnership, supporting communities which have been hardest hit by the pandemic:

- a) As a result of the rising infection numbers of the Delta variant, at the time of writing enhanced testing options are being agreed with the Department of Health.
- b) Previous enhanced testing in areas where there have been [variants of concern](#).
- c) Continue to encourage those in vaccination cohorts 1-9 that have not yet taken up a vaccine.
- d) Supporting roving testing and vaccine buses through outreach work, taking place in areas with higher infections rates or lower vaccine uptake.
- e) The Leeds Vaccine inequalities Plan (insert link to the Exec Board paper from last time), which takes a targeted approach in areas of lower income and lower vaccine uptake.
- f) The [Leeds Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) outlines our targeted approach in full and continues to be updated on a regular basis, with regular Incident Management Team meetings analysing the infection rates in detail to understand and inform actions and communications.

Economic impact and early indicators

20 Covid-19 has changed the way we think about place and how we use our spaces, as well as how we travel, work and shop. Pre-Covid, this was already changing, but the pandemic has altered these further. Work and leisure patterns now appear to be accelerating previous trends,

such as working from home and online shopping. This is posing questions for cities – including Leeds – and the full financial and economic implications are still to be determined. Although we can see the broad impacts on employment, travel behaviours and our local economy, we still need to better understand how the virus is impacting different places.

- 21 We are working with partners to understand the long-term transformational changes, challenges and opportunities for our city and local centres. Restrictions have resulted in a significant loss of income for many businesses and individuals who have not been permitted to work. Given the overnight adoption of home working, this has severely impacted sectors such as hospitality, retail, and local consumer services, which had to close during lockdowns and some of which remain closed due to restrictions. Financial and economic losses will have a detrimental impact on people's mental health and socioeconomic outcomes. Executive Board Members have routinely been updated on the impact coronavirus has had on the Leeds economy, through previous reports to Board meetings and economic briefings sent out on a fortnightly basis.
- 22 Now restrictions have significantly eased, the Leeds economy has been kick-started through advice and support to businesses to help them recover. Early indicators suggest an increase of spending in hospitality and retail, with some early data suggesting on occasion this is nearly back at pre-Covid levels. We continue to promote and adapt safer working patterns of employment, consumerism, and leisure in a safe way to boost the local economy. Nationally, the [ONS have reported](#) some good news over the past months: more businesses are now operating under Covid restrictions, and there has been a decline in the workforce on furlough leave. This indicates that the UK's economy will bounce back, possibly quicker than expected, providing there are no future significant disruptions to the national recovery roadmap.

Social, societal, and disproportionate impacts

- 23 The virus has significantly and disproportionality affected [four main groups within our society](#): areas where households have a lower income; Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups; those at the opposite end of the age spectrum albeit in different ways; and the different impact on genders. And whilst lockdowns have been successful in reducing infection rates, hospitalisations and deaths, they have had a [damaging impact on mental health](#) of the wider population which still is to be determined.
- 24 Infection and mortality rates are higher in [areas that have a lower household income](#). As a result, inequalities – that were already apparent pre-Covid – have been exacerbated. This is driven by a combination of factors, including: residents having underlying health conditions (smoking, obesity and limited opportunities to follow 'healthy-lifestyles'); higher proportions of [clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable](#); a higher proportion of residents holding key or critical worker roles; reduced housing quality; multi-generational housing; and a higher reliance on public transport.
- 25 Data also confirms that individuals from Black, Asian and wider ethnic communities [have been impacted by higher infection rates, hospitalisations and mortality](#). It has been widely reported by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Public Health England that individuals from ethnic minority communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. This is linked to: existing health inequalities established pre-Covid; living in areas of lower income and sometimes higher deprivation; and holding public facing occupations.
- 26 We know that [the older you are](#), the more likely you are to suffer from serious symptoms of Covid-19, or sadly face mortality, although this is changing due to the vaccines. Data continues to confirm that [vaccines are breaking the link](#) between catching the virus, becoming hospitalised with serious symptoms, and death rates. Children and young people have been disproportionately impacted too: through school closures and gaps in education, rising mental

health issues and impacts to development. Our schools will continue to engage with the Department of Education catch-up schemes and grants available.

- 27 The [ONS also notes](#) the significant impact from Covid is dependent on gender. On average, males are more likely to die from coronavirus than females. However, the ONS notes that women's wellbeing was more negatively affected: this includes [being furloughed, affected jobs and careers](#) hit by Covid, significantly less time working from home, and more time on unpaid household work and childcare.

Plans for the year ahead and further exploration

- 28 We continue work to keep infection rates down, and work collaboratively with our partners using #TeamLeeds and #TogetherLeeds approaches. We remain measured in our steps as we return to normality. Going forward, living safely with Covid-19 will be paramount as we aim towards living with little or no restrictions. We will continue to target our support during our recovery from Covid-19 to areas that need it most.
- 29 Volunteers have played a vital role over the last 14 months, and the civic duty seen across our communities has been overwhelming. Going forward, harnessing this power of volunteering and neighbourly support will showcase our ambition as the best city in the UK. One way we are securing this ambition is ongoing work in partnership with the University of Leeds, looking into the future sustainability of the Community Hubs, which were setup to direct support in communities across Leeds. During National Volunteer's Week at the start of June, the contributions of volunteers in the city throughout the pandemic was recognised and celebrated.
- 30 The ongoing Joint Strategic Assessment, which is informed by both local and national data, qualitative insight from across the council and our partners, and well-respected reports such as the [Marmot Review: Build Back Fairer](#), will provide a fuller analysis of the city including the impact of Covid-19. It will aim to draw out the policy challenges posed, focusing around our [three strategic pillars](#) to ensure equal and healthier outcomes for our residents. This analysis will be used to inform our recovery response more widely, in addition to future city planning activity.
- 31 Very early work is also underway for a City Plan, as a platform for recovery from the pandemic, which will build on our existing inequalities work through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Climate Change work. This will combine findings of the Joint Strategic Assessment and the Covid Learning Lessons exercise (which will have focus on further strengthening our partnerships), so we can mitigate wide-scale and long-term effects from the pandemic.
- 32 July's Executive Board will include findings from the Learning Lessons exercise, currently underway. Depending on the local and national picture, we are hopeful that we can primarily focus on recovery for the rest of the year, as we learn to live with the virus. The [19 July \(Step 4\)](#) should see the reopening of communities and the economy, and we await the outcome of the Government Review on social distancing. We will continue to assess the impact coronavirus has on the city, our partners and as an organisation, and routinely offer updates to Members on the local situation and actions underway.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 33 From the start of the pandemic, we have issued regular updates to elected Members, MPs and partners; run dedicated seminars for Members around the latest position, testing, vaccinations and updates from directorates; issued weekly messages to the public; delivered press releases and press conferences; shared regular thank you notes to staff; and undertaken calls with Leeds MPs, head teachers, universities, colleges, the voluntary, community and faith sector, and businesses.

- 34 Ward Members continue to play a key role in engaging the public, particularly sharing key messages to stop the spread of the virus, pressing everyone to continue to play their part through local engagement plans, and encouraging neighbourliness and volunteering. Engagement with stakeholders has continued and, in many cases, has been strengthened. A comprehensive review on learning lessons from the pandemic, and our partnership working arrangements will be submitted to Executive Board in July.
- 35 Engagement with staff has continued including regular staff surveys (including consulting on returning to the office), support via our Staff Network groups, and regular updates to the active staff Facebook group, as well as feedback from management communications and check-in's. HR have also continued to run an array of support schemes for staff. Senior leaders hold regular meetings with managers and the Chief Executive issues weekly all staff emails that includes with the latest position in Leeds and reflects national messaging.
- 36 Every effort continues to be made to keep the public informed of any changes to services, using our full scope of communication methods, including a regular direct email to 112,000 residents who have signed up, and updates across all social media platforms run by the council.

What are the resource implications?

- 37 The financial implications of responding to Covid-19, including additional costs and lost income to Leeds City Council, remain a significant concern and have been regularly provided to Executive Board Members. A separate report regarding the council's finances on the Executive Board agenda can be found at item 15, which outlines the latest financial position in much greater detail, including the Contain Management Fund.
- 38 The Response and Recovery Plan (**Annex A**) highlights the most significant resource implications under the Organisation Impact section.

What are the legal implications?

- 39 With the agreement of the Chair, given the significance of this issue, it is appropriate for the Board to receive an update at the 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 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.
- 40 We do not envisage any potential legal challenges, given this report is for noting the ongoing work the council is undertaking to minimise the risk Covid-19 poses to health, wellbeing and the economy. We continue to abide to data protection procedures and any Access to Information is managed by Leeds City Council Democratic Services team.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 41 Risks related to coronavirus continue to be monitored through Executive Board reports and the council's risk management arrangements. 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 pandemic. The council and our multi-agency partners continue to monitor the threat of concurrent risks arising.
- 42 The broader health, wellbeing, and financial impacts of the pandemic on the population remain a concern and focus of attention. Risks and actions relating to coronavirus are included in the Response & Recovery Plan at **Annex A**. At the time of writing, the overall risk to the city and the council from the Coronavirus pandemic remain on the council's corporate risk register. The risk

level remains under constant review, considering national developments, Government guidance and information on the local dashboard.

43 Specific risks that remain the most significant include:

- a) New or [existing Covid-19 variants](#) and their transmission, leading to stubborn and enduring transmission in particular areas.
 - i. At the time of writing this report, the **Delta variant** (originating from India), is believed to be around 60% more transmissible than the Alpha variant (originating from Kent).
 - ii. The variant also became the [dominant variant in the UK](#), including nearly half of the rising cases in Leeds. You can find more information on how we are managing the variant in **Annex A**, and information on the variant through national updates in **Annex B**.
 - iii. Small amounts of the Beta variant (originally identified in South Africa), and the Gamma variant (originally identified in Brazil), are being well managed and traced.
- b) Vaccine misinformation and hesitancy: it is vital that we continue to build vaccine confidence, focusing proactive messaging and myth-busting in communities with lower uptake, and promote vaccinations in younger age groups.
- c) Continuing to follow the rules: ensuring community safety and compliance as we progress through the recovery roadmap; and encouraging everyone continues to play their part.
- d) Workplace/workforce transmission: the council and many other employers now encourage regular home testing as more staff return to the workplace.
- e) Warmer weather and the summer months pose several potential risks: large crowds gathering and the links to infection rates; and public health during heatwaves and the need to keep safe.
- f) Future staffing risks in relation to the care sector and mandatory vaccinations as part of employment agreements.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

44 Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact across these priorities. The economy, employment opportunities, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing have all been detrimentally affected by the pandemic. This has undoubtedly limited progress towards our ambitions and presents long-term challenges for the city, although as we work on recovery, we will continue to address recovery activity these pillars. Our city ambitions, particularly our overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities, have been central throughout the pandemic and will continue to be key to guiding our recovery, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. The [Best Council Plan](#) reflects the current Covid-19 context.

45 This report highlights the significant impact the pandemic has had on the Leeds economy and throughout this year we continue to undertake a number of pieces of work which will help us to inform the refresh of our [Inclusive Growth Strategy](#). Our Economic Development team continue to monitor the local economy and will undertake proactive work responding and mitigating economic disruption in Leeds as much as possible. We continue to work in line with the [Leeds Economic Recovery Framework](#), which was published in October 2020 and which sets out the approach we take responding to the economic impacts of Covid-19. We are looking into the future of our city and local centres as they undergo transformational change due to long-term trends and the pandemic. The [Talent and Skills Plan](#), will collectively improve the supply of skills in the labour market, identifying gaps and helping residents to play a full and more productive role in the Leeds economy, which in turn will help our businesses to thrive. This will create a more inclusive economy in a compassionate city.

46 The continued risk the pandemic holds over the **health and wellbeing** of our residents is clear and well documented through regular communication and previous reports to the Executive Board. The ongoing Joint Strategic Assessment will give a comprehensive overview of health and wellbeing outcomes, and will consider a range of determinants: socioeconomics, housing,

jobs and careers, and climate change and environments. We will continue to work closely with our health partners going forward to mitigate and reverse the inequalities in health Covid-19 has exacerbated.

47 Responding to the **Climate Emergency** remains a key priority. As we move into our recovery, we continue to focus on improving air quality and work towards a carbon neutral city by 2030. Emissions from private vehicles and public transport patronage reduced significantly during lockdown, with a greater prioritisation of cycling and walking. However, vehicle use is beginning to increase as restrictions have eased. Capital schemes in the city centre will provide an improved experience for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users as we work our way through the roadmap over the remainder of the summer and future winter months.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

48 During our response to coronavirus, the planning has been dynamic and driven by the national context and local data shared through the dashboard. The Learning Lessons exercise will inform future actions and will be reported to the July meeting.

How will success be measured?

49 We continue to assess progress through the indicators on the dashboard and more detailed operational intelligence in each area: for example, through public health considering hyper local outbreak data, highways considering traffic flow, and community safety considering relevant intelligence. The [Leeds Local Outbreak Management Plan](#), a national requirement, has been updated. The plan draws on context and guidance from the [Government's Contain Framework](#). Successful prevention and management of local outbreaks and community transmission is a core element of our ambition to break chains of Covid transmission, to enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life, whilst living safely with the virus. And we will continue to call upon our excellent partnerships to successfully manage coronavirus.

50 The Leeds Response and Recovery Plan (**Annex A**) will be used as our main reporting document, and will continue to identify risks and assumptions, and detail all ongoing proactive work across the system. Success can also be measured against this work.

What is the timetable for implementation?

51 Work responding to, and recovering from, the pandemic is ongoing and our planning will continue through to 2022, as highlighted in the Response and Recovery Plan. Consideration is being given to the frequency of Covid update reports to Executive Board following the July report which will include the Learning Lessons review.

Appendices

52 The following appendices are attached with this report for Executive Board Members to consider:

- a) **Annex A** – the Leeds Response and Recovery Plan, including summary plan for the year.
- b) **Annex B** – the national developments from Government since the previous Executive Board meeting in April up to June's meeting.
- c) **Annex C** – the Leeds Coronavirus Dashboard.

Background papers

53 None.

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Annex A - Leeds Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan 2021-2022

Purpose: This plan sets out how Leeds will live with Covid whilst aiming to achieve its ambitions, by driving down infection rates, rolling out the vaccination, reopening services, the economy and society when it is safe to do so and in line with the national roadmap. It sets out three broad phases anticipated for the year ahead, based on reasonable assumptions and the national roadmap for lifting restrictions. It assumes the ‘most likely’ scenario, balancing the needs for optimism with the inevitable need to consider the worst case scenario.

The plan builds on the incredible effort from everyone in the city during the last year of dealing with the pandemic and learns lessons from our own experience and national good practice. More detailed plans are in place for many of these issues and actions, for example, vaccine inequalities.

Phase: we are currently in **Phase 2**.

Aims: Response and recovery driven by our ambitions of being a **compassionate city with a strong economy**, focused on reducing **poverty and inequalities**.

Objectives: Continuing to work across the full range of partners to ensure safe travel, safe public spaces in communities, district centres and the city centre, safe delivery of services, safe education and safe working. Maintaining morale and motivation amongst all our workforces and communities will be key to deliver our ambitions.

Principles: Taking the principles from our original local outbreak management plan and adding to those with learning from the year:

- Being **proactive, preventative and positive**, emphasising what people can do to keep themselves and others safe, and recognising that public trust and confidence is key
- Being guided by the **data, intelligence, surveillance, evidence, epidemiology and good practice** to preventing transmission and control outbreaks
- **Engaging communities from a strength and asset basis and targeting work that prioritises** the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged
- **Communicating openly** with everybody so that more people do more of the right thing, more of the time, because they choose to
- **Coproducing solutions** with people, communities and partners to build the confidence and trust of the public
- **Leading collaboratively** to engage everyone, using all resources and tools available, including testing, tracing, supporting to isolate, managing outbreaks and transmission, dealing with new variants, using compliance and enforcement tools, and crucially vaccination
- Using agile and flexible approaches to partnership working to **manage risk and meet the changing circumstances** as the pandemic progresses
- Sharing good practice, **embedding evaluation and learning** to drive continual improvement

Themes: The themes of our broader response and recovery approach are: *Outbreak Management, Health & Social Care (including Vaccination), Business & Economy, Citizens and Communities (including Education), Infrastructure & Supplies, Organisational Impacts, Communications & Media* – with regular updates provided to councillors, MPs, partners and staff and regular monitoring reports to Executive Board. Multi-agency command and control arrangements continue to be used to support the activity.

Key messages: although these vary slightly periodically, here are the core messages:

- We know that it has been challenging for everyone, but we appreciate the sacrifices people have made
- We need everyone to follow public health advice: **hands, face, space, fresh air, test, trace, isolate, vaccinate**
- Be kind and neighbourly, ask for help if you need it

	Key Dates & Assumptions	Activities
Phase 1: Spring 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regain control of the virus, ready for re-opening 8/3 (Step 1a) 29/3 (Step 1b) Easter holidays 12/4 (Step 2) Over 50s vax target 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed the Local Outbreak Management Plan Safe return to face to face education Supported safe reopening of hospitality, retail and services in line with Step 2. Safe provision and use of public open spaces Ongoing activity to support vaccine rollout (including tackling inequalities and building confidence), tackling the virus, variants and managing outbreaks; compliance and enforcement activity; testing and contact tracing; supporting businesses and communities Commenced the joint strategic analysis, including taking account of Marmot Building Back Fairer Gradual delivery of more elective surgery & dealing with all service backlogs Planning for events that are easy to adapt if needed. Developed fast track application for street café licenses/artwork/pop ups Planning for service integration opportunities & surge capacity where needed Financial planning including bidding for recovery
Phase 2: Summer 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/5 Local & WY elections 17/5 (Step 3) Indoor mixing, indoor sport, hospitality and events; int. travel. Infection rates expected to rise but impact on most vulnerable minimised. Likely to see variants and need to respond HE students return 19/7 (Step 4) more restrictions relaxed Target: all adults 1st vaccine end July. School summer holidays 6 Sept: Education return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering a safe election and adapting to new governance arrangements with new WY Mayor in post Driving vaccine rollout & tackling inequalities. Mitigating the impacts of community transmission on the most vulnerable Managing variants, outbreaks and more localised test & trace. Ready for surge testing and enhanced outbreak management activity, including citywide workforce pool for variants and vaccination Continue to support businesses with grants/advice and continue to support communities with self-isolation, mental health support Safe reopening of museums and galleries, indoor fitness, indoor hospitality, etc. Engaging and enforcing to ensure safety as restrictions eased. Education and other services adapt to roadmap steps, including return of HE students, changes to face masks etc. Produce learning lessons report and all organisations maintaining morale and motivation to recover backlogs. Prepared for emergence of other types of infections as people mix more. Winter planning for flu and Covid and recovery Intensive focus on addressing restoration of services and dealing with significant backlogs and the implications (NHS, benefits, courts etc.) Facilitate safe return to face-to-face formal council meetings and safe gradual return to office-based working across the city Production of Joint Strategic Assessment and Review of Health and Wellbeing Strategy Continue to engage on and plan for future use of city centre and local centres Supporting and encouraging safe use of public transport in line with national policy on social distancing as demand increases Financial planning, developing savings options, and understanding changing external funding landscape post-Brexit and proactive bidding
Phase 3: Autumn/Winter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-economic recovery, lower infection rates and dealing with sporadic outbreaks Ongoing monitoring of infection levels University return Half term Festive season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing outbreaks, variants and vaccinations, including vaccine inequalities plan and booster vaccinations in line with national guidance Putting public health at the heart of poverty and inequalities work. Reviewing inequalities and refreshing plans Delivering service integration Employment & Skills programme around future work trends and skills, particularly green economy, young people and potential growth areas Developing longer term social care plan Ensuring mental health and wellbeing being supported Implementing learning lessons review Ensuring third sector resilience and capacity, likewise care sector and dealing with potential additional safeguarding issues Continue to plan for future use of city centre and local centres Planning public transport funding recovery Challenging carbon usage post pandemic Develop City Plan with partners

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

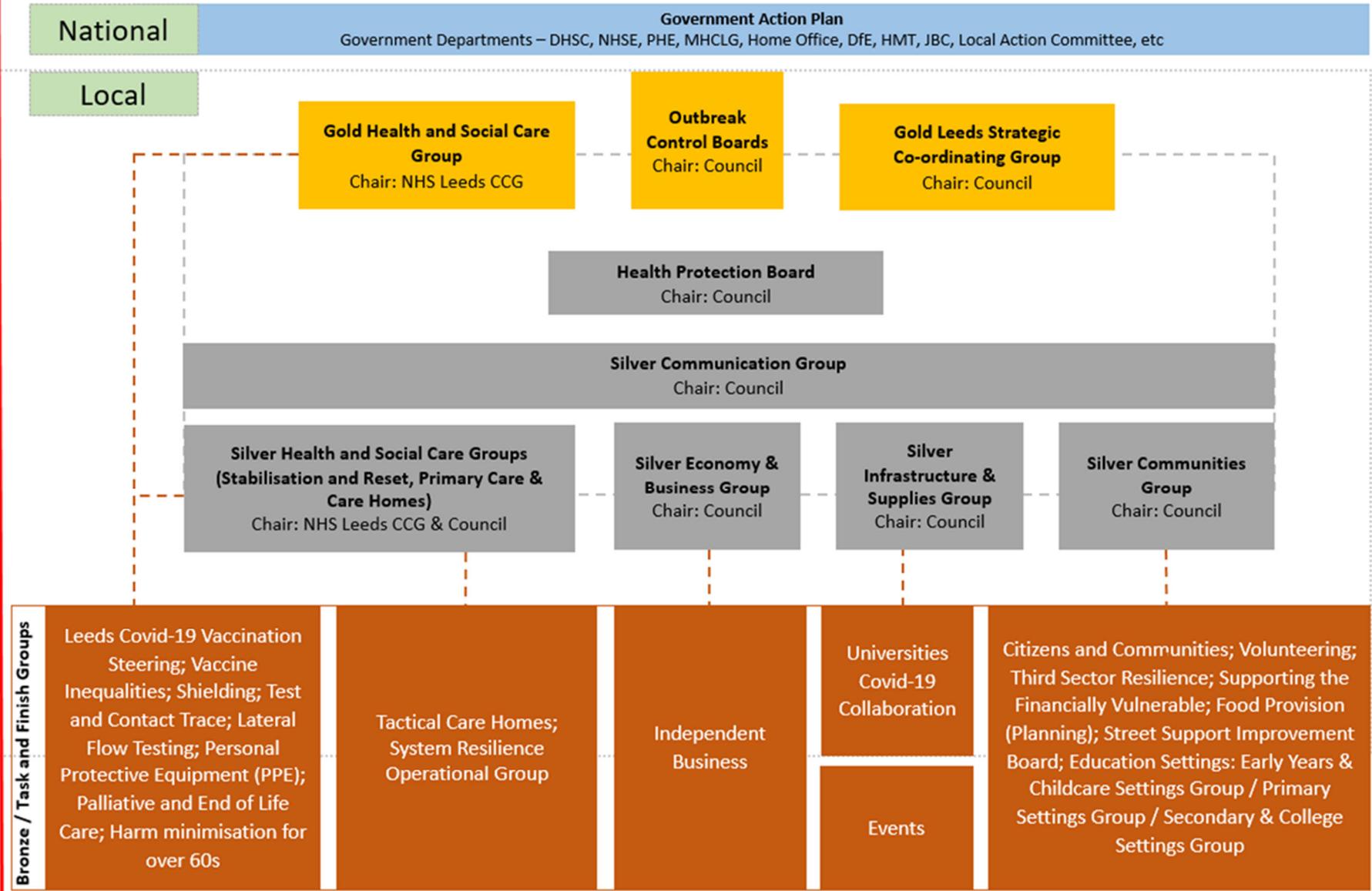
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Gold Organisational Leadership Teams

Silver Organisational Groups

Bronze / Task and Finish Organisational Groups

Date: 29/01/2021



1. Local Outbreak Management- Victoria Eaton- Director of Public Health, LCC

	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths and hospitalisations remain steady or decline as vaccination programme progresses and more regular testing. 19/7 – full reopening (Step 4) –increased footfall into the city and town centres. Increase of rates as further restrictions are eased. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to pause in the Government’s roadmap – Step 4 now on 19/7. Infection rates increase due to the emergence of the Delta variant. Variants of concern (VoC) - Delta variant (originally identified in India), becoming the dominant variant in Leeds. Managing public behaviour during summer months and as more people receive vaccination. Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, particularly as programme expands to younger cohorts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued strong focus on reducing infection rates, encouraging messages around hands-face-space-fresh air-test-trace-vaccinate. Ensuring our comms and services are in-line with the Government’s pausing roadmap. Standing up enhanced outbreak activity, including additional testing, in Headingley, Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse Wards, where we are seeing a high amount of cases of the Delta variant. Readiness for any further enhanced ‘surge’ testing requirements – able to rapidly stand up these arrangements based on previous experience. If required will draw upon our excellent partnerships with remit to redeploy staff if needed. Continued focus on asymptomatic testing and vaccine uptake. Working towards vaccinating as many as possible in CEV and ‘at risk’ groups, and individuals from the BAME community; numbers continue to increase weekly. Around 40,000 unvaccinated people in Leeds that fall in priority cohorts 1-9; 18,000 of which are designated high risk. Delta variant has taken over the main variant in general population – comms messaging continues to reflect changing situation. Strong emphasis on following up all cases that are VoC, including the Beta variant (first identified in South Africa), and the Gamma variant (first identified in Brazil). Support the changing situation and delivery of PCN inequalities plan. Supporting the new infrastructure at the Elland Road vaccination site. Continual data sharing, as restrictions have eased and social contacts have increased. Following up and continue to manage any cases that fall under VoC’s. Responding to any outbreaks in settings or clusters in communities within established processes. Leeds Local Contact Tracing is identifying around 52% additional contacts that the national service could not reach. Working with our partners Better Together via a door knocking service in tandem with Leeds Contact Tracing; in recent weeks, 12 contact was made at addresses, or leaflets left on the property. Continue to meet objectives set out in the vaccine inequalities plan so ‘no one is left behind’ Continual monitoring of cases in vulnerable age groups – inc. CEV, and over 60’s, which will feed into further proactive work in outbreak management, health and social care and communications and media. Continue to respond to, and mitigate impacts of other infectious diseases in the city, e.g. gastroenteritis, TB etc. Continue to monitor the position in schools, prisons and Care Homes and support where required. Currently supporting MoJ with Prison outbreak.
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virus remains present but at much safer levels. Continual close monitoring of efficacy of vaccinations, deaths and hospitalisations. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 variants continue to emerge. Impact on infection rates as people spend more time indoors over autumn/winter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigilance about outbreaks and emergent variants as winter approaches. Continued focus on promoting hands-face-space messages, tackling any complacency as a result of vaccination. Preparing proactive comms, reflecting public health messages (including re-adopting any future safety measures such as social distancing or face coverings).

2. Health & Social Care (including Vaccination)- Julian Hartley, LTHT/ Cath Roff, Director of Adults & Health/ Tim Ryley, Leeds CCG /Victoria Eaton- DPH

	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easing of pressure with fewer Covid patients, shift to dealing with backlogs. Large portions of H&SC workforce and care home residents vaccinated. All adult population offered first vaccine by 31 July with high levels of take up. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce exhaustion, and provisions for mental health. Anti-vaccine sentiments still in circulation. Possible increase of binge drinking and recreational drug taking. Increase in demands on primary care and urgent and emergency care as a result of release of lockdown Covid variants – Delta variant thought to be around 40% more transmissible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on going back over JCVI cohorts 1 - 9 to ensure everyone who is eligible is offered a vaccine and has access to the necessary information to make an informed decision. 12 PCN's declining to carry on administering vaccines in the next phase – planning work underway to ensure these PCN's areas have a sufficient service to offer vaccines through community pharmacies – in Chapeltown, Middleton, Little London and Wetherby. Pop up at Bilal Centre is operating 3 times a week, and the roving bus on a 10-week programme around the city. Looking to develop pop up vaccine sites at key workplaces. Hospital numbers remaining steady, as vaccine and regular testing breaks link with serious illness and mortality. Responding to significant elective care and other health and wellbeing backlogs and managing capacity, likely to take a long time Developing integration strengths. Review of Health and Wellbeing Strategy ongoing. Continual review of pressures on the system and how to address these. Addressing the possible increase of demand on mental health services. Supporting safe visits from named friends/family members to care home residents, and supporting care home residents on days out & overnight visits (as of 21 June). Carry on testing and vaccine arrangements in care homes for the continual trend of no outbreaks. Continue delivering all inequality plans across all PCN's to increase uptakes of vaccines. Over 1,500 vaccinations administered via the roving clinic. The bus continues to engage at the heart of communities, building relationships and trust and supported by Community Champions. Continual promotion and deployment of the women-only vaccine, with good uptake report – 116 vaccinated in May. Developing a range of materials encouraging vaccines, including aimed towards younger age groups to be shared regionally. Continue to support migrants and refugees to access the vaccine, via letters and through materials left in accommodation settings. Supporting prison leavers who are at risk of homelessness or no fixed abode (through our partners) in accessing the vaccine. Around 70% of elective activity was carried out in April compared to the level of 2019 activity. In April: services busier; A&E demand up 10% and GP demand up 20% compared to last year. Further community sites are due to come on board in East Leeds, Kippax and at Woodsley Road Community Centre, with capacity to support flexible approach. Confidence is there that we will have enough coverage across the city and staffing resource in place.
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More stability across the system. Second vaccine dose offered to all eligible cohorts with high levels of take up. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter outbreaks, Covid variants. Concurrent pressure of flu and Covid-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on population and workforce mental health and wellbeing. Continue to ensure all PCN areas are covered in offering a vaccination service. Maximising increased interest in H&SC roles. Focus on longer term health and social care sector resilience and reform. Seasonal preparedness planning across the health and care system Monitoring Covid variants and case rates and state of readiness for future surges Continued restoration and recovery of services Embedding new ways of working and access to health and social care.

3. Business & Economy- Eve Roodhouse, Chief Officer, Culture & Economy, LCC

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	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further reopening of Retail and Hospitality from May into the summer, and potential reopening of Tourism and Travel sectors too. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 4 postponed due to Delta variant. Businesses struggle to adopt new requirements. Continued job losses and business closures. Continued increased inequalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business engagement through multiple channels (directly and representative bodies), including around business support, reopening of the city, safe return to workplaces and the UK leaving the EU. Ongoing engagement with and lobbying of central government. Administering business support grants, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) – 21,976 grants – value: £42,967,619 Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) – 1509 grants – value: £3,714,997 Additional grant for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure – 5706 grants – value: £28,541,000 Discretionary Grant Fund – 5086 grants – value: £39,297,021 Sector-specific support (e.g. for Retail, Hospitality and independent businesses). Ensuring safe spaces; more outdoor provision and space for pedestrians; on-street presence via City Centre Ambassadors and Covid Marshalls); and planning for events easy to arrange and cancel. Completion of work on the future of our city and local centres with our partner, looking at how our centres can adapt to the long-term transformational changes and challenger over the next 10 years. Completion of further work on the future of our centres, including work with MetroDynamics and the Ahead Partnership. The bringing together of all work in relation to the future of our centres. Continued employment and skills support – supporting people into work, including apprenticeships, across all sectors; matching people to jobs in recruiting sectors; and supporting people to retrain via the Employment and Skills service, Adult Learning Programme, Jobcentre Plus and learning providers. Review of Talent and Skills Plan, identifying gaps in the Leeds labour market, supporting residents to play a more productive role in the economy, helping businesses to thrive. Work on the Future of Work (including review of Leeds Talent and Skills Plan 2017-2023) now underway. Inclusive Growth Extended Delivery Partnership planned for 8th July 2021. Commence work looking at the green economy and the opportunities it could bring for the city.
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sectors able to open, no restrictions. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued job losses, business closures. Continued increased inequalities. Risk of winter outbreaks and consequent restrictions again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued business engagement and administration of business support grants. Sector-specific support (e.g. for Retail in the run-up to Christmas). Continued employment and skills support – focus on skills agenda for continued economic recovery. Potential interventions based on our city and local centres work. Potential completion of work on the Future of Work and review of Talent and Skills Plan. Inclusive Growth Extended Delivery Partnership planned for 16th November 2021. Continue work to understand how the economy is recovering and link to future refresh of Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2018-2023.

5. Infrastructure & Supplies- Gary Bartlett- Chief Officer, Highways & Transportation, LCC

	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway for phase 1&2)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend activity expected to increase due to retail re-opening and travel within the UK WFH numbers to remain broadly the same with some variation. Review of temporary social distancing measures as city reopens and restrictions ease <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased pressure on public transport as retail opens / PT not able to manage volumes of passengers now open to travel Pressure on road networks especially in June/ early July leading to congestion. Adverse reaction to removal/ retention of temporary social distancing measures (very opposing views) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring road usage and managing the potential conflicts because of significant works across the City Work to progress on returning the P&R sites – Temple Green P+R partially reopening in June. Managing the interface with Vaccination Centre at Elland Road Park Ride and possible relocation of the former on Phase 3 of ERPR site and the testing facility at Temple Green. Working with Universities and transport partners on the return to full education. Working with Transport partners as volumes increase Monitoring the KSI statistics as road usage increases Continue to discuss and relay issues to Department for Transport. If Universities are open working with Communities and Safer Leeds on permitted gatherings. Working with Communications and Safer Travel team on the safe return to the city – very significant changes in the road, pedestrian, cycle layouts, including review of temporary social distancing measures. Working with partners on the increasing number of protests and the impact this will have on the road network Communications to continue to promote safe use of public transport, cycling and walking and highlight roadworks and road closures. Influencing travel behaviour campaigns e.g. Walk it, Ride it stepped up to encourage non car use. Level of stocks on PPE will continue to be maintained and monitored. Bus patronage is now at around 60%; providers undertook a revised risk assessment to allow for capacity to be increased to 75% from Step 3 on 17th May. City centre footfall is around 30-40% down on weekdays, and 20% down at weekends.
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport demand increases but remains below pre-Covid levels. Traditionally busy period on the networks between Sept- Dec. Major developments and other works occurring across the city. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable public transport funding. Increased congestion leading to adverse comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring road usage and managing the potential conflicts as a result of significant works across the City. Public transport funding recovery discussions ongoing with DfT, WYCA and bus operators. New Stourton Park and Ride site operating from 6th September with A61S corridor bus priority measures to supplement ERPR and TGPR. Communications to continue to promote safe use of public transport, cycling and walking Influencing travel behaviour campaigns e.g. Walk it, Ride it stepped up to encourage non car use. Promotion of use of 3 park and ride sites. Level of stocks on PPE will continue to be maintained and monitored.

6. Organisational Impact- Neil Evans- Director of Resources, LCC

	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to office-based working from late Summer, dependent on social distancing advice. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 Spring Roadmap not fully implemented as a result of 4 tests not being met by target dates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating safe return to office spaces in line with Government advice subject to a transitional period. From 7 May, in-person committee meetings held in Covid compliant environment. Annual Council Meeting accommodated in Leeds Town Hall. Discussions have taken place with Committee Chairs on most appropriate approach and format for meetings. Decision making meetings, particularly Plans Panels, Executive Board and Licensing Sub Committees taking place as face to face meetings utilising social distanced meeting rooms with risk mitigation measures including a time limit on meeting sessions of 90 minutes. Scrutiny Chairs have agreed that consultative meetings will take place in the June Cycle of the meetings calendar – these will be remote meetings with any actions requiring decision to be considered at subsequent face to face meetings. Scrutiny Chairs will review the arrangements further in Mid-June Reopening on Leeds indoor visitor attractions (Step 3) on 17 May. Covid-secure local and West Yorkshire Mayoral elections delivered safely on 6 May; undertaking a review and working through any issues encountered. New event applications for Millennium Square or Victoria Gardens to be considered by Events group from May at the earliest. Any existing events advertised from 21 June onwards will be subject to further review as and when further guidance is published. HR working closely with public health and our 3rd sector partners to create a proactive resource pool (c. 80 to 100 staff) that can fulfil community roles in areas where enhanced testing is necessary. HR have worked together with services to release capacity, to fulfil these roles, at short notice should they be required. Implementing return to office strategy, led by national guidance once the WFH message as been lifted. Proactive and ongoing comms and engagement with staff. No current service issues or staffing impacts; continued to be monitored via the Organisation Impact Covid Silver Group. Ongoing work to balance the council’s budget and long-term effects from Covid. Ongoing comms around this to all staff and members.
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFH requirement no longer in place, dependent on rates and position. Covid-19 Roadmap fully implemented. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap not fully implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to new ways of working in the office and remotely fully rolled out. City Recovery Plan implemented where required. Service plans to include learning from the pandemic and organisational planning for resilience and emergencies. Continued wellbeing support for all staff.

7. Communications & Media- Donna Cox/ Danni Clayton- Interim Heads of Communications & Marketing, LCC

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	Assumptions & Risks	Actions (planned/underway)
Phase 2	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms to reflect the vaccination programme aimed younger cohorts. Hands, face, space, ventilate messaging to continue as the city re-opens for business. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure on comms team: pandemic management plus demand to promote city reopening and business as usual. 	<p><u>Roadmap step three 17 May:</u> Main Message: Indoor hospitality opens, mixing households, larger events, indoor attractions. Communicate: re-opening of council indoor hospitality, support comms activity around any programmed council events.</p> <p><u>Roadmap step four 19 July:</u> Main message: Restrictions lifted. Communicate: Safe behaviours. Proactive positive Summer campaign about continuing to do the right thing to help prevent a return to restrictions – ‘Let’s keep moving forwards’. We will ensure that city centre and district centres messaging reflects that the city remains safe, despite possible rise in rates.</p> <p><u>Campaigns underway:</u> Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air – symptoms, isolate and test</p> <p>Eligibility criteria, deadline for and encouraging take-up of new and low take-up business grants (wedding businesses)</p> <p>Proactive preventative communications in areas with higher rates</p> <p>Support for delivery of vaccination messages through rollout to target audiences, proactive messaging at target groups with vaccine hesitancy ‘it’s not too late’ message for groups previously eligible who may have been hesitant/faced barriers to uptake</p> <p>Safe reopening of the city and easing of restrictions</p> <p>Parks anti-litter campaign; and</p> <p>Summer ‘Let’s keep moving forwards’ campaign around not returning to restrictions by continuing safe behaviours.</p>
Phase 3	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life resets to a different normality under long-term managed pandemic conditions. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer-term behaviour compliance. 	<p><u>Campaigns</u></p> <p>Watching brief re: 21 June roadmap announcement</p> <p>As above; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop winter campaign – based on the insight we are gathering, possible return of restrictions, vaccinations Contingency plan around return to restrictions re-activate lockdown messaging.

Annex B – Updates and National Headlines from Government

- This document details main the announcements and key headlines from Government, Public Health England and the NHS.
- It covers the period from the last meeting of the Executive Board on 21 April, up until the publishing date of June’s report.
- Each announcement includes links with further details.

Recommendation: Members of Executive Board note this record.

Snapshot of key headlines & links:

The PM confirmed that Step 4 of [the roadmap will be paused by four weeks](#), in response to the widespread transmission of the Delta variant and to allow more people to get a vaccine.

14 June

PHE data shows that two doses of the vaccine are [highly effective against hospitalisation](#) from the Delta variant.

14 June

[70 million doses of the vaccine have now been administered.](#)

11 June

Delta variant (originally identified in India), [has overtaken the Alpha variant](#) (Kent variant).

3 June

[£1 billion](#) for national tutoring for children and young people.

2 June

Pfizer [vaccine approved](#) for 12 to 15 year olds.

4 June

The [Janssen vaccine](#) is approved for use in the UK.

28 May

An [independent public inquiry](#) into the Government’s handling of Covid to begin in spring 2022.

12 May

[PHE analysis](#) shows a single dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine lowers the risk of death from Covid by approximately 80%

10 May

[UK Covid alert level is moved down to level 3](#) (an epidemic is in general circulation).

10 May

The Queen [set out the Government’s legislative priorities](#) at the State Opening of Parliament.

11 May

The [JCVI has advised](#) that under 40’s are offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine where available.

11 May

Delta variant, first detected in India, [classified as a Variant of Concern \(VOC\)](#) following a rise in cases.

7 May

April's headlines & links
(from the meeting of Executive Board onwards)

19 April	<p>The JCVI confirmed no specific safety concerns identified with any vaccine in relation to pregnancy, and that it's preferable for pregnant women to be offered Pfizer or Moderna vaccines where available. There is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed.</p> <p>9 in 10 pharmacies across England are distributing free rapid lateral flow tests for home use.</p>
22 April	<p>2021 BRIT Awards ceremony announced as confirmed with a live audience, as the latest addition to the Government's Events Research Programme.</p>
23 April	<p>India added to England's red list of international countries.</p>
28 April	<p>UK secures an extra 60 million Pfizer vaccinations.</p> <p>PHE publishes data that shows one dose of a vaccine reduces household transmission by up to half.</p>
29 April	<p>MHCLG wrote to councils following the High Court judgement that remote council meetings can no longer take place after 6 May.</p>

<p>1 May</p>	<p>From 4 May, care home residents will be able to visit someone's garden or take a walk, accompanied by a care worker or nominated visitor, without having to self-isolate on their return, as data shows cases are falling amongst care home residents.</p>
<p>2 May</p>	<p>PHE and NHS Test & Trace will test an alternative to self-isolation for people who come into contact with a positive Covid-19 case. Up to 40,000 people will be provided with lateral flow tests for self-testing every morning for seven days. Those who test negative and have no symptoms will not be required to self-isolate for that day.</p>
<p>7 May</p>	<p>The JCVI has advised that people under 40 are offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine where available and where this does not cause substantial delay, after a review of the latest evidence on the extremely rare risk of blood clotting following vaccination.</p> <p>PHE has reclassified a Covid variant first detected in India as a Variant of Concern (VOC) following a rise in cases in the UK and evidence of community transmission.</p> <p>International travel resumed from 17 May (Step 3 of the recovery roadmap) with a traffic light system in place and border control measures remaining. The list will be reviewed every three weeks.</p>
<p>10 May</p>	<p>The UK Chief Medical Officers and NHSE National Medical Director agree that the UK Covid alert level is moved down from level 4 (a Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially) to level 3 (a Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation) in response to reducing cases, deaths and hospital pressure.</p> <p>The Prime Minister confirmed that Step 3 of easing restrictions would go ahead on 17 May as hospital admissions and infection rates continue to decrease.</p> <p>PHE published new analysis showing that individuals who receive a single dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine have an approximately 80% lower risk of death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated individuals.</p>
<p>11 May</p>	<p>The government has launched a new scheme for businesses across the UK offering workplace testing for staff through NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>The Queen set out the government's legislative priorities at the State Opening of Parliament. In the speech, it was announced that the government would support the national recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak by supporting jobs, businesses and economic growth and addressing the impact of the outbreak on public services.</p>
<p>12 May</p>	<p>An independent public inquiry will be established to investigate the Government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, beginning in spring 2022.</p>
<p>14 May</p>	<p>Further to a rapid rise in cases of the Variant of Concern B.1.617.2 first identified in India, and in response to JCVI advice, second vaccine doses are to be brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks for the most vulnerable people in cohorts 1-9 who haven't yet had their second dose.</p>

The Prime Minister warned that increasing cases of the Covid variant first identified in [India may delay Step 4 from taking place](#) until later than 21 June, and urged people to exercise great caution as Step 3 goes ahead on 17 May.

22 May New study by PHE shows for the first time that 2 doses of the vaccine are [highly effective against the B.1.617.2](#) Delta variant first identified in India.

24 May The government has announced that it is to [launch nine pilots](#) in England to test new ways to ensure people follow self-isolation rules.

25 May In response to rising cases of the new variant first identified in India, people in [eight areas of the country, including Kirklees](#) advised to minimise travel in and out of their area, meet outside rather than inside where possible, and maintain social distancing from people outside their household/support bubble.

27 May The Health Secretary delivered a briefing to explain that [cases are now rising nationally](#), driven by the B.1.617.2 Delta variant first identified in India, which is thought to account for as much as three-quarters of all new cases.

28 May The [Janssen vaccine](#), which is a single-dose vaccine, is approved for use in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

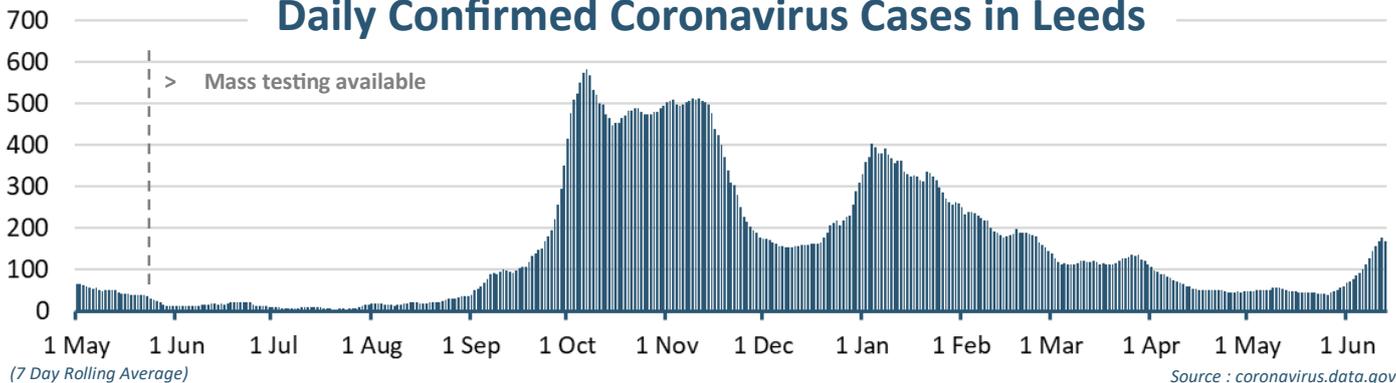
2 June	<p>Four Leeds charities have received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to charitable organisations. A total of 241 organisations across the UK received the award. The charities awarded are: Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL), The Growing Zone, CATCH Leeds (Community Action To Create Hope), and Freedom4Girls.</p> <p>£1 billion for national tutoring revolution which will see up to 100 million tutoring hours for children and young people across England.</p>
3 June	<p>50% of all adults in the UK have had both doses of a vaccine.</p> <p>The DfT announced the latest update to the Government's traffic light list for international travel, which includes adding Portugal to the amber list.</p> <p>PHE data shows that cases of the Delta variant (originally identified in India), has overtaken the Alpha variant (originally identified in Kent), following a rise of 5,472 new cases.</p>
4 June	<p>The MHRA approves the Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15 year olds.</p>
5 June	<p>Working with the local authority, NHS Test and Trace is providing additional testing in areas across Bradford.</p>
7 June	<p>Working with the local authority, NHS Test and Trace is providing additional testing in areas across Calderdale.</p> <p>Leading Apps to provide bonuses, stickers, and profile badges for vaccinated users.</p>
10 June	<p>Weekly national flu and Covid-19 surveillance reports published. The reports indicate that the virus' activity has increased on a national level. Rates have increased in most age groups; the biggest seen in those aged 20-29, the lowest increases were seen in the over 80's. Small increase also seen in the over 60's.</p> <p>Covid-19 vaccine efficacy weekly surveillance report from PHE. Analysis suggests that at least 42,000 hospitalisations were prevented in the over 65; estimates that around 14,000 deaths were prevented up to 30 May – around 11,800 in those aged 79 & 80, and around 400 in those aged 60 – 69.</p>
11 June	<p>UK will donate 100 million surplus coronavirus vaccines to the world within the next year, announced ahead of the G7 summit.</p> <p>70 million doses of the vaccine have now been administered in the UK, with 78% of adults having received a first dose.</p>
13 June	<p>The PM's statement at the G7 summit. The PM confirmed leaders have pledged over 1 billion doses of Covid vaccines to countries most in-need.</p>

14 June	<p>The PM confirmed that Step 4 of the roadmap will be paused by four weeks, in response to the widespread transmission of the Delta variant and to allow more people to get a vaccine. The variant is the leading determinant of increasing infection rates in England, alongside small increases of hospitalisations and deaths. The earliest date for Step 4 is no sooner than 19 July.</p> <p>PHE data shows that two doses of the vaccine are highly effective against hospitalisation from the Delta variant; the Pfizer vaccine offers 96% protection; the Oxford-AstraZeneca offers 92% protection.</p> <p>Care home residents will be able to spend more time with family and friends.</p> <p>The vaccination programme is accelerated as Step 4 is paused; second doses for over 40's will be brought forward by eight weeks (from 12).</p> <p>Final four Euro's 2020 games at Wembley to host larger crowds in extension of Events Research Programme.</p> <p>Guidance for weddings, receptions, funerals, wakes and commemorative ceremonies will change from 21 June as there will no longer be a cap for attendees set out in law.</p>
15 June	<p>People aged 23 and over (or those who turn 23 before July 1), are now eligible for a vaccine.</p> <p>More than 30 million people have been vaccinated with a second dose.</p> <p>An ambitious new programme for government reform, to ensure the country builds back better from Covid launched.</p>
16 June	<p>People working in CQC-registered care homes will need to be fully vaccinated with both doses.</p> <p>£36 million via 38 new pioneering AI projects announced to revolutionise NHS care and diagnosis, including detecting cancers and providing mental health support.</p>
17 June	<p>UK Infrastructure Bank opens for business, with its HQ in Leeds. The bank will support local growth and tackle climate change.</p> <p>Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI's REACT-1 study published, showing infections was rising rapidly in late May and early June, coinciding with the Delta variant becoming dominant throughout the UK.</p> <p>MHRA extends authorisation of NHS Test and Trace lateral flow devices.</p> <p>New data published by PHE suggests a low risk of reinfection.</p>
18 June	<p>Confirmed cases of variants of concern in the UK, published by PHE.</p> <p>A short film has been produced by the Department of Health, encouraging vaccine uptake by boxing legends.</p>

Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 14 June 2021

Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds



Headlines for Leeds

The Prime Minister has confirmed a delay in the lifting of most Coronavirus restrictions until the 19th July, at the time of writing the precise nature of any extended restrictions or whether any extension of financial support will be provided is not fully known. The usual email update will be provided to partners.

The Covid-19 case rate has continued its recent upward trend as in many other parts of the country, the Delta variant is now accounting for around half of new cases in Leeds. However the vaccine programme continues apace.

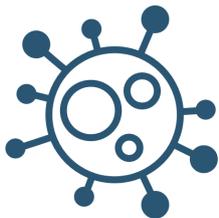
Vaccination rates in Leeds record that as of the 14 June 2021 a total of 468,417 GP registered patients in Leeds have received their first vaccination, this is an increase of over 43,648 since the last Gold report on 24th May. Of the 468,417 patients mentioned above, 368,311 have now received their 2nd dose.

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 127.6 per 100,000 (63.3 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ at 13.7. The latest regional average is 74.2 (43.8 a week before).

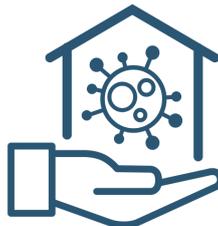
Re-opening has continued its momentum, with 84% of West Yorkshire businesses open and trading in early May, according to the ONS's latest business survey. There has also been a steady return to work, with around 8% of workers on furlough down from 17% in April, indeed across a range of measures, economic activity is now similar to early October (i.e. just before tiers and further restrictions began).

There has been a slight plateauing in footfall, after very strong growth during May, though it remains close to pre-Covid-19 baseline. Rail travel is at its highest since the start of the pandemic, though it is still 50% of baselines.

Leeds is currently recording the following figures



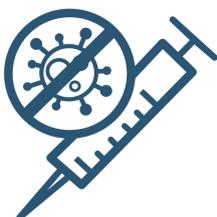
127.6 Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)



1 Current Case
Reported in Care
Homes in Leeds



1629 Registered Deaths
That mention Covid-19, an
increase of 2 over last 14 days



468,417 vaccinated
Registered patients
within Leeds



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



27.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Average NO_2 levels.
Below UK target of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery

127.6

Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)¹

1

Current Cases
Reported active in
Leeds care homes²

12

Covid-19 Beds
Currently occupied at
LHTH hospitals²

2

Registered Deaths
mentioning Covid-19
occurring over the
last 14 days³

Health Summary

Infection Rates¹

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 127.6 per 100,000 (63.3 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ at 13.7.

The latest regional average is 74.2 (43.8 a week before).

Vaccinations²

As of the 14th June 2021 a total of 468,417 GP registered patients in Leeds have received their first vaccine dose, this equates to 63.8% of the registered population of Leeds.

Half of all 16+ GP registered population have now received their second dose. (368,311 Overall (50.2%))

Covid-19 Cases²

As of the 14th June, The number of COVID positive patients in beds at LHTH is 12, LYPFT has no COVID positive patients recorded in a bed on the 14th.

This week has seen 19 positive COVID tests carried out within hospitals (comparable with 4 last week); no positive tests were from LYPFT hospitals.

There are currently 3 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LHTH

Care Homes²

There is currently only 1 active COVID-19 case declared in care homes across Leeds. With the vaccination program recording that over 96% of care home residents have completed their course of doses, this single case is hopefully not an indication of more to come.

Registered Deaths in Leeds³

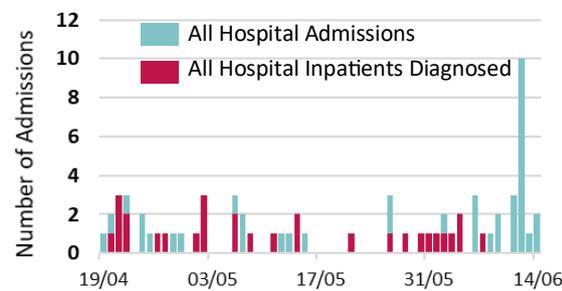
As of 11th June 2021, a total of 1,629 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office.

They last two Covid-19 deaths in Leeds were recorded to have occurred on the 3rd June*.

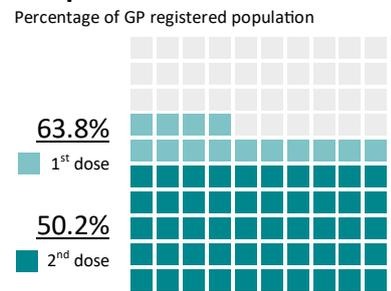
*At time of publication

Sources:
1. Public Health Intelligence - 14/06/21
2. NHS Clinical Commissioning Group - 14/06/21
3. Leeds Registrars Office - 14/06/21

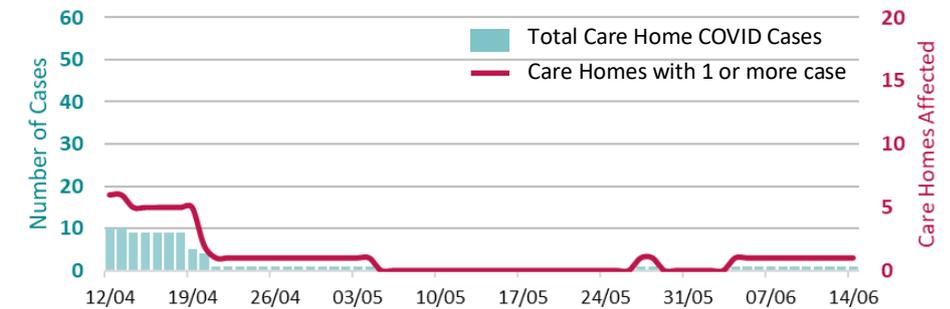
New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients



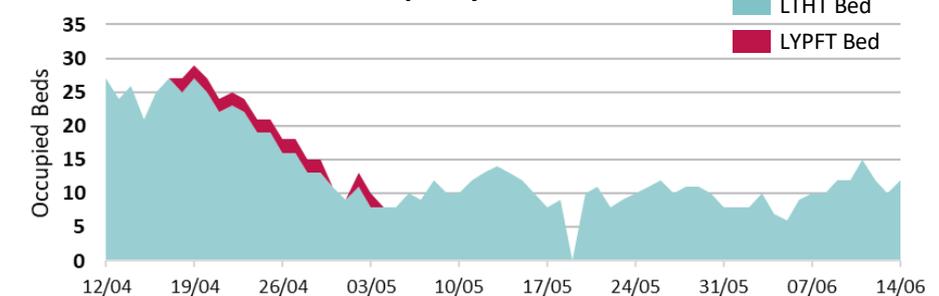
People Vaccinated



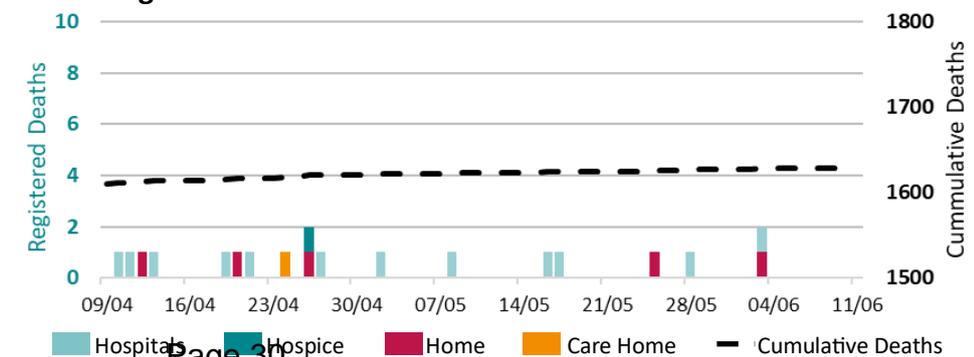
Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



Citizens & Community



54

Covid-19
Related incidents recorded over last 7 days¹



468

Domestic
Incidents recorded over last 7 days¹



83%

Pupils in schools
Average attendance during the last week



£1.75 Million

In Self-Isolation
Support payments paid to successful applicants³

Citizens & Community Summary

Incidents and Crimes Overview¹

As lockdown measures continue to be eased across the country, total crime levels are remaining steady. Covid Incidents have declined to very low levels in recent weeks, most likely due to the relaxation of related legislations.

Domestic Incidents have unfortunately seen a slight increase, although there is no way of knowing for sure if this is related to changes to Covid19 legislations. Previous studies have shown increases in incidents during major football tournaments, therefore we may see an increase during the UEFA European Football Championships which runs until 11th July

Children & Education²

Average overall attendance was 83% in week of 7th June, a decrease from 85% in the week prior to half term.

In this same period, absence due to COVID decreased from 3.3% to 1.1%. Other absence increased from 12% to 14% and this is largely concentrated in secondary schools. Year 11 absence due to exam leave is contained within 'other absence'

Self Isolation Payments³

LCC received 249 applications last week which is a 72% increase compared to the previous week.

A breakdown of the data was unfortunately not recorded one the bank holiday of 31st May.

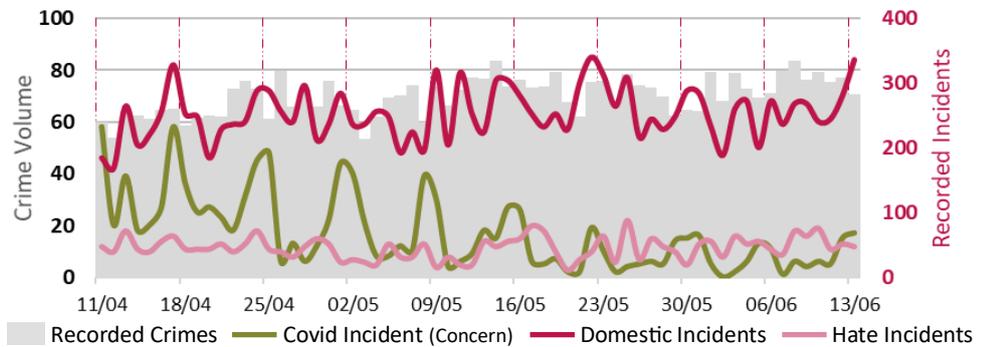
Waste Management & Recycling⁴

Tonnage of waste and recycling collected at the kerbside throughout this period continues to be higher than normal. Waste volumes are not yet showing signs of falling to historic levels. Crews continue to be stood down where a staff member becomes symptomatic.

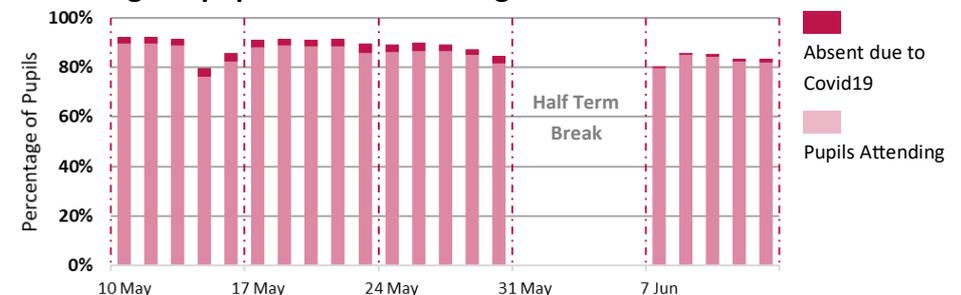
Sources:

1. Safer Leeds - 14/06/21
2. DfE education settings survey - 14/06/21
3. Leeds City Council Financial inclusion Team 14/06/21
4. Leeds City Council Environment Team - 14/06/21

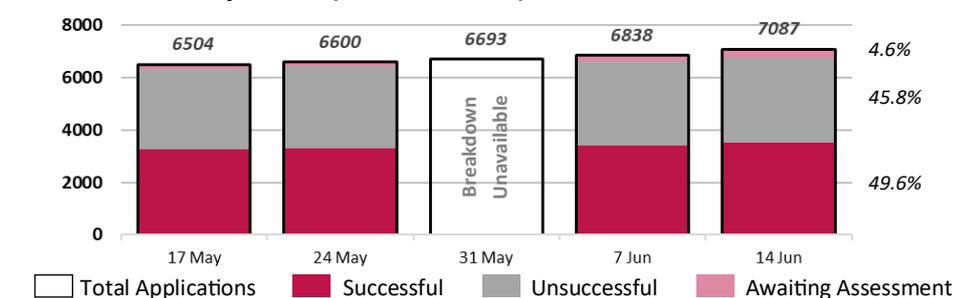
Crimes and Incidents



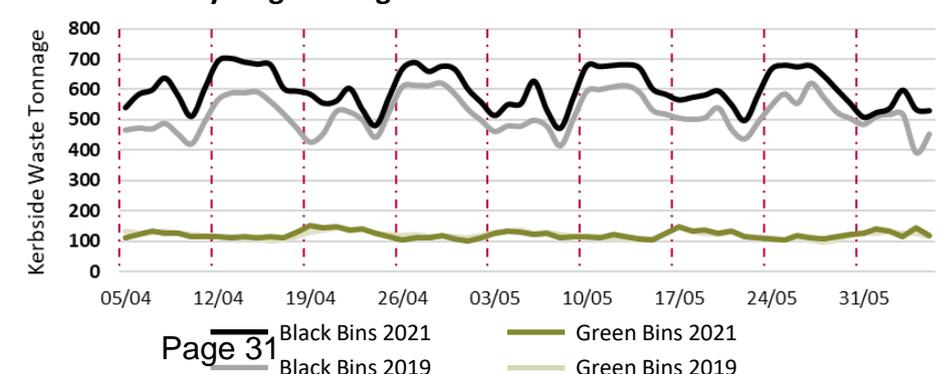
Percentage of pupils on roll attending lessons



Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



Waste and Recycling Tonnage



Infrastructure & Supplies



Traffic Flow
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019/20¹



Average Footfall
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2020¹



Thousand
MCard sales in the last week¹



12 Months NO₂
Levels, compared to the previous 12 months

Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

Traffic & Pedestrian Flow ¹

Since the reopening of non-essential retail and outdoor hospitality there has been a significant increase in city-centre footfall, especially over the weekends. Levels have fluctuated around 74% of what would usually be expected at this time of year.

Traffic flows had shown a gradual increase during April, but over the last few weeks have plateaued around 81% of pre-Covid levels.

M-Card use has levelled out in recent weeks and may not see a further increase until social distancing and other protective measures are lifted on public transport.

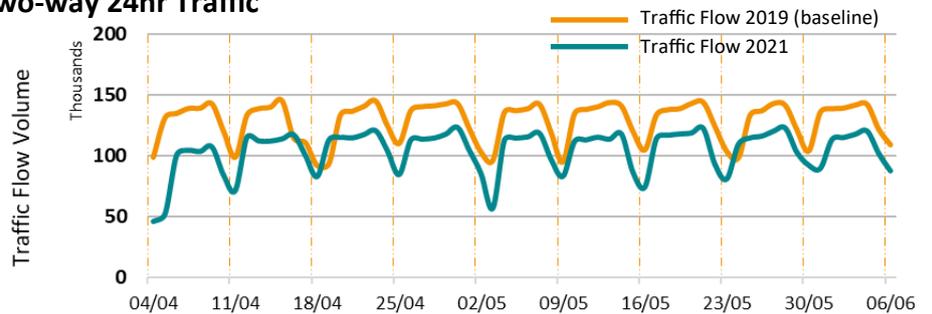
Leeds Air Quality (March 2020)²

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

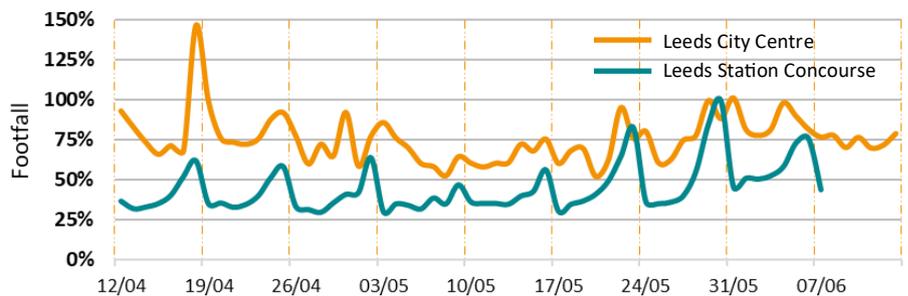
The effect of both national lockdowns shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area.

Over the last 12 months NO₂ levels in Leeds were recorded, on average, at 21% lower than the same period in 2019, having not raised higher than the National Objective of 40 µg m⁻³ since December 2019.

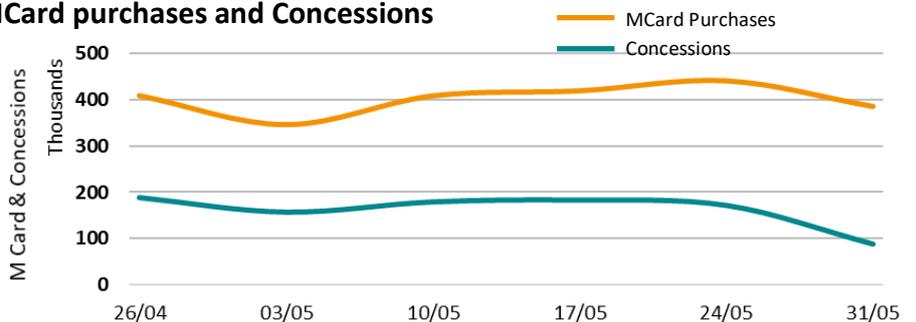
Two-way 24hr Traffic



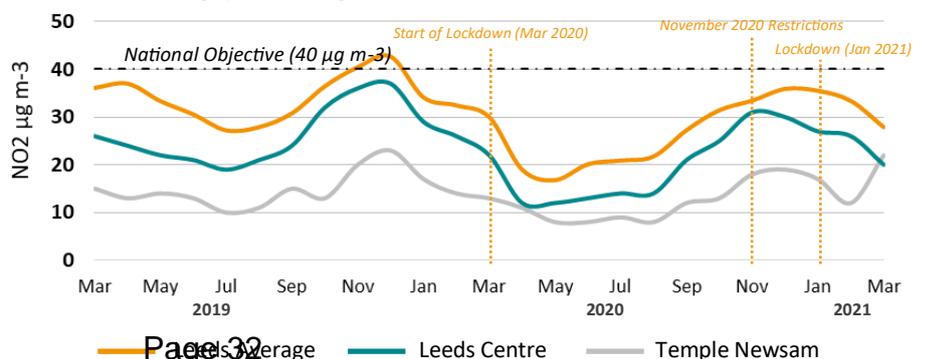
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard purchases and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (February 2019 - March 2020)



Sources:
1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 14/06/21
2. Leeds City Council - APRIL 2021

Economy and Business



**Out of Work
Benefits Claimant
Count²**



**Employees
Are back in their usual
workplace.**

Economy and Business¹

84% of West Yorkshire businesses were open and trading in early May, according to the ONS's latest business survey, in line with the national rates and up from around 70% in January and February. There has been a steady return to work, with around 8% of workers on furlough down from 17% in April. The ONS survey estimates that 55% of employees are back in their usual workplace in Leeds, slightly below the West Yorkshire average, reflecting the relative dominance of office-based employment in the city and its impact on home-working. Across a range of measures, economic activity is now similar to early October (i.e. just before tiers and further restrictions began).

There has been a slight plateauing in footfall, after very strong growth during May, though it remains close to pre-Covid-19 baselines.

In terms of public transport, recent weeks have seen the highest rates of growth for rail travel since the start of the pandemic, though it is still 50% of baselines. Bus use remains fairly stable, with slight growth in adult usage up to the Spring Bank Holiday.

Employment

There has been little change in Out of Work Benefit claimants, with 36,170 people claiming Out of Work Benefits (7.0%) in April, slightly above regional (6.6%) and national rates (6.4%). However, the labour market remains buoyant, with the number of job vacancies in West Yorkshire posted online in early June remaining around 10% above pre-crisis levels.

LCC's financial position¹

After taking additional Government funding of £20.6m announced in October into consideration, which reduced the estimated funding gap to £30.5m, the Council identified one off resources to manage the financial position in 2020/21 and deliver a balanced budget position. This remains the position in the latest Financial Health report (the provisional financial outturn) which was received at Executive Board on 21st April. The final Outturn position will be reported to Executive Board on 23rd June.

The projected overspend for 2021/22 as reported to September's Executive Board in the Medium Term Financial Strategy was £118.8m, as a consequence of which Executive Board agreed that consultation should commence on a range of Budget Savings Proposals. The Government Spending Review 2020 included a range of measures relating to local government, with detailed allocations then provided at the Provisional Local Government Settlement in December. The final Budget Report, received at February's Executive Board, recognised an overall improvement of around £31.2m as a consequence of these announcements, which were confirmed in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement announcement on 4th February. Directorate savings proposals of £56.1m were incorporated into the final Budget and the remaining £31.4m will be delivered through a range of measures to ensure that assumed increases in funding are realised and to deliver budgeted reductions in costs.

The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, covering the 5 years from 2022/23 to 2026/27, will be reported to Executive Board in September 2021. As reported in the 2021/22 Budget Report the Council continues to face a significant financial challenge, with budget gaps of £65.7m and £34.2m currently projected for 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively.

The previous dashboard reported that Government had confirmed the methodology for the calculation of compensation for Council Tax and Business Rates income losses in 2020/21 (the Tax Income Guarantee Scheme) and that grant to be received by Leeds was estimated to be in the region of £12.7m. These estimates have now been revised to £17.5m, although the final amount received by Leeds will not be determined until finalisation of the 2020/21 position.

Key funding support for local authorities, including support for the general impact of COVID on local authority expenditure and for losses of Sales, Fees and Charges income is intended to end on 30th June 2021, which aligns with the Government's planned end of lockdown arrangements on 21st June. Similarly support to business through Business Rates Reliefs is currently due to reduce at the end of June 2021 and end in September. The Prime Minister is expected to confirm a four week delay in the lifting of most Coronavirus restrictions later today (14th June) and it is not yet known whether any extension of financial support will be provided.

Sources:

^{1.} Leeds City Council - 14/06/21

^{2.} Department for Work and Pensions - MAY 2021

Policy Announcements

25 May 2021

In response to rising cases of the new Covid-19 variant first identified in India, people in eight areas of the country, including Kirklees, are advised to minimise travel in and out of their area, meet outside rather than inside where possible, and keep a 2 metre distance from people outside their household/support bubble.

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

27 May 2021

The Health Secretary delivered a briefing to explain that Covid-19 cases are now rising nationally, driven by the B.1.617.2 variant first identified in India, which is thought to account for as much as three-quarters of all new cases. Vaccination is the best protection against the variant.

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

28 May 2021

The Janssen Covid-19 vaccine, which is a single-dose vaccine, is approved for use in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

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

2 June 2021

Four Leeds charities have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to charitable organisations. The Government hailed volunteers as "the backbone of local communities" as Covid recovery continues. A total of 241 organisations across the UK received the award. Leeds charities awarded are: Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL), The Growing Zone, CATCH Leeds (Community Action To Create Hope), and Freedom4Girls.

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

£1 billion for national tutoring revolution which will see up to 100 million tutoring hours for children and young people across England.

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

3 June 2021

The DHSC confirmed that 50% of all adults in the UK have had both doses of a vaccine.

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

The DfT announced the latest update to the Government's traffic light list for international travel, which includes adding Portugal to the amber list, and seven countries including Sri Lanka and Egypt to the red list.

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

PHE data shows that cases of the Delta variant (originally identified in India), has overtaken the Alpha variant (originally identified in Kent), following a rise of 5,472 new cases.

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

4 June 2021

The MHRA approves Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15 year olds.

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

5 June 2021

Surge testing deployed in Bradford.

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

7 June 2021

Surge testing to be deployed in parts of Calderdale.

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

8 June 2021

Additional actions to tackle Delta variant in Greater Manchester and Lancashire, including surge testing, tracing, isolation support and maximising vaccine uptake.

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

13 June

The PM's statement at the G7 summit. The PM confirmed leaders have pledged over 1 billion doses.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-the-g7-summit-13-june-2021>

Communications Update

Website Visits:

Around 8,300 visited the COVID information web pages last week, of which 6,800 were unique users, slightly higher than when last reported.

The GovDelivery Covid email bulletin, which was sent out to 112K residents on 11th June, had an open rate of 28% (higher than last reported). Most popular features included: Maps to find rapid Covid tests, How to order rapid Covid tests, and testing for Coronavirus- NHS page.

Communications Update:

We've been preparing for the June 21 **Roadmap announcement** with a dual-track approach; planning for both easing and delaying of restrictions release. While the announcement had not been officially made before this update, it's probably safe to assume from the widespread government briefings to media that there will be a four-week delay to any further easing.

Therefore, our main **LCC** campaign work is focusing on:

- Persuading people to do the right thing under a 'let's keep moving forward' theme;
- Maximising vaccine take-up through a 'it's not too late to get vaccinated' push;
- Focusing business support work on targeting wedding businesses and new general scheme, and redoubling efforts to reach small businesses who've not applied for discretionary grants.

Preparation is under way to support the **Enhanced Testing and Vaccine Promotion** work in Headingley/Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse. This is something that **NHS** and **Higher Education** colleagues are also working on, with the latter having communications to students ready for a likely announcement soon on the national programme opening up to 18-25 year-olds.

NHS communications priorities are currently around cross-cutting priorities of system pressures and the vaccination programme, particularly the targeted, proactive offer that's going to be stepped up as above. Text messaging to relevant groups is already lined up and ready to go.

At **LTHT** work continues to highlight pressures on emergency departments with signposting messages through media and social media, along with:

- Reminding staff that infection prevention guidance and social distancing guidelines within hospitals are different to the national Roadmap ones and reminding them to observe them;
- Focus on reset work – linking with BBC and wider West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT) to promote this across the region;
- Working with operational colleagues to scope a letter for patients to explain reset work and also an open letter possibly from WYAAT CEOs.

Social media listening:

Local discussions outside the general national conversation?

- Reports city centre economy almost back at pre-COVID levels.
- Figures in the city including in Queen's birthday honours list, including Rachael Loftus (Leeds Health Partnerships) for work supporting those shielding.
- British Transplant Games new date announced for Leeds (next July).
- Sharing for warm weather Covid-19 vaccination appointment advice.
- Live audiences back at Leeds Town Hall.

Popular topics and questions being shared and discussed regularly?

- Latest Covid rates in Leeds, which are currently on the rise. Focus in conversation locally is on the increase among young people and how the Delta variant factors in.

What discussions are we starting to see an increase in?

- Nationally, a lot of discussion and speculation ahead of government roadmap announcement this evening with expectation it will be delayed.
- People sharing their Covid vaccine experiences, including in new council video.
- Speculation around Covid rates among young people and presence of Delta variant in the city.
- People sharing positive experiences of getting vaccinated in Leeds.

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

- Excitement around things opening up with local media doing lots of 'What's on' style articles.
- Relief that vaccines seem to be effective against Delta variant.
- Wariness about potential future restrictions and what they might be.

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