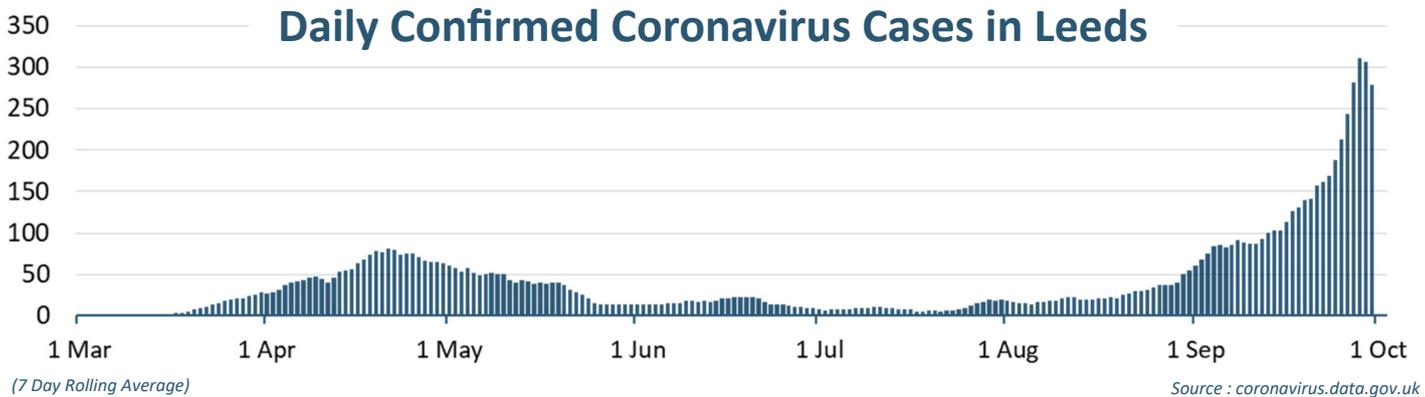


Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 5 October 2020



Headlines for Leeds

Health and Social Care

An issue was identified on 2 October in the automated process that transfers positive cases data to PHE. It has now been resolved, however the adjustment in the weekend figures results in a substantial rise in numbers of cases reported and the rate of infection. The latest figures for Leeds 7-day Covid infection rate is now 216.3 per 100,000. There is widespread community transmission across the city, with the majority of wards having a rate over 100 per 100,000, with the highest rate of growth areas with more students/young adults.

Economy

The holding pattern of subdued economic activity continues, with the end of the furlough scheme providing a risk of increased unemployment.

Although available business data suggests economic conditions are showing signs of improvement – with more businesses operating normally, and fewer using the furlough scheme, the official data predates the most recent announcements on both extended restrictions, and HMT's revised support for businesses, which are likely to affect business activity and outlook in the coming weeks. There has been strong feedback from the businesses regarding the 10pm curfew, with a call for it to be reviewed in light of the restrictions threatening the sustainability the hospitality sector.

Transport

There is evidence that rail recovery has stalled in recent weeks following changes in government guidelines and local restrictions. However, last month saw a surge in bus patronage as a consequence of the start of the academic year, which has since plateaued.

Footfall

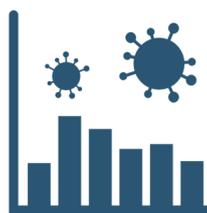
Weekend footfall in Leeds city centre is higher than weekday footfall, likely reflecting more leisure/shopping journeys compared to commuting, although the last couple of weeks has seen a noticeable decrease.

In the 4 weeks since 7th September, Leeds has recorded the following figures



216.3 per 100,000

Current Covid-19 infection rate in Leeds



500+ per 100,000

Infection rate reported in 16-29 year olds



274 Registered Deaths

That mention COvid-19, an increase of 7 over last 14 days



58% Footfall

In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2019



493 Covid-19 related

Incidents reported to West Yorkshire Police in last 7 days



28 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

Nitrogen Dioxide levels, almost half UK target of 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery



216.3

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



21

Current Cases
Reported active in
10 Leeds care homes



54

Covid-19 Beds
Currently occupied at
LTHT hospitals



7

Registered Deaths
That mention Covid-19
over the last 14 days

Health Summary

NOTE: An issue was identified overnight on Friday 2 October in the automated process that transfers positive cases data to PHE. It has now been resolved. The cases by publish date for 3 and 4 October include additional cases with specimen dates between 25 September and 2 October - they are therefore artificially high and may affect some figures on this page..

Covid-19 Cases

The latest figures for Leeds 7 day Covid infection rate is now 216.3 per 100,000, a substantial increase on the rate we reported as at Friday of 134.8. There is an upward trend in all the big cities and across Y&H with a reported rate of 102.7 per 100,000. The Leeds 7 day positivity rate is now 14.2% which is also a significant increase. Our testing rate is 217.5 per 100,000.

The number of patients in COVID occupied beds at LTHT last week has increased to 54 COVID positive patients, up from 44 at this time last week. LYPFT still has 0 COVID positive patients in a bed this week.

Between 27 Sept. and 3 Oct. 56 positive COVID tests were carried out within LTHT (up from 49 the previous week); 47 attributed to inpatients and 9 attributed to new admissions. LYPFT has had no positive COVID tests for over two weeks.

There are currently 7 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LTHT, the same number reported this time last week.

Care Homes

In total there are 21 active Covid19 case declared in 10 Care Homes in Leeds. These figures have seen a gradual decline over the last few weeks.

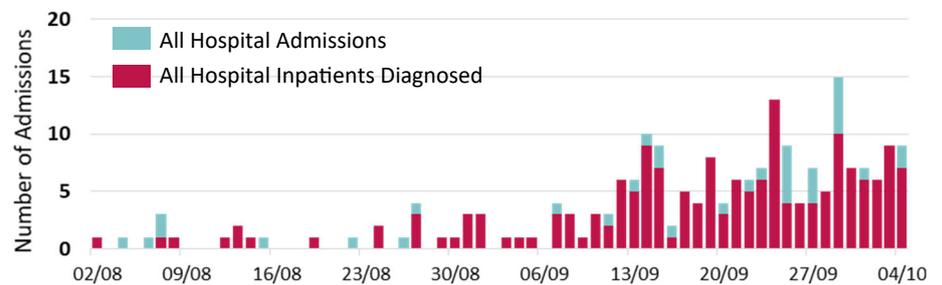
Registered Deaths in Leeds

As of 2 October 2020, a total of 674 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office. The number of deaths registered where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate has increased in recent weeks, with seven Covid-19 deaths recorded in the last 14 days (at time of publication).

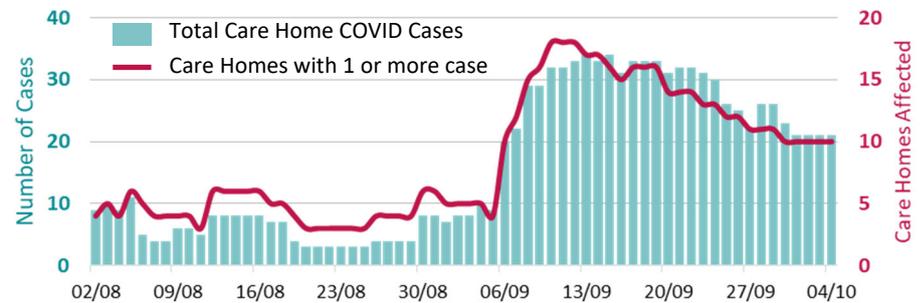
Sources:

- [Coronavirus.gov.uk](https://www.coronavirus.gov.uk) - 05/10/20
- [Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust](https://www.leeds-teaching-hospital-trust.nhs.uk) - 05/10/20
- [Leeds Registrars Office](https://www.leeds.gov.uk) - 02/10/20

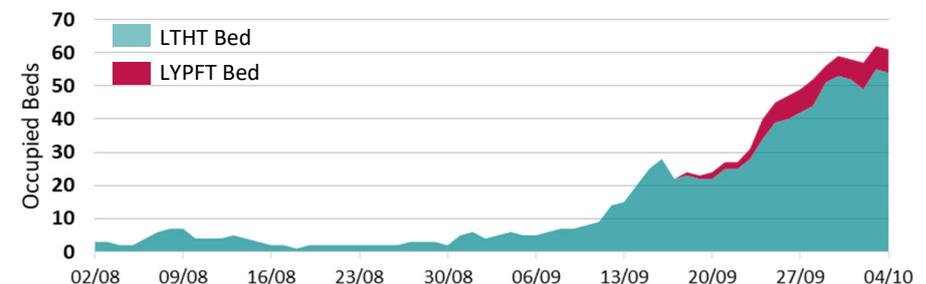
New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients



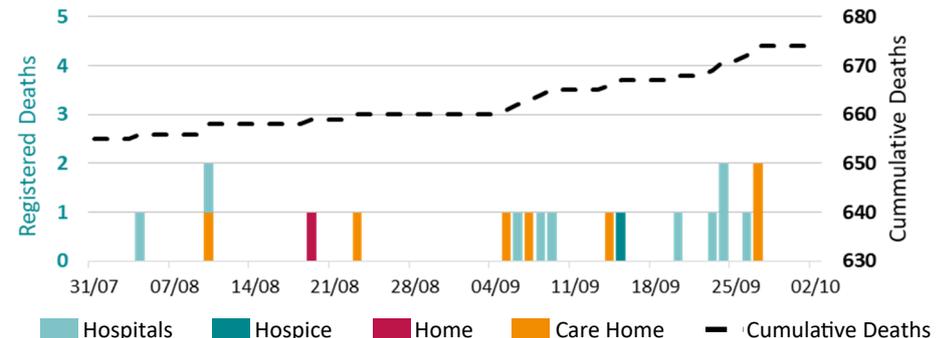
Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



Citizens & Community



493

Covid-19
Related incidents recorded over last 7 days



438

Domestic
Incidents recorded over last 14 days

114,814

Pupils
Able to attend schools in Leeds during September



48%

Increase
of kerbside garden waste collection since 2019

Citizens & Community Summary

Incidents and Crimes Overview

Over the last month Crime and Incidents have shown a slight increase although remained broadly the same, however, Covid19 related incidents have increased 5 fold going from 82 incidents in the week 7-13 September, up to 493 incidents in the previous week (28 Sept - 4 Oct). However this number will have been affected by new local restrictions being introduced during this time.

Children & Education

During the week commencing 28th September 184 of 275 schools submitted attendance information to the Department for Education and average attendance was 85%.

Throughout September, 191 schools have remained fully open and 84 schools continued to operate with bubble closures. Schools were open to 114,814 pupils in Leeds.

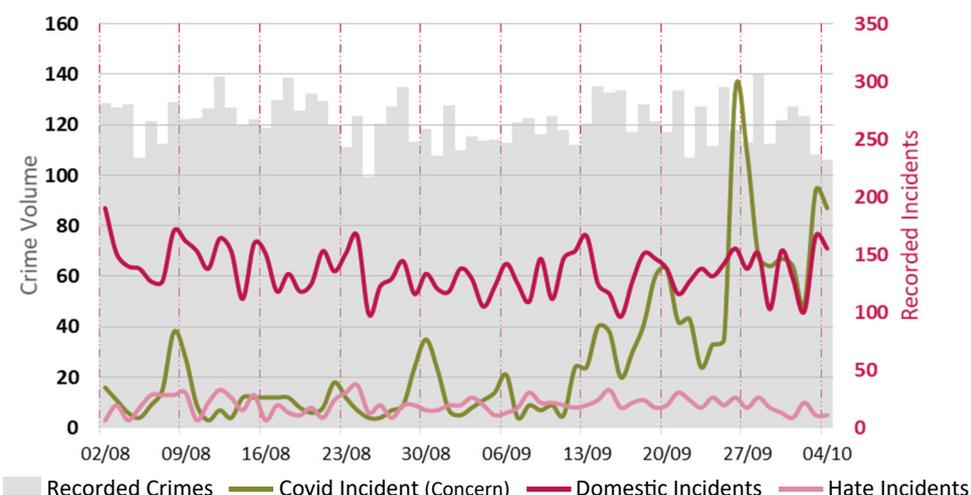
Waste Management & Recycling

Tonnage of waste collected at the kerbside continues to be significantly higher than normal; with black bins 11% up, green 6% and brown bins 48%. Extra crews are being deployed where possible, but crew bubbles are being stood down where a staff member becomes symptomatic.

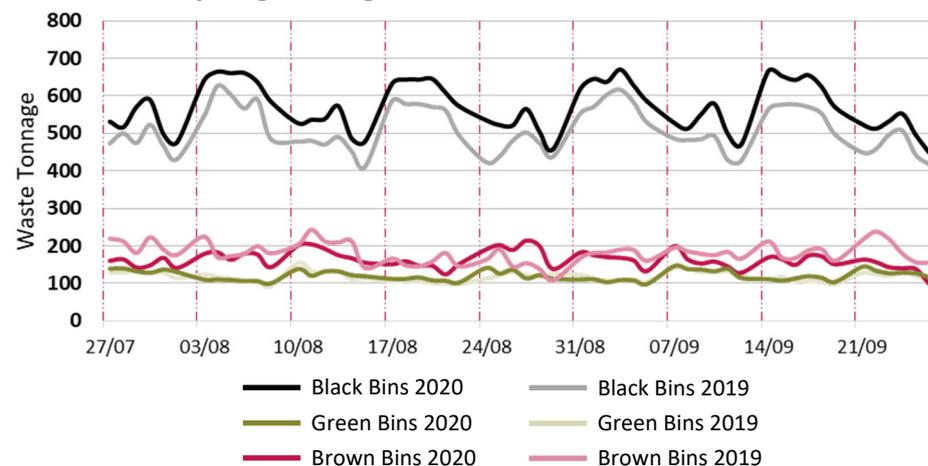
Call Centre Data

In the last 3 months service requests to the LCC Covid-19 helpline and Local Welfare Support Service's (LWSS) Helpline that could be attributed to the Covid19 Pandemic have shown a significant reduction with September recording less than 15% of the numbers recorded in June.

Crimes and Incidents



Waste and Recycling Tonnage



Sources:

- Safer Leeds - 05/10/20
- Children's Services Leeds - 05/10/20
- Leeds City Council Environment Team - 5/10/20

Infrastructure & Supplies



Traffic Flow
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019



Footfall
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2019



Nitrogen Dioxide
Levels, almost half UK target of 40µg m-3



Thousand
Units of PPE issued in the last 7 days

Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

Traffic & Pedestrian Flow

Traffic flow around Leeds has shown no significant change over the last few months and is averaging around 81-85% in comparison to 2019.

Weekend footfall in Leeds city centre is higher than weekday footfall, likely reflecting more leisure/shopping journeys compared to commuting, although the last couple of weeks has seen a noticeable decrease.

Pedestrian traffic in Leeds Station is remaining steady with an similar increase in footfall during weekends.

MCard purchases and concessions on public transport show a recent increase in early September, this coincided with the start of the new academic year and may be related.

More details can be found within the economy & business section on the next page.

Leeds Air Quality (August 2020)

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

The effect of the lockdown shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area, since easing of the lockdown measures began in May, levels of NO₂ have begun to rise slightly but still remain well under the national objective of 40 micrograms per cubic meter air (40 µg m⁻³).

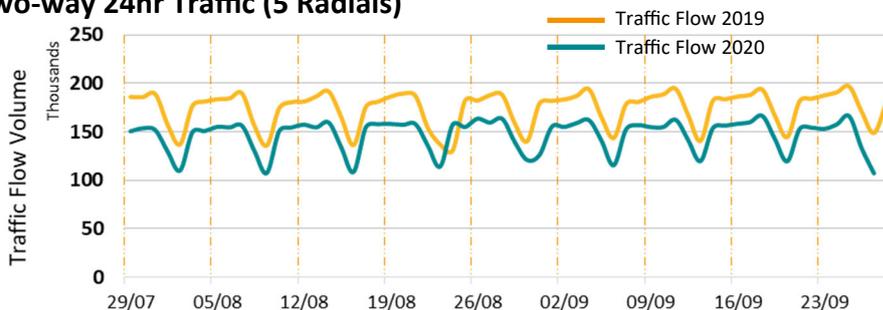
PPE Supplies

The demand for PPE shows continues to increase almost on a daily basis, despite this we still continue to get orders delivered within 48hrs of the order being received, with over 632,000 items of PPE being delivered in the last 7 days.

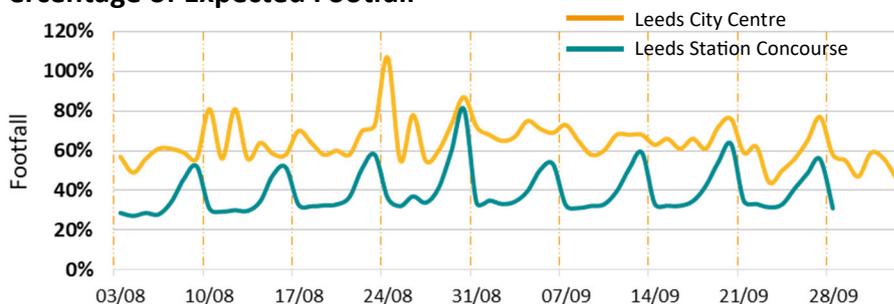
In response to changes by the government on the wearing of face masks we have completed a mini tender exercise for another supply of 1 million surgical masks and 25,000 face shields

The 74 deliveries to GP surgeries were all completed by Wednesday, this time with support of staff from Children's Services, Waste Management, Civic Flavour.

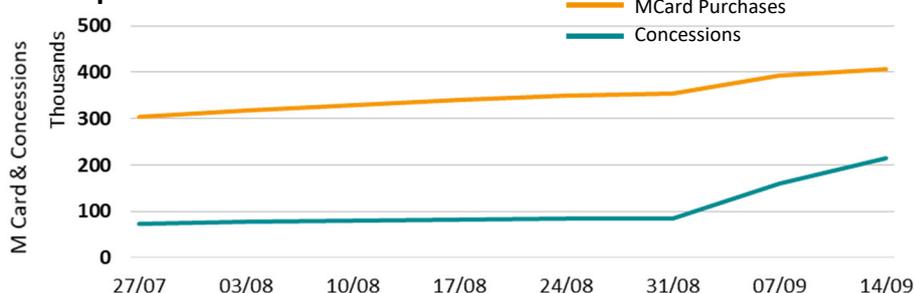
Two-way 24hr Traffic (5 Radials)



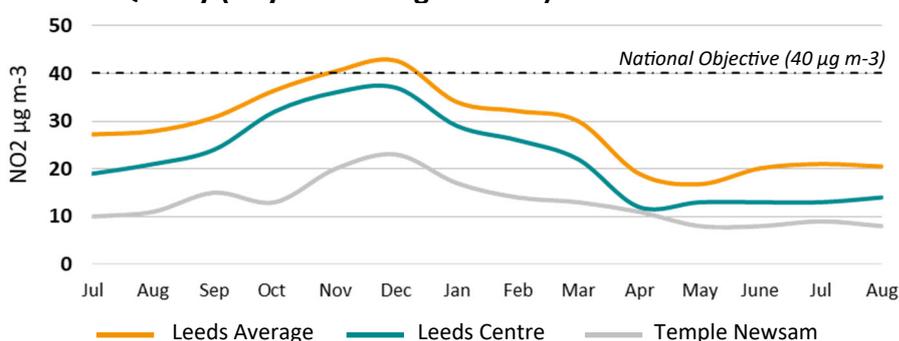
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard purchases and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (July 2019 - August 2020)



Sources:

- West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 05/10/20
- Leeds City Council - 5/10/20

Economy and Business



Claimants
of Universal Credit as a
proportion of the
working age population



Million
Paid out in grants to
support local businesses

Economy and Business

The situation might be best described as a holding pattern of subdued economic activity, with the end of the furlough scheme providing a potential risk of increased unemployment. Although available business data suggests economic conditions are showing signs of improvement – with more businesses operating normally, and fewer using the furlough scheme, the official data predates the most recent announcements on both extended local and national restrictions, and from the Chancellor on further/replacement support for businesses, which are likely to affect business activity and outlook in the coming weeks. There has been strong feedback from the business community regarding the 10pm curfew particularly, with a call for it to be reviewed in light of the new restrictions threatening the sustainability the hospitality sector.

The Quarterly Economic Survey with the Chambers of Commerce in Leeds City Region also shows a more positive outlook in Q3 than in Q2, although most indicators remain in negative territory emphasising that the recovery remains in its early stages. Businesses, and manufacturers in particular were much more positive about the outlook for the year ahead this quarter.

There is evidence that rail recovery has stalled/reversed in recent weeks following changes in government guidelines and local restrictions. However, last month saw a surge in bus patronage, driven by the increase in use of under 19 and under 26 MCard users as a consequence of the start of the academic year. Since then overall bus patronage has not recovered further, with MCard and concessionary fare use remaining around 50% lower than early March 2020. Recent analysis confirms that the 10pm curfew on licenced premises has displaced bus demand in the evening.

Weekend footfall in Leeds city centre is higher than weekday footfall, likely reflecting more leisure/shopping journeys compared to commuting, although the last couple of weeks has seen a noticeable decrease. Indeed, the latest data from the Centre for Cities High Street Recovery Tracker, confirms Leeds as one of the 10 locations most adversely affected reduced footfall along with most of the other Core Cities. Interestingly, according to the Index, Wakefield is in the top 10 performers in terms of consumer spending.

The gradual increase in traffic on the West Yorkshire's strategic road network has plateaued below 2019 levels and is currently around 17% lower the same period in 2019. NO2 concentrations continue to rise on approaches to urban centres and hourly trends increasingly align with traditional AM and PM traffic peaks as cars return to city centres.

Employment

Vacancy levels have continued to recover, with the number of jobs in Leeds posted online w/e 26 September was 3% higher than in the previous week, similar to the national average increase of 4%. However vacancies remain around 20% below March levels.

Claimants of Universal credit continue to rise in the city with a rate of 13.3% of the Working Age population of Leeds claiming in September. This is substantial increase since March when the proportion of claimants was 6.9%

LCC's financial position

The latest financial projection, showing the impact Covid-19, shows an estimated gap for 2020/21 of £51.1m, a £1.4m improvement on the position previously reported. This movement is largely explained by updates of the projected impact of COVID-19 on the projected level of income losses. This position estimates that the Council will received £18.9m of Government compensation in 2020/21 to mitigate the Covid impact, but the actual figure will not be known until the financial year end. Clearly this position does not reflect the potential effects of any further local or national lockdown arrangements not yet introduced which could impact on the Council's financial projections.

The projected overspend for 2021/22 as reported to September's Executive Board in the Medium Term Financial Strategy is £118.8m. Executive Board agreed that consultation should commence, where appropriate, on an initial set of Budget Savings Proposals exceeding £32m to address the 2021/22 gap.

Conversations are ongoing with Government to explore options to address this year's gap, whilst work continues across the Authority to identify further savings options for 2021/22 which will be considered by the Executive Board in October and November 2020.

Supporting the city

Of the £162m business grants funding received for the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) grants, £154.2m was paid to businesses through 12,590 grants. The scheme has now closed with the deadline to make the payments 30th September.

New grant funding was announced on the 9th September for businesses affected by local lockdowns. Businesses required to close due to local lockdowns/restrictions will be able to receive grants worth up to £1,500 every three weeks depending on Rateable Values. Local authorities are responsible for distributing these grants and further eligibility criteria may be determined by them.

On 17th September MHCLG announced allocations of £91.5m of funding to 274 local councils to ensure interim accommodation and support for the most vulnerable people, including by helping people into the private rented sector, securing interim accommodation such as supported housing, and assessing the wider support these people need in order to rebuild their lives. £4.96m has been allocated to local authorities in Y&H. A further £13.5 million fund will be used to enable councils to tackle new or emerging challenges, and bids are now being considered for a further £161m fund to help secure 3,300 longer term homes. The bidding has now closed and details on successful bids will be announced in due course.

Government published the Adult Social Care Winter Plan on 18th September, covering 4 themes: preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings; collaboration across health and care settings; supporting those who receive social care, the workforce and carers; and supporting the system. A second tranche of Infection Control Fund grant, totalling £546m, was announced to help the care sector to restrict the movement of staff between care homes to stop spread of the virus, help care providers pay staff full wages when they are self-isolating and to provide free PPE to ASC care providers until March 2021.

A new package to support and enforce self-isolation was announced on 20th September. Alongside the new duty on individuals to self-isolate if someone tests positive or is identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace, Government has announced new Test and Trace Support Payments for those on low incomes if they cannot work during self-isolation period. Discretionary funding will also be made available for local authorities to help those who require corresponding financial support to the Test and Trace Support Payment to self-isolate, but do not meet all of the eligibility criteria.

The Winter Economy Plan was published on 24th September 2020, and included a range of measures such as providing further support for employment through a new Job Support Scheme to support employers who face lower demand, extension of the Self-employed Income Support Scheme to April 2021, extension of temporary VAT reduced rate for hospitality and tourism and extension of the four temporary loan scheme to businesses to 30th November for new applications.

Sources:

- Leeds City Council - 5/10/20
- Department for work and Pensions - 15/9/20

Communications Update

Website Visits

Around 86K visited the COVID information web pages last week, of which 60K were new users. This has increased greatly over previous two weeks, from consistently fewer than 10K weekly visitors.

The GovDelivery Covid email bulletin, which is sent out to 114K residents, had an open rate of 35%, consistent with recent weeks.

Council/others

Live digital campaign to target and influence younger people in 18-34 age groups using messaging tapping into what they've lost – "Let's not go back" and appealing to them to help keep infections down. 7,814 engagements and lots of comments, reach of 144,174, impressions 401,812. Accompanied by Hyde Park billboard poster.

Campaign is agile and adaptable and will shift messaging and methods as infection trends and perception issues around restrictions etc. evolve.

Nationals and splash YEP coverage of letter to Matt Hancock challenging humanity of new restrictions and suggesting safe changes to lessen impact on hospitality trade from Leaders/Chief Execs of Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester; also covered by other local media.

Follow-up YEP joint interview with Cllr Blake, Tom R and Victoria for feature spread defining the direction for the next few months and outlining what and why we want people to do to help bring infection rates down.

Working closely with universities to join up planning for further targeting/preparing for sympathetic management of any outbreaks, understanding significance of their own data reporting.

Also working with third sector on young people/supporting community champions work.

Continuing to work directly with licensed trade on compliance and messaging to customers under 10pm curfews and Leeds-specific restrictions.

Working directly with Public Health to track and target specific concerns or communities where issues arise; looking at joining up broader public-facing city messaging more.

Social media: lots of interest in news of the 16,000 unreported coronavirus cases; questions about self-isolation grant funding in Leeds (active messages replying to this); some Leeds residents reporting businesses not following/enforcing guidelines, namely public transport and hospitality. Continuing to push messages around staying safe, 'hands, face, space', continuing to promote NHS app and campaigns.

Health

CCG wrap adverts in the Asian Express (Leeds edition) and Yorkshire Evening Post highlighting why some people may have treatment delays, plus advice on accessing care/mental health support

Full page advert in Saturday's YEP for parents and carers of children to support citywide messages; resources being developed to help choose the best option when child is ill with possible COVID-19.

BBC Look North piece on flu on the need for everyone to get vaccinated with dual threat of COVID-19 and flu.

Facebook Live session on coronavirus misinformation gave people a chance to listen to clinical experts sharing knowledge and included a question and answer session

New handwashing campaign resources developed to target a younger audience, to be shared with citywide comms colleagues with a revised social media plan

Revised social media plan and webpage for the Feel Better Leeds campaign (www.feelbetterleeds.org.uk) aimed at students to support citywide messaging

LTHT – Getting messages to all LTHT patients about their appointments and reassurance about coming into hospital and the recovery work through a mix of personal letters, text, media advertising and social media – linking with Healthwatch and CCG to maximise this

Arranging a series of thank you and recognition virtual events during September to thank staff and support wellbeing

Reduced staff operational communications bulletin to one per week (Thursdays)

Supporting messaging around the Nightingale hospital and extension to the lease/use for diagnostics

Continue to scale up social distancing signage for clinics and other appointments and reinforcing messaging with staff about wearing masks, correct PPE arrangements for staff re Test and Trace

Developed website hub on website - also includes information for people with learning difficulties - for patient information for clinics and procedures (social distancing, self-isolation before procedures, what to expect etc.).

Policy Announcements

Policy Announcements

30 July 2020

Restrictions on social gatherings imposed in parts of Northern England, including Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford, in response to rising cases. On 2 September the restrictions were lifted in all but the wards with highest rates of infection.

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

9 September 2020

New local authority grant scheme announced to support businesses that have to close due to Covid-19. Eligible businesses will be able to apply for up to £1,500 every three weeks.

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

14 September 2020

Rule of Six introduced- people can only meet socially in any setting in groups of a maximum of 6 from different households. Single households/support bubbles larger than six do not count as part of this rule, and education and workplace settings are not affected.

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

17 September 2020

Second round of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund announced, with £546m for the care sector.

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

18 September 2020

Restrictions on household mixing in private homes and gardens extended to all wards in Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford.

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

18 September 2020

Premises and venues across England required by law to have a system in place to record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff.

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

21 September 2020

New £500 Isolation Support Payment announced for people on low incomes who can't work because they've tested positive or are asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

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

21 September 2020

The UK Chief Medical Officers and Joint Biosecurity Centre recommended that the UK Covid-19 alert level moves from level 3 (Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation) to level 4 (Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation, transmission is high or rising exponentially).

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

22 September 2020

An exemption to restrictions on household mixing introduced for areas of intervention, to allow for informal care of vulnerable adults and children under 14 as part of a consistent 'care bubble'.

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

22 September 2020

Prime Minister announced new national measures in response to increasing rates of Covid-19. People encouraged to work from home if possible. Indoor adult sport no longer exempt from Rule of Six. The planned reopening of conferences, exhibition halls and large sporting events from 1 October is suspended.

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

23 September 2020

The wearing of face coverings becomes mandatory for taxi and private hire customers; within hospitality venues except when seated; and for retail staff, with fixed penalties enforceable by the police.

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

24 September 2020

Hospitality venues legally required to display the NHS QR code, ensure that no individual group larger than 6 enters the premises, and close at 10pm. Licensed premises can only offer table service, plus takeaway, which can continue beyond 10pm. Fines of £1000 for breaches.

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

24 September 2020

The Chancellor unveils the Winter Economy Plan, including a Job Support Scheme to replace the furlough scheme from 1 November, and an extension to the Self Employed Income Support Scheme.

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

24 September 2020

NHS Covid-19 app launched across England and Wales.

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

25 September 2020

Restrictions on mixing with other households in private homes and gardens introduced in Leeds.

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

28 September 2020

A new legal duty to self-isolate came into force for people who test positive or come into contact with someone who has tested positive. Those who break the rules could be fined £1000, increasing to £10,000 for repeat offences.

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

28 September 2020

Maximum number of people who can attend a wedding ceremony or reception reduced from 30 to 15.

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

30 September 2020

In parts of the North East it becomes illegal to mix with other households (excluding support bubbles) in any indoor setting. This is in addition to previously announced restrictions on household mixing in private homes and gardens.

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

1 October 2020

In parts of the North West, it becomes illegal to mix with other households (excluding support bubbles) in any indoor setting. This is in addition to previously announced restrictions on household mixing in private homes and gardens. It is also recommended that people in these areas do not meet with anyone outside their household or bubble in outdoor public spaces, such as parks and outdoor hospitality.

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