

## December 2020

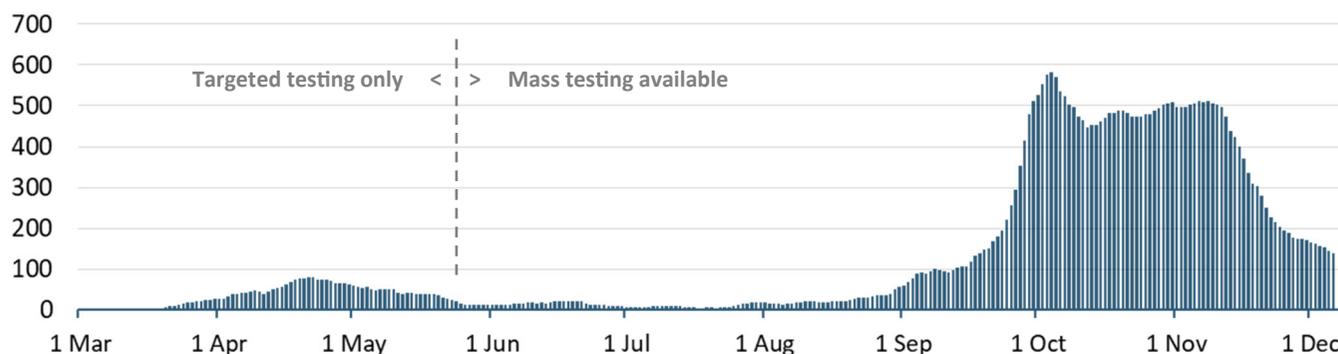
The framework for this Response & Recovery plan has remained broadly the same since March, although the priorities have changed with each phase. The ambition is for the council and city to be as prepared as possible given the unprecedented challenges, rapidly changing context, the resources and information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

- Minimise the effect of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the city, especially the most vulnerable
- Proactively respond to intelligence to target support within available context, resources and powers
- Ensure provision of essential services, focusing on individuals, families, communities and businesses most affected, whilst encouraging communities to engage and provide support themselves
- Minimise the effect of the pandemic on local economy, resuming economic activity safely and appropriately
- Ensure our recovery and renewal is underpinned by Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change

Our priorities remain to allow safe travel, safe public spaces in communities, district centres and the city centre, safe delivery of essential services, safe education and safe working – whilst also being aware of EU Exit implications.

## Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds

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



(7 Day Rolling Average)

Source : [coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk) (11 December 2020)

## Current statistical trends recorded in Leeds show...



### New Covid-19 Cases

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



### Covid-19 Occupied Beds

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



### Covid Related Incidents

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



### City Centre Footfall

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



### Roadside Air Quality

Recorded figures for 2020 remain lower than 2019 and also lower than the national targets for NO<sub>2</sub> levels



### Cases in Care homes

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

# 1. Communications and Media – Donna Cox/ Danni Clayton

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

## 2. Local Outbreak Management- Victoria Eaton

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

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

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

## 4. Infrastructure and supplies impact- Gary Bartlett

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

## 5. Business and Economy- Eve Roodhouse

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

## 6.Citizens and Communities Impact – James Rogers

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

## 7.Organisational Impact- Neil Evans

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

# COVID 19 - Leeds Multi-Agency Arrangements

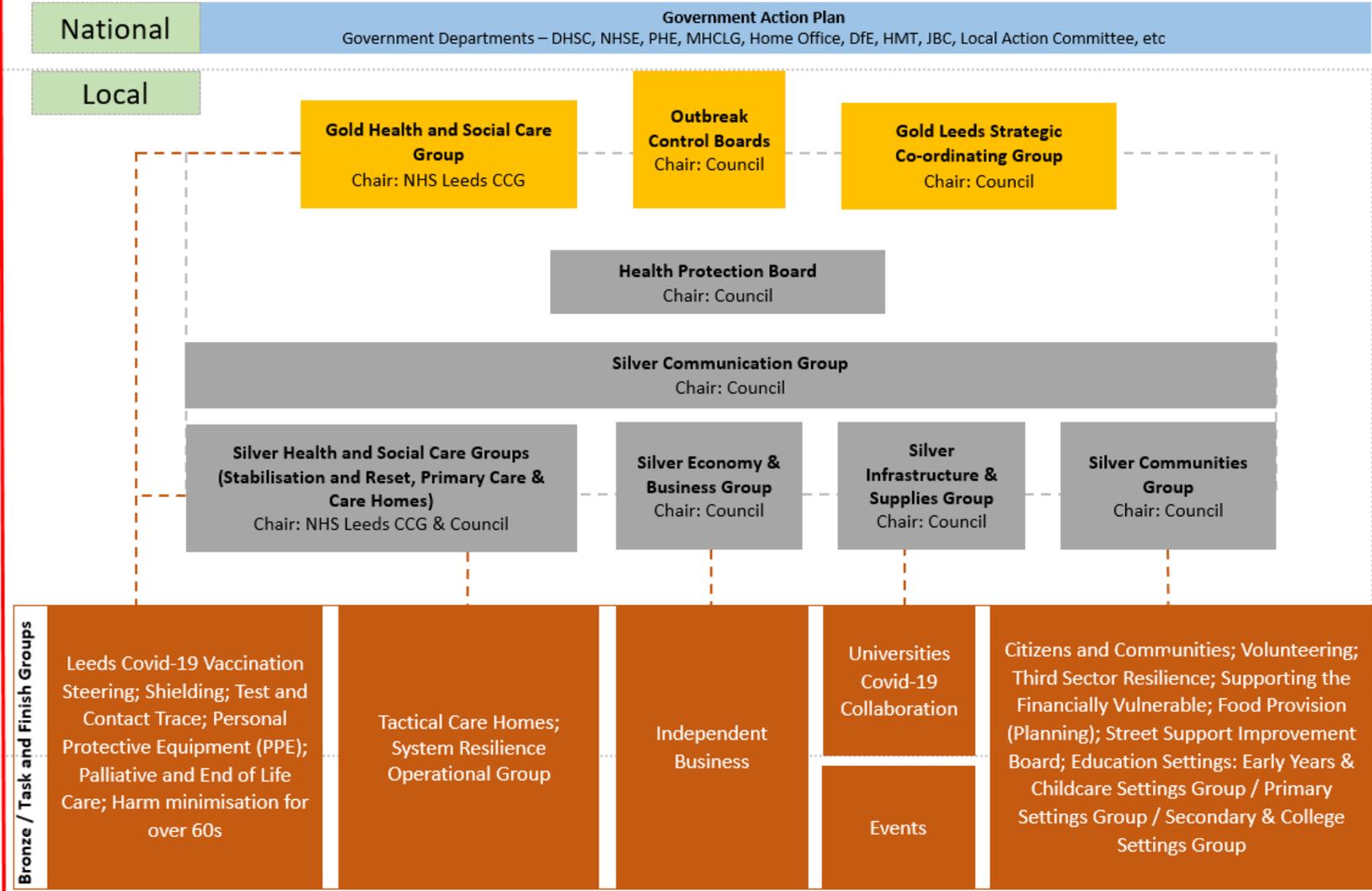
**Existing governance**

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

**Individual agencies**

- Gold Organisational Leadership Teams
- Silver Organisational Groups
- Bronze / Task and Finish Organisational Groups

Date: 10/12/20



## Leeds Outbreak Plan– December 2020

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

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

### Care homes, education, high risk workplaces and other settings

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

### Community transmission

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

### Local testing capacity

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

### Local contact tracing

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

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

### **Vaccination**

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

### **Compliance and enforcement**

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

### **Data**

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

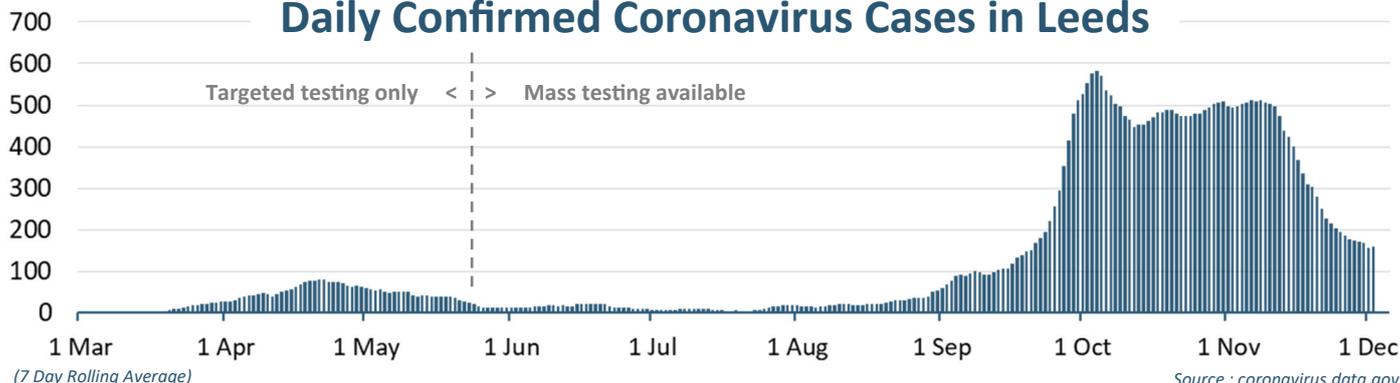
### **Vulnerable people**

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

### **Governance and communications**

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

### Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds



### Headlines for Leeds

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

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

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

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

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

### Leeds is currently recorded the following figures



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



**113 Current Cases**  
Reported across 19 Care  
Homes in Leeds



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



**28% Footfall**  
In Leeds City centre in  
comparison to 2019

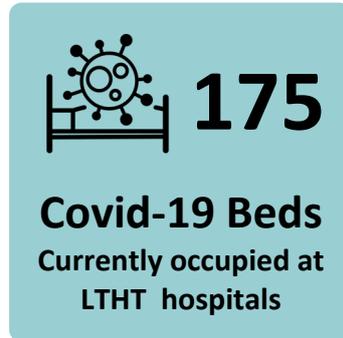
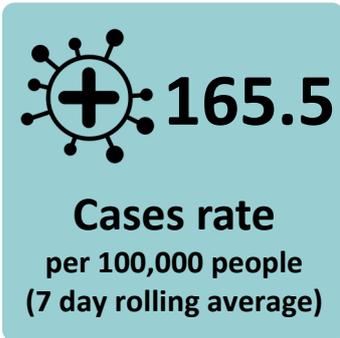


**243 Covid-19 related**  
Incidents reported to West  
Yorkshire Police in last 7 days



**31.5 µg m<sup>-3</sup>**  
Nitrogen Dioxide levels.  
Below UK target of 40µg m<sup>-3</sup>

### Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery



#### Health Summary

##### Infection Rates (6<sup>th</sup> December)

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

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

##### Covid-19 Cases

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

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

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

##### Care Homes

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

##### Registered Deaths in Leeds

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

##### Capacity

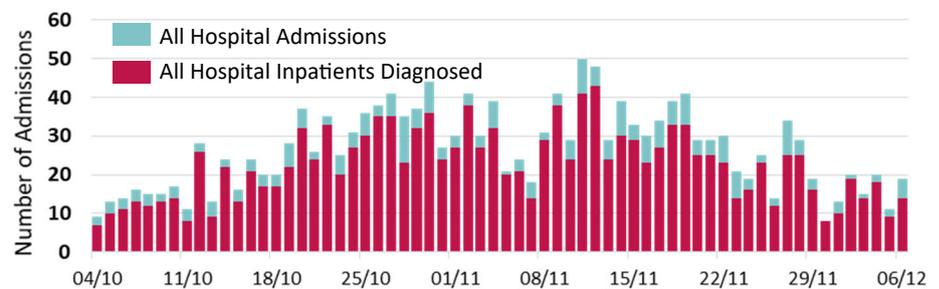
Current capacity in LTHT and MYHT hospital based mortuaries is at 52%. This is a reduction from 7 days ago when it was recorded at 59%.

##### Sources:

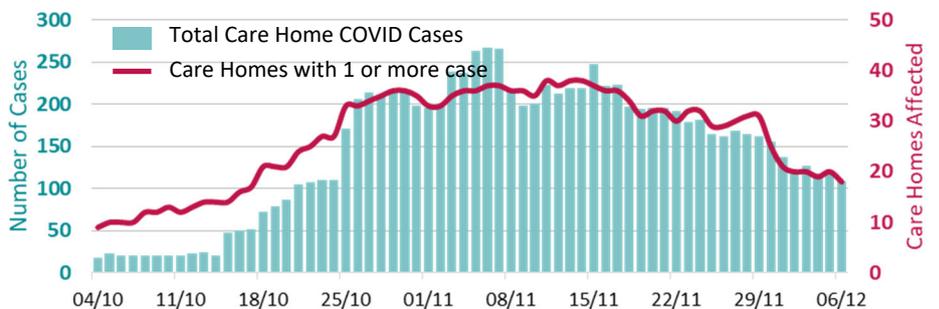
- Coronavirus.gov.uk - 5/12/20
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust - 7/12/20
- Leeds Registrars Office - 7/12/20

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

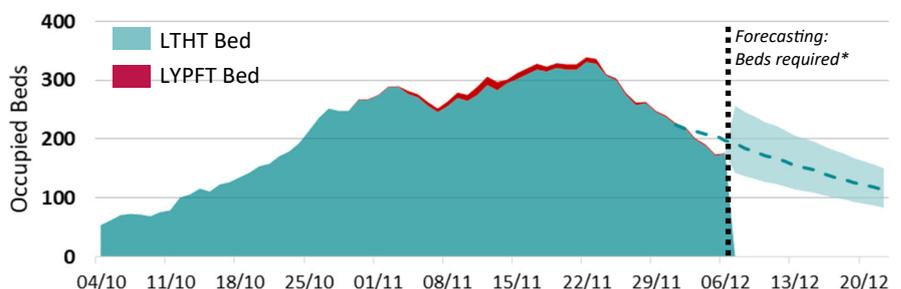
#### New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients



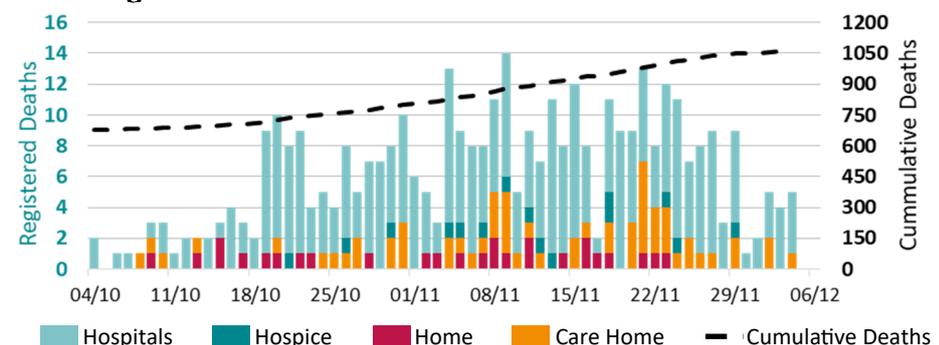
#### Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



#### Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



#### Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



### Citizens & Community



**243**

**Covid-19**  
Related incidents recorded over last 7 days



**409**

**Domestic**  
Incidents recorded over last 7 days



**84%**

**Attendance**  
of pupils in Leeds Schools



**891**

**Self-Isolation**  
Support payments paid to successful applicants

#### Citizens & Community Summary

##### Incidents and Crimes Overview

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

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

##### Children & Education

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

##### LYPFT Mental Health Referrals

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

##### Self Isolation Payments

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

##### Welfare Support

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

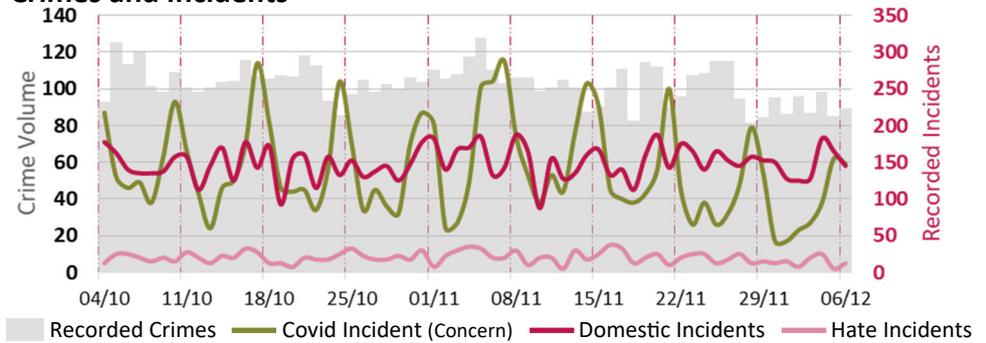
##### Waste Management & Recycling

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

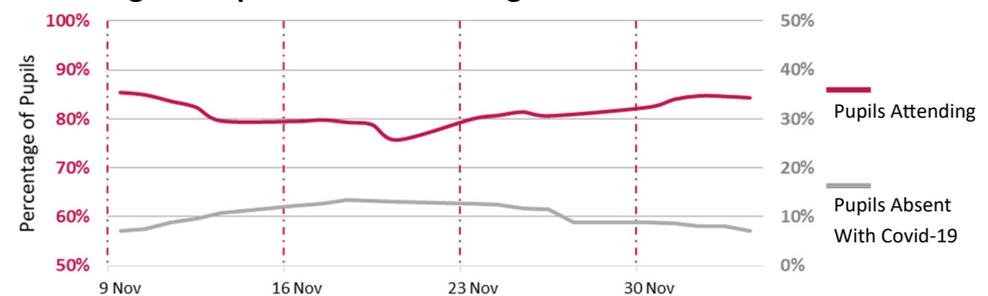
##### Sources:

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

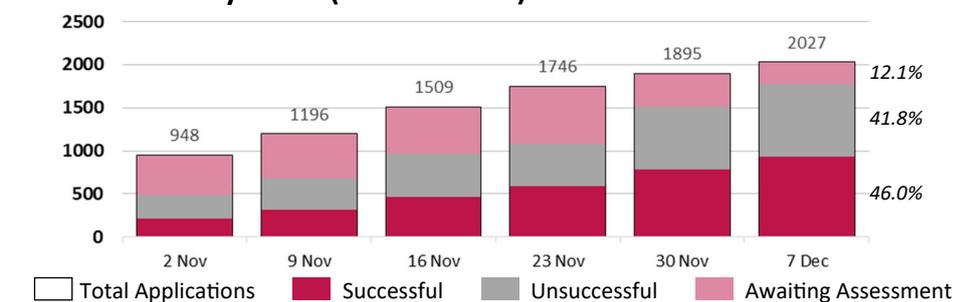
#### Crimes and Incidents



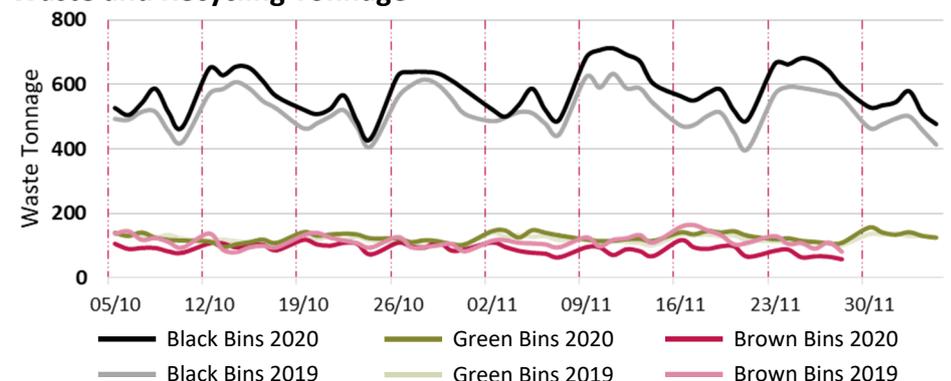
#### Percentage of Pupils on Roll Attending School



#### Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



#### Waste and Recycling Tonnage



### Infrastructure & Supplies



**69%**

**Traffic Flow**  
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019



**28%**

**Footfall**  
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2019



**31**  
 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

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



**275**

**Thousand**  
Units of PPE issued over the last 7 days

#### Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

##### Traffic & Pedestrian Flow

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

##### Leeds Air Quality (October 2020)

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

The effect of the lockdown earlier in the year shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area, since easing of measures began in May, levels of NO<sub>2</sub> have begun to rise slightly to an average of  $31\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in October. This indicator would normally record increased levels over the later months of the year.

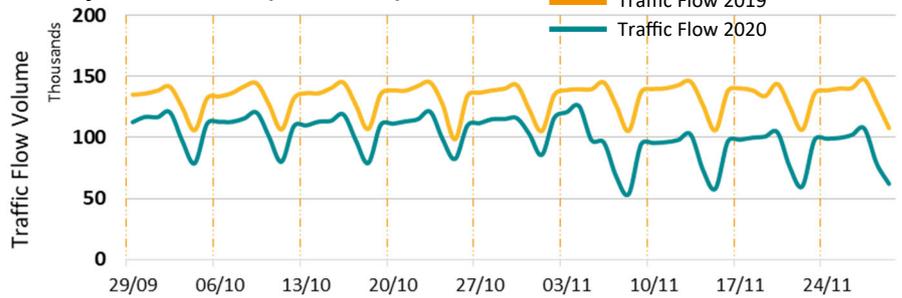
##### PPE Supplies

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

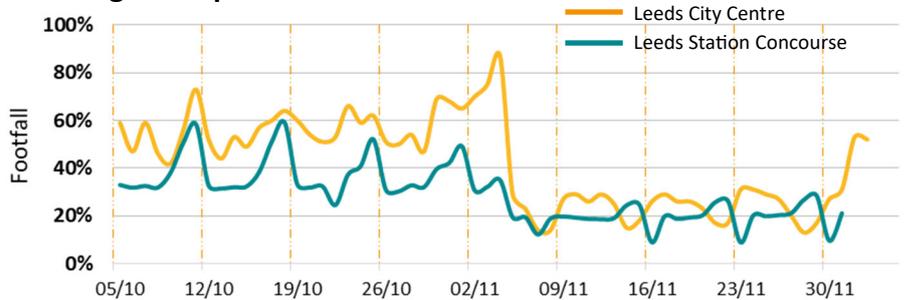
LCC has been invited to be part of a national pilot scheme to support informal carers with their PPE. This will begin on Monday 07/12/2020. Citywide comms are being prepared and Carers Leeds are also supporting with this work.

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

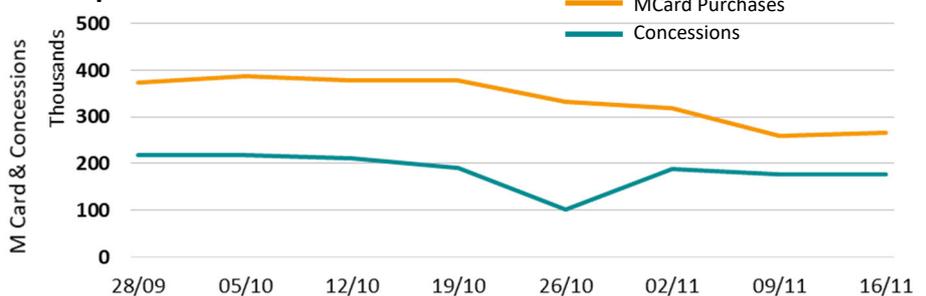
Two-way 24hr Traffic (5 Radials)



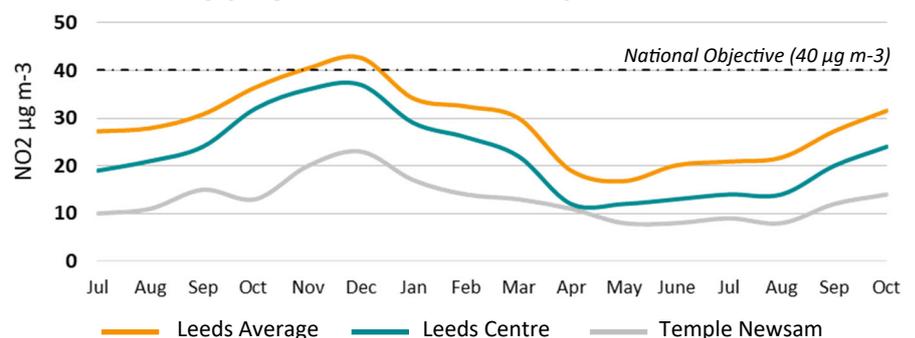
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard purchases and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (July 2019 - October 2020)



Sources:

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

## Economy and Business



**Out of Work  
Benefits Claimant  
Count**



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

### Economy and Business

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

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

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

### Employment

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

### Support for Business

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LCC's financial position

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Sources:

- Leeds City Council - 7/11/20
- Department for work and Pensions - November 2020

## Communications Update & Policy Announcements

### Policy Announcements

#### 20 November 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 23 November 2020

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

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

#### 24 November 2020

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

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

#### 25 November 2020

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

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

#### 26 November 2020

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

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

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

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

#### 27 November 2020

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

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

#### 29 November 2020

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

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

#### 30 November 2020

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

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

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

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

#### 1 December 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 2 December 2020

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

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

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

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

#### 3 December 2020

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

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

## Communications Update

### Website Visits

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

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

### Council/others

Roll-out of vaccinations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business support: push in media to encourage firms to apply

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

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

### Social media monitoring

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

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

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

*What are we seeing being shared and discussed regularly?*

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

Questions around when businesses can expect to receive business grants.

*What are we starting to see an increase in?*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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