

Area Council Update – COVID 19 Briefing

Public Health

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

We hope members will find this helpful as part of a regular update on the Council's Public Health response to the pandemic.

The information provided covers a wide range of work undertaken across the Council. Members will also appreciate the pace of change during the pandemic, so we will aim to provide as up to date information as possible.

Any specific questions on areas of work will be taken back to the appropriate lead for further detail, if appropriate.

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of actions/progress to members in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Key Themes

Headlines as at 8th February 2021

- Continue to observe national lockdown measures. We are starting to see a slow decline nationally, and this trend is also observed in Barnsley. This is good news, but we must remain vigilant.
- Working age adults have the highest case rates. Although most cases are in 50-59-year olds and 20-29s, testing access is greater in those in their 50s and as such a difference in positivity is likely between older and younger working age adults.
- Most neighbourhoods have similar cases rates that are either relatively stable or declining.
- Whilst there has been recent signs of some increase in cases of COVID-19 across Barnsley since the middle of January across all ages, the current 7-day case rate is stable and suggests a slow fall in numbers.
- At the moment, borough wide intelligence is considered the best approach to data sharing due to continuously and rapidly changing nature of the data;
- The team who are currently analysing COVID data have reiterated that they will highlight with councillors and area teams if there are specific ward issues of concern, and will also receive updates on the Tuesday and Friday briefings.

Public Health Messages

- Reinforcing government guidance;
 - HANDS - Wash hands regularly.
 - FACE - Wear face coverings in enclosed spaces,
 - SPACE - Stay at least 2 metres apart or 1 metre with a face covering.
 - Let Fresh Air in – during winter months

Intelligence

COVID Situation Report (Sit-Rep)

- Twice weekly 'situation report' meetings are held to review line listing data and map any reoccurring issues in specific areas.
- New cases are distributed across the whole borough and areas with the highest number of cases tends to vary on a weekly basis.
- Any local community intelligence on these areas is fed into this group and would be useful.

Covid Marshals/Community Observations

- 16 marshals appointed to advise and support the public/local businesses to follow guidelines, manage queues and promote social distancing in crowded areas. Whilst no formal enforcement powers, they regularly link to the Police/Regulatory Services who do have those formal enforcement powers.

Main themes from current community observations:

- Footfall and traffic across the borough has reduced during lockdown however not to the levels observed in April 2020. Parks and open spaces have been noted to be busier than expected.
- Concerns regarding lack of social distancing inside retail settings such as supermarkets. SNS, Covid Marshals and NEOs are supporting Regulatory Services in undertaking supermarket visits.
- Congregations of youths (including a gathering of 30 youths in the town centre) in outdoor public spaces with variable response to Marshals advice
- We've heard 2 reports of queues at vaccination primary care venues and have shared this with the CCG to support practices in safe vaccine delivery.

If you note anything that requires direct attention by the COVID marshals or our joint operations with SYP please do not hesitate to contact

COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk.

Neighbourhood Engagement Officers

Each NEO is assigned to their respective areas but with flexibility to move if needed. Line managed by Area Council Managers and their Public Health link is Kaye Mann. They can do what is needed in that area to support residents and business to adhere to guidance, very much a supportive role not enforcement. All 6 NEOs are now in post:

- Leyla Brooke – North
- Craig Aubrey - Dearne
- Kay Tinkler – South
- Laura Dixon – Central
- Louise Hunt – North East
- Rana Al Kubesi – Penistone

Community Insights – Additional Funded Work

- Magpie 'Behavioural Insights' campaign underway to understand and increase COVID compliance in Barnsley.
- Conversation workshops ran 21st January until 1st February 2021 for a number of targeted groups: (see Appendix 1) – 200 people signed up.
- Specific workshop planned for elected members on 2nd February 2021.
- Also hoping to access funding for additional support to BAME/Disabilities groups who have been disproportionately affected by COVID 19.

Outbreak Management – Local communities

- We commission a number of services to support 'Vulnerable Communities' e.g. Homeless/Rough Sleepers, Gypsy/Travellers, Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse, HMOs, Asylum Seekers/Refugees – PH in communities have identified settings specialists to disseminate information and support with outbreak monitoring, relating to these groups.
- There is a weekly outbreak management group which also covers outbreaks in these community settings as well as Schools, Care Homes, Workplace/Commercial settings, Healthcare etc.

COVID Support Service

- Team now in place making outbound welfare calls to all positive cases in Barnsley and offering support during self-isolation. The team also undertake Test and Trace calls for uncontactable residents who have missed 10 phone calls from the National NHS Test and Trace programme.
- Positive response and feedback from the service – welfare calls are appreciated by residents.
- COVID-19 Support Service are undertaking house visits for residents with a positive result where the service has been unable to make phone contact. These visits have gone well, and South Yorkshire Police have also worked efficiently with the team on two occasions.
- The team is also supporting the Community Testing Centre at the Metrodome. Individuals with a negative result will be contacted and advised to follow national guidance and book another test in the future. Those with a positive result will be advised to get a PCR test and to start self-isolating, identify their contacts, and share this with the NHS Test and Trace system.

Testing

Symptomatic Testing

- Testing provided at; County Way lower Courthouse car park, Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre car park, and Wombwell Summer Lane car park for symptomatic residents.
- There is capacity at the sites, so please encourage anyone with symptoms to get a test.
- Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) site available -

- Queen Street car park, Goldthorpe, S63 9ND. Open every day until Sunday 7 February, from 9am to 3pm from 2nd-9th Feb 2021. This is a 'Drive to' AND 'Walk in' service.
- The MTU is site decided on a weekly basis, and considers which areas have the greatest need.

Asymptomatic/Mass Community Testing

- Lateral Flow Testing pilot, initially for BMBC asymptomatic frontline and critical worker staff at the Metrodome, has now been rolled out wider to any critical worker living or working across the borough. Currently 11 positive cases have been identified in asymptomatic individuals.

School Testing

- Primary and Secondary schools have closed following the government announcement January 5th, with exceptions for vulnerable children and the children of some key workers.
- Both primary and secondary schools across the borough now have LFT (Lateral Flow testing) through the National Programme. Early Years settings have access to the Metrodome community testing provision.

Vaccinations

- Local NHS is leading the vaccination rollout in Barnsley, and confirmed last week that over 18,000 people have received a COVID-19 vaccine since the programme was rolled out a month ago across the borough.
- Priority groups identified by the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Groups of GP practices are working together to vaccinate people aged over 80, health care workers, care home residents and staff. So far practices have vaccinated over half of the over 80s and the majority of care home residents and staff.
- Residents will be contacted by the NHS when it is their turn to have the vaccine, either via phone or a letter from GP or the national booking system.
- People urged not to call their GP or NHS services about when they will get the vaccine, as services are inundated at the moment and will not be able to respond.
- Vaccinations being delivered at Priory Campus and two other sites as part of the initial vaccination programme and are supported by some of our Community responder volunteers.
- For those who are in priority groups but housebound, the vaccination team will start taking the vaccine out to people in their home. People will be contacted directly to book their appointment.
- Barnsley Hospital and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust are also successfully vaccinating their staff as well as some of the wider health and care workforce.
- While the vaccine will protect those who have it from being very sick, the virus is still being transmitted. We must all continue to adhere to the Hands, Face,

Space guidance and limit contact with others as much as possible to prevent further infections, even if you have received a vaccination.

- Reports of some people in the priority cohorts having received invitations to the large-scale vaccination site across the region, offering more choice of venues. Residents can turn down the offer if they cannot travel to the large-scale vaccination sites or would prefer to be vaccinated in Barnsley, and will not be removed from the vaccination list. They would not need to do anything with the letter and their GP practice should call over the following few weeks.

Recommendations

Members to note the information in the report and consider the following;

- Continue to encourage local communities to get tested, especially if they have symptoms
- Extend and encourage local connections with NEOs/COVID Marshals to feedback any community-based intelligence especially in relation to increased levels of cases in particular areas
- Make any further comments on this report and its format/content

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03/02/2021

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03/02/2021



Barnsley, let's fight this virus together!

We've heard you make an impact in your community and would like you to help us reach as many Barnsley people as possible.

In January we want to hold some workshops with one aim: **How do we make sure Barnsley comes through COVID-19 stronger, united and ready to thrive?**

These workshops need to represent everyone living in Barnsley so as well as signing up to the workshop yourself [here](#), we'd like you to spread the word.

The attached PDF explains all. Feel free to send this PDF and information on to the people of Barnsley so together we can make sure no voice in Barnsley is left unheard.

In Barnsley, we stick together, and we help each other out. In Barnsley, we don't just talk about things, we do them. Thank you for being part of the solution.

If you'd like to share this on your social media channels, attached are some images and you can use the suggested text below:

- 1) How do we make sure Barnsley comes through COVID-19, stronger, united and ready to thrive? Sign up to a workshop and tell us how: <http://bit.ly/C19barnsley>.
- 2) You're all invited, have your say on how Barnsley makes it through COVID-19. Join the workshops here: <http://bit.ly/C19barnsley>.