

Date of issue: Monday, 1st February 2021

MEETING:	SLOUGH OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD
	COUNCILLORS: Pantelic (Health & Wellbeing)(Chair) Swindlehurst (Leader of the Council) (Vice Chair) Akram (Governance & Customer Services) Anderson (Sustainable Transport & Environmental Services) Bains (Inclusive Growth & Skills) Carter (Children & Schools) Mann (Planning & Regulation) Nazir (Housing & Community Safety)
	COUNCIL OFFICERS: Joe Carter (Director of Transformation) Stephen Gibson (Executive Director of Place) Kate Pratt (Communications Manager) Alan Sinclair (Executive Director of Adults & Communities), Richard West (Executive Director Customer & Community) Neil Wilcox (Director of Finance & Resources) Josie Wragg (Chief Executive of the Council) Suzanne Foley (Public Health Representative) Eleni Ioannides (Interim Executive Director for Children/SCST Chief Executive)
	PARTNER AGENCIES: Tracey Faraday-Drake (ICS Place Lead) Ramesh Kukar (Voluntary and Community Sector Representative) Colin Pill (Slough Healthwatch Representative) Supt Gavin Wong (Thames Valley Police Representative)
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 5.00 PM
VENUE:	VIRTUAL MEETING
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NICHOLAS PONTONE 07749 709 868

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



JOSIE WRAGG
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.	Declarations of Interest	-	-
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 12th January 2021	1 - 6	-
3.	Public Questions	-	All
4.	Communications Update	7 - 10	All
5.	Local Covid-19 Status Report	Presentation	All
6.	Vaccination Programme Update	-	-
7.	National and Local Key Messages	-	-
8.	Members Attendance Record	11 - 12	-
9.	Date of Next Meeting - 9th March 2021, 5pm	-	-

Press and Public

This meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Part I of this meeting will be live streamed as required by the regulations. The press and public can access the meeting from the following link (by selecting the meeting you wish to view):

<http://democracy.slough.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Please note that the meeting may be recorded. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain.

The press and public will not be able to view any matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

Slough Outbreak Engagement Board – Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th January, 2021.

Present:- Councillors Pantelic (Chair), Swindlehurst (Vice-Chair), Anderson, Bains, Carter, Mann, and Nazir.

SBC Officers: Tessa Lindfield (Director of Public Health), Suzanne Foley (Public Health Representative), Kate Pratt (Communications Manager), Alan Sinclair (Executive Director of People (Adults)), Joe Carter (Director of Transformation), , Josie Wragg (Chief Executive of the Council)

Partner Agencies: Superintendent Gavin Wong (Thames Valley Police Representative), Ramesh Kukar (Slough CVS), Dr Jim O'Donnell CCG) and Tracey Faraday-Drake (ICS Place Lead)

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillor Strutton

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Akram

PART 1

41. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

42. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 8th December 2020

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

43. Public Questions

Three questions were put and answered at the meeting and the responses are summarised as follows:

- What is lateral flow testing?
It was form of test for coronavirus that used a swab from the nose and throat that delivered results in around 30 minutes. Faster results were possible because the samples did not need to be sent for laboratory analysis like the main PCR test for coronavirus. These rapid tests were being used in communities and for specific purposes to identify infected people who did not have symptoms. Any residents who had symptoms should arrange for a test in the usual way through the gov.uk website and would be test at Montem.
- Do lateral flow tests work?
The tests were not as sensitive as the 'gold standard' PCR test but they were useful if identifying asymptomatic cases that would otherwise

go undetected and could therefore help change behaviour and break chains of community transmission.

- Can asymptomatic people still transmit the virus in the community?
Yes. It was estimated that 1 in 3 people with the virus did not display any symptoms and this was a significant cause of transmission.

44. Communications Update

The Communications Manager gave an update on the key communications activities and messages since the last meeting.

The Board considered and discussed the following update:

- There had been significant changes to the level of restrictions over the period including the introduction of Tier 4 in December and the third national 'lockdown' announced on 4th January. This had been a focus for communications activity to help try to explain the new and changing regulations.
- A wide variety of communication channels had been used including social media, community champions and the use of variable message signs etc.
- Communications had been heavily involved in the planning of the community testing programme with lateral flow test devices. A mixture of static and mobile sites would be used over the course of the programme.
- There had been a major recruitment drive for volunteers and once again this had been very successful with an excellent response from the community.
- The communications team had been answering lots of questions about the vaccination programme which was now scaling up.

Councillor Strutton asked several questions under Rule 30, including about the progress of vaccinations at care homes. Tracey Faraday-Drake of the Frimley Collaborate of the NHS responded that care homes had been a key early priority of the vaccination programme and it was expected they would be completed locally by the end of the week.

The Board noted that a wide range of Covid-19 statistics were available on the Berkshire Public Health website:

www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19-dashboard

The Board noted the update.

Resolved – That the communications update provided be noted.

45. Local Covid-19 Status Report

The Service Lead, Public Health gave a presentation that summarised Slough's current Covid-19 status.

The following points were noted:

- Covid-19 cases appeared to be starting to fall slightly but remained extremely high. The weekly rate per 100,000 population was 1,059 overall and 1,019 in the over 60s, which was of particular concern given the likely impact on hospitalisations.
- The percentage of tests being reported as positive was 26.6%.
- Data indicated that most cases were the new variant first discovered in Kent.
- Hospitals were under severe pressure with Covid-19 admissions very high and a large number of staff either sick or self-isolating.

The three different lateral flow test programmes were explained – national, director of public health and Slough's 6 week community testing programme. This was an area that had rapidly evolved since it was announced Slough would be able to apply for a community programme as part of entering Tier 3. The new national 'lockdown' had had an impact on the community testing programme but it was still considered to be a very useful tool in identifying asymptomatic cases in Slough. The programme would start tomorrow for the public and local residents without symptoms were encouraged to get tested. The sites and booking details were noted and the Board welcomed the support from partners including from Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service. The programme was an opportunity to engage local people and provide advice and information as part of the process. In relation to the other testing programmes it was noted that the national programme currently focused on care homes and schools and the director of public health programme was focused on key workers unable to work from home. It was likely to be merged with the community programme in due course.

The chair invited comments and questions from Board members and the following points were noted:

- The Board thanked all those involved in the community testing programme, which had been a huge collective effort to organise.
- A Member asked what people should do if they had not received their PCR test results several weeks after it being carried out at Montem. It was responded that the Montem site was nationally run and overall results were being returned quickly and efficiently. However, where results were awaited the resident was advised to call 119 – the number for NHS Test and Trace.
- The future of the testing site at Montem was raised as the site was due to be redeveloped later in the year. The potential future testing strategy was discussed. The Director of Public Health stated that a large PCR testing site would still be needed in Slough beyond March when the current agreement for Montem expired. As well as lateral flow tests there was new testing technology being trialled including saliva tests and the mix of tests would likely change through the year.

- The messages given to someone with a negative lateral flow test was discussed. A script was in place for staff at the testing sites and it was made clear in communications that a negative lateral flow test result did not necessarily mean someone did not have the virus. People must still follow the rules even with a negative test.
- Members asked how the community testing programme would reach the most deprived areas of Slough. The Service Lead explained the detailed planning that had taken place to target mobile testing sites in areas where need was greatest, both in terms of the number of cases and population factors. Community groups and teams would be involved to encourage people to come forward for tests. It was agreed to keep ward councillors informed of testing sites in their areas.
- Speaking under Rule 30 Councillor Strutton stated that it was important to promote vaccine take up in hard to reach communities. It was responded that the vaccination programme was in its early stages and currently people were being called for vaccination based on the national priority lists recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the report was noted.

Resolved – That the Local Covid-19 Status presentation be noted.

46. National and Local Key Messages

The key messages were summarised as follows:

- People should follow the key national messages of Stay at Home and 'Hands, Face and Space'.
- People should act as though they had the virus.
- If people had symptoms they should book a test at Montem.
- People without symptoms were encouraged to book a lateral flow test.
- People should be encouraged to attend their vaccine appointment when offered.

A question was asked about places of worship. They could open, subject to operating in a Covid secure way and the Council had written to them to confirm the current regulations.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton asked what joint work was happening with neighbouring areas of Buckinghamshire and asked if the Council could provide some form of identifier for people exempt from wearing masks in supermarkets for example. The Communications Manager reported that they were in regular contact with Bucks Council and worked cross-border through the Local Resilience Forum. In relation to mask identifiers, there was no centrally organised or approved way of identifying those people exempt from wearing masks. Communications had been issued to say people should

Slough Outbreak Engagement Board - 12.01.21

be aware that some non-mask wearers would be medically exempt and treated sensitively. The major mask related problem was incorrect wearing of masks and there had been a significant amount of communications work to inform people about how to wear masks properly, which was crucial to their usefulness.

Partners were encouraged to coordinate messaging where appropriate.

Resolved – That the key national and local messages be noted.

47. Members Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Attendance Record be noted.

48. Date of Next Meeting - 9th February 2021, 5pm

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 9th February 2021 at 5pm.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.00 pm)

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Pontone Nicholas

Subject:

FW: Slough's covid newsletter - 27 January 2021



Slough covid newsletter – 27 January 2021

Welcome to the ninth edition of Slough's covid newsletter; brought to you by Slough Borough Council and Slough Public Health.

We hope you are all staying well, staying home as much as you can but maybe had the chance to enjoy the snow we had – even if just to look at how pretty everything seemed.

Latest data

As of today, Slough has 796.4 cases per 100,000 of the population.

This is another decrease on last week but with other areas' cases falling far more significantly, Slough still has the third worst rates in the country.

Unfortunately our high case rates have inevitably led to an increase in the number of residents needing hospitalisation due to covid.

In the week ending 15 January (the latest data we have) another 24 Slough residents died of covid – almost double the number of the week before. Our thoughts remain with their families and friends.

Get a test

It's free, it's fast and it's friendly, you don't need to have symptoms and there is a site near you – so why not get a rapid

covid test?

No appointment necessary – just drop in during opening hours to:

- The Centre, Farnham Road – Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am – 6pm
- Langley College Sports Hall – Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am – 6pm
- Arbour Park, Stoke Road – Thursday 28 January to Saturday 30 January, 10am – 6pm
- JMIC Mosque, Stoke Poges Lane – Monday 1 February to Wednesday 3 February, 10am – 6pm

And this isn't a one hit wonder – you can visit more than once if you like.

In fact people who need to work outside the home – like delivery drivers, nursery workers, shopkeepers, taxi drivers, retail workers and many more or people who work with groups of others like childminders – are advised to take a test twice a week.

So if that is you – we are here for you! Just pop in and see us.

More information here:

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus/mass-rapid-testing>

Tests can not be done on those under 12 or on people who should be isolating after close contact with someone who is covid positive.

Vaccinations

Slough's vaccination centre hit the news again this week after a visit from Ross Kemp who came to see the amazing work being done by our volunteer force – helping residents from Slough and beyond get their covid jab. You can see his report on the Lorraine show here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdGe_M5Ew5I

The vaccination roll-out is going really well in Slough – so when you get your invite make sure you get your jab.

There is nothing to be afraid of – it is quick, easy and safe; all under strict medical supervision and with the support of your local doctor.

But if you are concerned, have heard or seen some of the

misinformation going around or are just worried about the background to how the vaccine has been developed so fast, our public health team has put together a whole host of information to help

<https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/covidvaccine/>

And this week celebrities from minority communities have released a special video calling out some of the myths going around about the vaccine. Definitely worth a watch so you can have the facts, not the speculation. You can see it here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2Ald_Ahbl

Have you had your vitamin D?

We're spending more time indoors with less opportunity for vitamin D from the sun so the latest advice is we should all be taking a supplement.

Vitamin D is great for building a strong immune system and fighting infection – even coronavirus, so a bit extra can't hurt. Vitamin D supplements are especially important for certain residents too – like pregnant women, those with darker skin who might not absorb as much from the sun, children and those with long term medication conditions – like those clinically vulnerable to coronavirus.

For the full list and to find out more head to:

<https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/vitamind/>

More information

For more information on the national lockdown and what it means to all of us please see here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

You can get the latest data and information on the cases in Slough from the public health Berkshire dashboard here:

<https://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19-dashboard> Just click on Slough on the map.

The latest information on help from the council is at <https://www.slough.gov.uk/> including grants available and help for those who may be struggling.

If you think you could help the local community by spreading messages and keeping people up to date on the latest covid news we would love to have you as a community champion. Find out more here: <https://oneslough.org.uk/champions/>

With best wishes

Slough Borough Council

SLOUGH OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD - ATTENDANCE RECORD 2020-21

MEMBER	05/08/20	16/09/20	07/10/20	10/11/20	08/12/20	12/01/21
Councillor Pantelic (Chair)	P	P	P	P	P	P
Councillor Swindlehurst (Vice-Chair)	Ap	P	P	P	P	P
Councillor Akram	P	Ab	Ap	Ap	P	Ap
Councillor Anderson	P	Ab	P	P	P	P
Councillor Bains	P	P	P	P	P	P
Councillor Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P
Councillor Mann	P	P	P	P	P	P
Councillor Nazir	P	P	Ap	P	P	P
Joe Carter - Director of Transformation	P	P	P	Ap	Ap	P
*Eleni Ioannides - Interim Executive Director for Children/SCST Chief Executive				P	P	Ap
Stephen Gibson - Executive Director of Place	P	P	Ap	P	Ab	Ap
Kate Pratt - Communications Manager	P	P	P	P	P	P
Alan Sinclair - Executive Director of People (Adults)	P	P	P	P	P	P
Richard West - Executive Director of Customer & Community	P	P	P	P	P	Ap
Neil Wilcox - Executive Director of Corporate Operations	Ap	Ap	P	P	P	Ap
Josie Wragg - Chief Executive of the Council	P	P	P	P	P	P
*Suzanne Foley – Public Health Representative		Ab	P	P	P	P

Tracey Faraday-Drake (ICS Place Lead)	P	P	P	Ap	P	P
Ramesh Kukar - Voluntary and Community Sector Representative)	P	Substitute	P	P	Ap	P
Colin Pill – (Slough Healthwatch Representative)	Ab	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap
Superintendent Gavin Wong – (Thames Valley Police)	P	P	P	P	P	P

P = Present Ap = Apologies given Ab = Absent, no apologies given

*Dr Liz Brutus left the Board on 6th August 2020

*Suzanne Foley joined the Board on 8th September 2020

*Cate Duffy no longer a Board Member from 30th October 2020

*Eleni Ioannides joined the Board on 10th November 2020