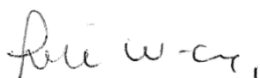


Date of issue: 2 November 2021

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>SLOUGH OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD</b> <b>COUNCILLORS:</b> (Pantelic (Health & Wellbeing)(Chair), Swindlehurst (Leader of the Council) (Vice Chair), Akram (Leisure, Culture & Communities), Anderson (Sustainable Transport & The Environment), Bains (Regulation & Public Protection), Carter (Customer Services & Corporate Support), Hulme (Children's Services, Lifelong Learning & Skills) and Mann (Housing, Highways, Planning & Place).)  <b>COUNCIL OFFICERS:</b> Dr Sohail Bhatti (Interim Service Lead Public Health), Joe Carter (Director of Transformation), Stephen Gibson (Executive Director of Place), Kate Pratt (Group Manager, Communications), Alan Sinclair (Executive Director of People (Adults)), Richard West (Executive Director Customer & Community), Josie Wragg (Chief Executive of the Council), Michael Jarrett (Associate Director, Children and Families), Stuart Lines (Director of Public Health for Berkshire East) and Dr Vanita Dutta (Public Health Representative)  <b>PARTNER AGENCIES:</b> Cl Lee Barnham (Thames Valley Police Representative), Neil Bolton-Heaton (Healthwatch East Berkshire), Tracey Faraday-Drake (ICS Place Lead) and Ramesh Kukar (Voluntary and Community Sector Representative)
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	<b>TUESDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 5.00 PM</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>VIRTUAL MEETING</b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER:</b> (for all enquiries)	<b>MANIZE TALUKDAR</b> <b>07871 982 919</b>

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 12 October 2021 | 1 - 6         |
| 3. | Public Questions                                    |               |
| 4. | Communications Update                               | To Be Tabled  |
| 5. | Local Covid-19 Status Report                        | To Be Tabled  |
| 6. | Vaccine Update                                      | Verbal Report |
| 7. | Interim Plan for the Autumn of 2021                 | To Be Tabled  |
| 8. | National & Local Key Messages                       | Verbal Report |
| 9. | Date of Next Meeting                                |               |

14 December 2021 at 5.00pm.

#### **Press and Public**

**Attendance and accessibility:** You are welcome to attend this virtual meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before any items in the Part II agenda are considered.

**Webcasting and recording:** The public part of the meeting will be filmed by the Council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The footage will remain on our website for 12 months. A copy of the recording will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

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

**Present:-** Councillors Swindlehurst (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Anderson, Bains, Carter and Mann  
 Ramesh Kukar Voluntary and Community Sector Representative  
 Supt Wong Thames Valley Police Representative  
 Dr Sohail Bhatti Interim Service Lead Public Health  
 Kate Pratt Group Manager, Communications  
 Alan Sinclair Executive Director of People (Adults)

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Strutton

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Pantelic  
 Michael Jarrett Associate Director, Children and Families  
 Stuart Lines Director of Public Health for Berkshire East  
 Dr Vanita Dutta Public Health Representative  
 Tracey Faraday-Drake ICS Place Lead

**33. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

**34. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

**35. Public Questions**

No questions from the public had been received.

**36. Communications Update & Communications Plan**

The SBC Communications Manager provided an update on the key Communications activities and messages since the last meeting of the Board and responded to questions as follows:

- The Communications Plan for the autumn/winter 2021/22 was in the process of being finalised and would be presented at the next meeting.
- Current Communications planning continued to focus on vaccine uptake as a large proportion of Slough's population had still not been vaccinated.

## Slough Outbreak Engagement Board - 12.10.21

- Her team were supporting the NHS campaign 'Someone like me' which was aimed at encouraging vaccine uptake among 12-15 year olds.
- Her team were supporting the schools' immunisation teams and looking at cohorts who were more vaccine-hesitant. A campaign to tackle this issue across East Berkshire was planned.

Following questions and comments it was advised that:

- The vaccine-hesitant communities had been identified as the Eastern European community, and that this may be due to cultural reasons as there was not a culture of vaccine take up in their countries of origin. Low vaccine take up amongst Eastern Europeans was particularly high in Bracknell, and the communications team were looking at shared messaging using national social media forums with Bracknell. Vaccine hesitancy was also high in the Black Community and in the Pakistani community and among 29-50 year olds generally.
- The annual flu campaign was underway and it would be possible to provide both covid and flu vaccines within the same setting. Langley and Salt Hill were offering both. GP surgeries were undertaking their own campaigns and children would receive the flu vaccine at schools once they had received the Covid vaccine.
- Current data showed that over 75% of covid deaths were among the unvaccinated and this figure was rising. Her team were continuing to focus on promoting the importance being vaccinated in order to prevent the infection spreading into the vaccinated population.

**ACTION 1:** The Communications Plan for the autumn/winter 2021/22 be presented at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** That the Communications Update be noted.

### 37. Local Covid-19 Status Report

The SBC Interim Public Health Service Lead provided a summary of Slough's current Covid-19 status. He advised that:

- There were around 420 cases per week in Slough and this figure was one of the highest in the South East. Most of the infected were school-aged children and their parents. The most recent data showed that the rise was mainly in the 11-21 age range.
- To date six schools (mix of primary & secondary) had reported ten or more cases and four of these met the threshold for an outbreak. The latest Department for Education guidance to schools emphasised that the education of children was paramount. Different schools had different pressures and had taken different approaches to covid safety. It should be noted that children were less likely to be tested than adults and high infection rates among this group could be hidden. He emphasized the importance of monitoring 5-10 year olds.
- The Office National Statistics had published a report regarding infection rates. The report showed that those who were no longer following

government guidelines regarding social distancing, wearing masks or avoiding extensive social contact were twice as likely to become infected. Those who came into contact with 6-10 year olds were 1.6 times more likely to get covid. Households of three or more and multi-generational households were more likely to become infected.

- Data showed that there were high rates of vaccine hesitancy among Black and South Asian populations as well as among those who described themselves White non-British.
- With regard to vaccine uptake rates – it should be noted that there were potentially sixty thousand people who had not been vaccinated in Slough and the number of those who were yet to receive the second dose was lower in comparison to neighbouring towns.

Following a question about what safety measures schools had chosen to implement, the SBC Interim Public Health Service Lead stated that in his view, most outbreaks were due to community transmission. He stated that Public Health England had not changed its symptom complex following the advent of the delta variant which had different symptoms, which included a blocked nose and headache. Covid was known to cause impaired kidney function in the long term hence the importance of continuing to promote vaccine uptake among school children.

Following a suggestion from a Member, the SBC Interim Public Health Service Lead undertook look into covid safety measures implemented by each school to see if this data could be gathered.

**ACTION 2:** SBC Interim Public Health Service Lead undertook look into covid safety measures implemented by each school to see if this data could be gathered.

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

### 38. Vaccine Update

The Interim Public Health Service Lead

- Flu vaccine uptake had been particularly low in 2016/2017. Following the flu campaign in 2020 the uptake had been much higher and was expected be the same this year. More people were coming forward for the flu vaccine as a result of covid.
- Communications messaging was reiterating the safety of the vaccine as it had been a year since its advent and focussing their message on the benefits of being vaccinated, for example being able to take holidays abroad.
- The mobile unit continued to be deployed and was offering both the first and second dose.
- 12-15 year olds were being offered the vaccine at school however, parental consent for this was low in Slough. The vaccine would also be offered to school children at PCN vaccination sites outside school hours where hesitant parents would be offered more information and support.

## Slough Outbreak Engagement Board - 12.10.21

- GPs would be providing both the flu and covid vaccines in Care homes and the covid booster and flu vaccines would shortly be rolled out to those who were housebound.
- Five new Community pharmacies would be offering covid and flu vaccinations.
- Work with partners and local faith leaders would continue and local social and cultural organisations would also be contacted for support. Leaflet distribution in a locality prior to the mobile unit turning up was expected to improve vaccine uptake.

Following questions, it was advised that:

- There were no hindrances to pregnant women being offered the vaccine, and lack of uptake was mainly due to vaccine scepticism. It was important to note that pregnant women were often one of the largest casualties of flu and covid hospitalisation rates among pregnant women was of concern. The latest advice to pregnant women was that the covid vaccine was safe for them.

The Chair suggested that the Council's autumn publications reiterate the message about vaccinations.

**ACTION 3:** The Council's autumn publications reiterate the message about vaccinations.

**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

### 39. Plan for the Autumn/Winter of 2021/22

The SBC Interim Public Health Service Lead stated that the draft plan was in the process of being finalised. It comprised a new local implementation plan for infection, a new communications plan with vaccination, the latest government guidelines and local contact tracing as key measures as well as promoting testing within institutional settings, for example, in schools.

**ACTION 4:** The Plan for the Autumn/Winter of 2021/22 be submitted at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** That the verbal update be noted

### 40. National & Local Key Messages

The national and local key messages were summarised as:

- Continue to encourage vaccination take up for those not yet vaccinated by emphasising that mortality rates were lower for those who had been vaccinated and additional benefits such as the ease of being able to take holidays abroad.

**Resolved –** That the National & Local Key Messages be noted.

**41. Date of Next Meeting -**

Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 5.00pm

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.00 pm and closed at 5.57 pm)

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