

Report of the Director of Public Health to the meeting of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 17th November 2020

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Subject:

An update on COVID-19 in Bradford District

Summary statement:

This report provides an update on COVID-19 in Bradford District. It describes the response to the first wave of the COVID 19 pandemic between March and September. The latest data on cases, admissions and deaths are included. The report sets out how the Bradford District COVID-19 response is being managed during the second wave, explaining the leadership role of the COVID-19 Management Group and the ten working groups that feed it. The report concludes with a section on horizon scanning, considering developments which may impact on how we control COVID-19 in the future.

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Portfolio:

Healthy People and Place

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Health and Social Care

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on COVID-19 in Bradford District. It describes the response to the first wave of the COVID 19 pandemic between March and September. The latest data on cases, admissions and deaths are included. The report sets out how the Bradford District COVID-19 response is being managed during the second wave, explaining the leadership role of the COVID-19 Management Group and the ten working groups that feed it. The report concludes with a section on horizon scanning, considering developments which may impact on how we control COVID-19 in the future.

2. BACKGROUND

In June, Sarah Muckle, the Director of Public health, presented to the committee giving an overview of the COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan including updates on testing, NHS Test and Trace and outbreak management. In August Ms Muckle was invited by the committee to return to give a more detailed briefing on the impact COVID-19 has had on health inequalities. This report builds on previous reports and provides an update on COVID-19 in Bradford district including the epidemiology of the disease, local control measures, local plans to control COVID-19 and horizon scanning.

3. REPORT ISSUES

3.1 Response to controlling COVID-19, wave one March – September 2020

The Council originally developed Terms of Reference for the Covid Emergency Response on the 17th March 2020. This was based around an Emergency Management approach of Gold, Silver and Bronze commands, with Bronze commands established for five thematic areas of work. Since then, the district (as per nationally), has gone through a partial period of recovery but is now experiencing what is expected to be a second wave.

Between March and September, the COVID-19 response was been coordinated through the Test and Trace Steering Group chaired by public health. This group met weekly and had representatives from environmental health, education, care homes, primary care, local contact tracing, testing, outbreak control, VCFS partners, Bevan House, education and engagement and programme management reporting in. The group is responsible for delivering a work programme and produces monthly highlight reports to the Outbreak Control Board. The Outbreak Control Board is chaired by Cllr Hinchliffe and currently meets weekly.

Key successes include:

- Developing and publishing the outbreak management plan including joint working agreements which have been exercised with partners and is being used
- Developing high quality daily intelligence briefings
- Recruiting to a Bradford District COVID-19 Control Team and successfully managing outbreaks
- Recruiting additional environmental health and infection prevention and control staff
- Delivering comprehensive advice for education settings

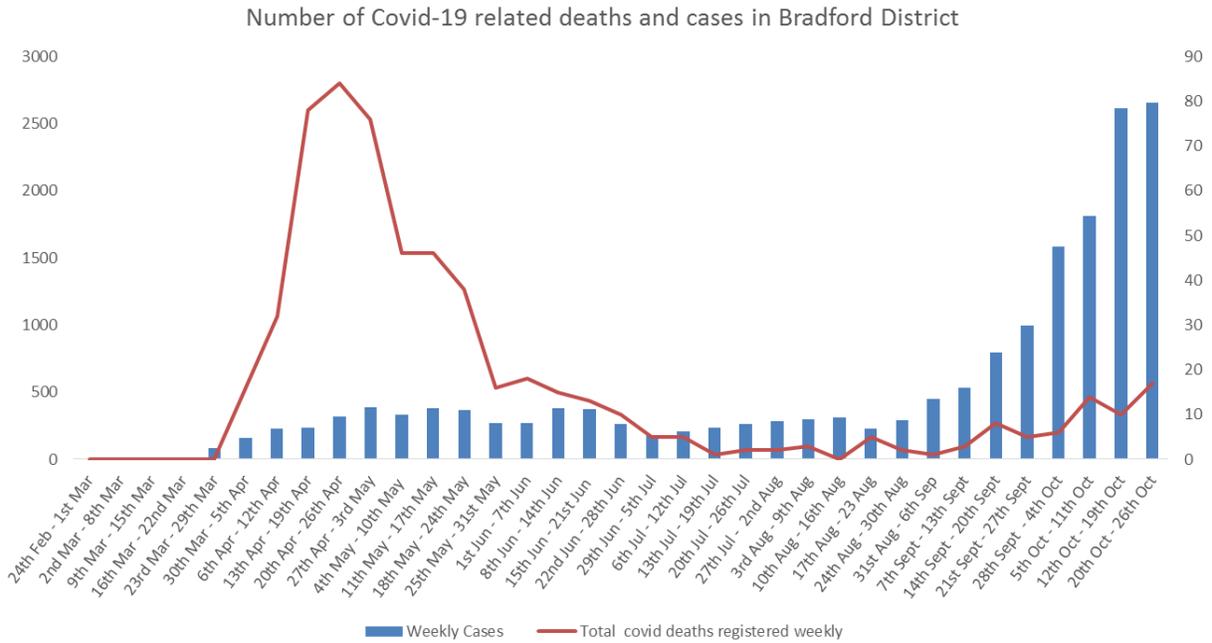
- Delivering comprehensive advice and infection prevention and control support for care homes
- Writing a Testing Strategy
- Securing additional testing capacity for the district including the City Centre walk up site, additional mobile testing units, 1500 home testing kits a week and an indoor testing site in Victoria Hall, Keighley
- Delivering proactive and reactive communications and developing communications materials for partners to use
- Supporting high risk work places to become COVID-19 secure
- Contributing to the work of the Covid Scientific Advisory Group
- Investing in community anchor organisations to deliver engagement and education and to support with testing, outbreak management and support to isolate if required. 14 anchors managed by Community Action Bradford and District (CABAD) covering the district, 6 anchors targeting people with protected characteristics, 4 community anchor organisations managed by The Race Equality Network (REN), targeting black Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, 21 grants administered by REN to deliver grassroots COVID control work with BAME organisations, an agreement with Bevan to ensure inclusion of marginalised groups of people and partnerships with 11 organisations who support the most excluded members of our committee, investment into Youth Work and Wardens to deliver targeted engagement support including distribution of facemasks, hand sanitiser and leaflets and posters. A system has been developed to feedback intelligence from insight gathered and this will inform the new weekly health intelligence resource.

This work has been stretching, Colin Cox, the Director of Public Health for Cumbria has described the challenge of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as “building the plane whilst we are flying the plane”. In September the programme management arrangements to control COVID-19 were reviewed and a more robust system was put in place. This will be described in section 3.3.

3.2 The current situation: epidemiology and restrictions

Figure 1 below shows COVID-19 cases and deaths from March to date. To the 26th of October there have been a total of 17,758 confirmed cases and 577 registered deaths in Bradford District. This graph does not clearly illustrate the first and second wave of infection. This is because mass testing only began on 26th April and Test and Trace began on 27th May, so in April the true number of cases will have been much higher than shown in figure one. Also there is a time lag between a person contracting COVID-19, becoming so ill they need to be admitted to hospital (typically 2 – 3 weeks) and dying (typically 3 - 4 weeks). In addition it is hoped that in the second wave of COVID-19 the case fatality rate, that is the number of people who die from COVID-19, may be lower due to improvements in treatment.

Figure 1: number of COVID 19 cases and deaths in Bradford District



The impact of the first and second wave is more obvious when we look at hospital admission and treatment data. Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5 show the number of cases in acute sites, number of cases in high dependency units or intensive treatment units, number of cases on non-invasive ventilation and number of cases using mechanical ventilation.

Figure 2: number of cases in acute sites

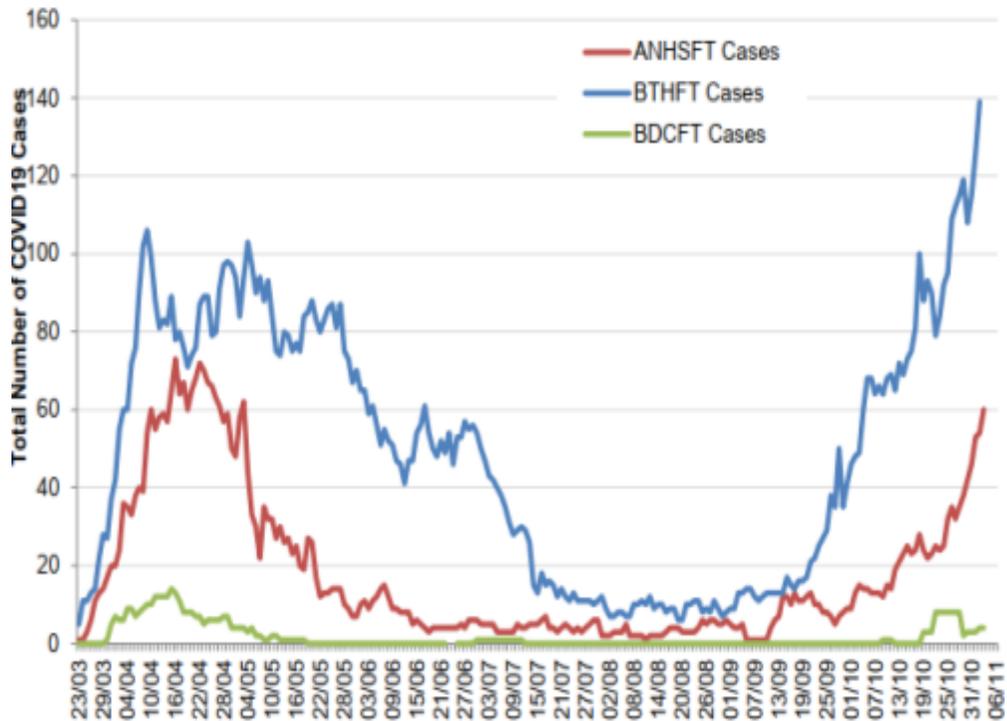


Figure 3: number of cases in HDU/ITU

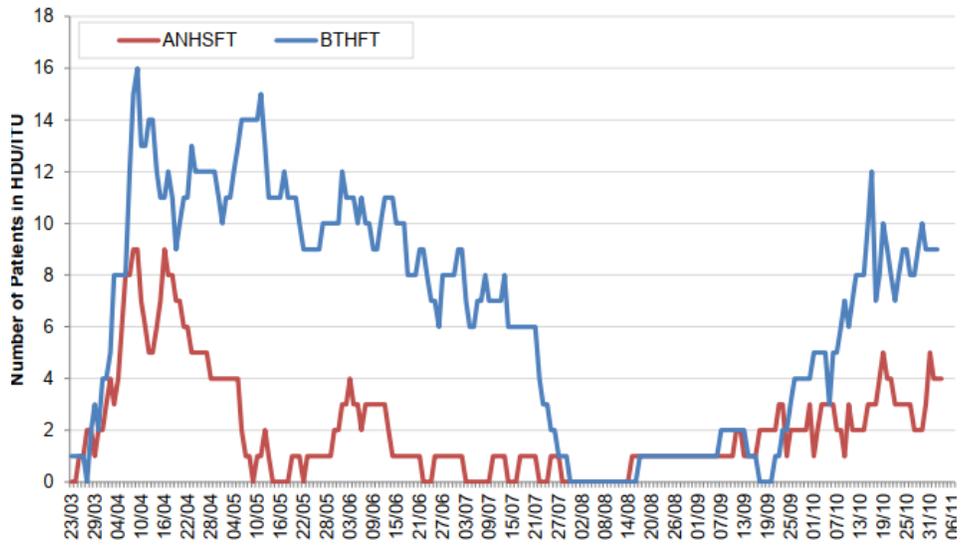


Figure 4: number of cases on non-invasive ventilation

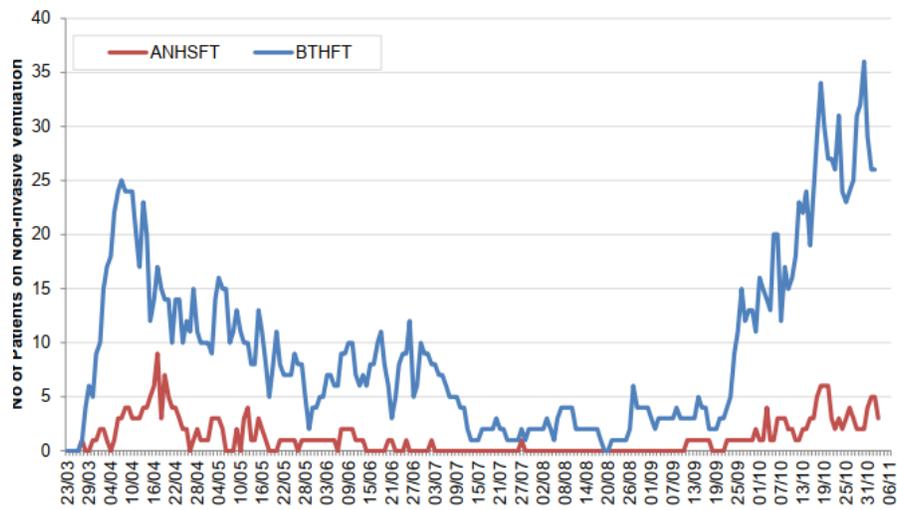
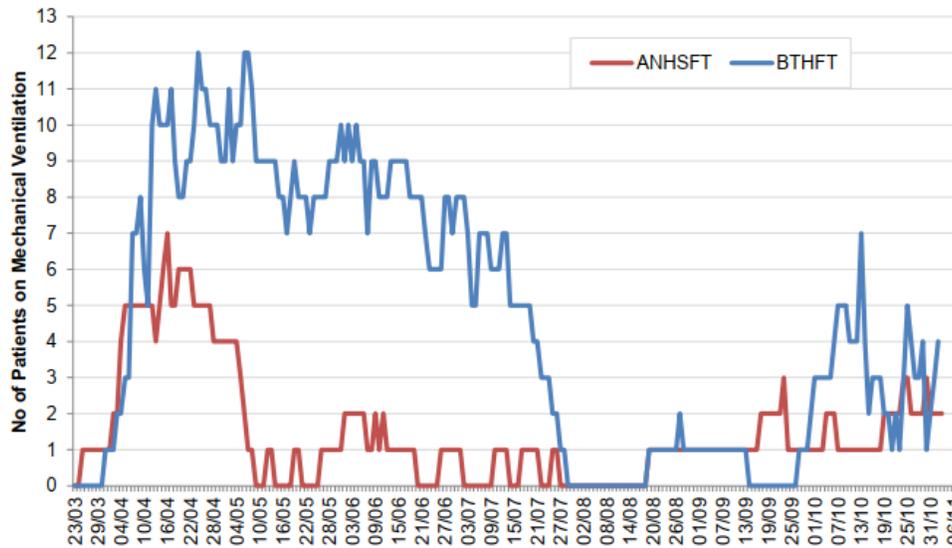


Figure 5: number of cases on invasive ventilation



These graphs show that for Bradford Teaching Hospital Trusts there are more in-patient cases than in the first wave of infection, and more cases on non-invasive ventilation.

In response to rising cases the government has introduced a tiered system of restrictions aiming to control the spread of the pandemic. Bradford District has been placed in Tier 2, meaning we have a high level of infection and are legally required to follow the Tier 2 restrictions illustrated in figure 6 below. This was reviewed and Bradford District was due to move into Tier 3 restrictions on 2nd November. Since that decision was made, the Prime Minister announced a decision to implement a national “lockdown” from 5th November – 2nd December. At the time of writing this is being debated by parliament.

Figure 6: tier 2 restrictions

<p>Social Contact</p> <p>1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.</p>		<p>Weddings and Funerals</p> <p>Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.</p>		<p>Overnight Stays</p> <p>Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.</p>		<p>Working from home guidance</p> <p>Work from home where possible.</p>	
<p>Shopping and Retail</p> <p>Open.</p>		<p>Leisure and gyms</p> <p>Open.</p>		<p>Hospitality</p> <p>Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.</p>		<p>Entertainment and tourist attractions</p> <p>Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.</p>	
<p>Education</p> <p>Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.</p>		<p>Healthcare Services</p> <p>Open.</p>		<p>Residential Care</p> <p>Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.</p>		<p>Travel and Transport</p> <p>May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.</p>	
<p>Sporting Activity</p> <p>Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).</p>		<p>Worship</p> <p>Open, subject to social contact rules.</p>		<p>Childcare</p> <p>Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.</p>		<p>Youth Clubs and Activities</p> <p>Permitted.</p>	

3.3 The COVID-19 Management Group and working groups

To formalise the Council's response and reporting arrangements for the COVID-19 second wave from October 2020 onwards a new structure has been set up to ensure that:

- All activity associated with Covid-19 within the Council and its work with partners is co-ordinated through one clear governance and reporting structure, and that decisions can be taken at the appropriate level.
- Actions and tasks requested through all levels of the governance structure are undertaken and acted upon in a timely manner.
- Issues and decisions are evaluated at an appropriate level, with issues escalated upwards when needed

3.3.1 The COVID-19 Management Group

The COVID-19 management group meets weekly and is chaired by Ian Day, Assistant Director Neighbourhood & Customer Services and Programme Director and Sarah Muckle, Director of Public Health. The group is fed by 10 working groups. The management group produces weekly health intelligence reports which guides the work of all other working groups and also a weekly highlight report made from reports on set key performance indicators from each working group. These reports are shared with the Health Protection Assurance Group and the Outbreak Control Board.

3.3.2 Intelligence and strategy

A weekly intelligence report is produced to support the work of the group. This report includes intelligence on cases, Bradford District's national ranking in terms of cases, our positivity rate (% of tests which are positive), age groups affected, ethnicity affected, priority wards, data on contact tracing, outbreaks, NHS activity and deaths and insight from local and national reports. The report also includes recommendations for priority areas of focus. The data in these reports are restricted as we use registrar death data which has not been cleaned and processed, so we are as up to date as possible and also data on small areas which cannot be public due to GDPR regulations. All data in this Health Overview and Scrutiny report are in the public domain.

3.3.3 Communications

The Communications approach for Bradford has been delivered through a partnership which includes the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). VCS partners include CABAD, the Council for Mosques and the Racial Equality Network who work with a network of 21 community based anchor organisations. All of these organisations meet twice weekly to coordinate communications. This model allows for agile and targeted communications that build on deep understanding of communities, operating as part of a wider joined up communications effort. Key highlights of the work so far include:

- The joint CABAD and Council campaign on “Behind the Mask” which tells real stories of people in Bradford and which has won national recognition, and which has appeared on billboard, bus rears and social media across the district.
- I-van and I-walkers – equipped with mobile messaging screens with community-led information and videos to take into the heart of high-risk areas x 30 days.
- Created ‘COVID Minute’ videos – raft of TV-style interview films where the public’s big questions on the virus get the big answers and signposting
- Engagement with key influencers in the community (social workers, Imans; Health Professionals) to record and share info on guidance via video and social media and engage directly with community groups. In multiple languages
- Recent Face Covering campaign has seen by over 24,000 people – Make and Donate. This prompted, amongst others, group of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and EU Migrants who are being taught by Bradford College on a bespoke training course.
- Launched critical thinking and anti-rumour workshops and toolkits to enable community champions and ward councillors to debunk fake news and conspiracy theories
- Secured weekly BBC Radio 4 programme/BBC News online/regular TV/radio appearances – from which other media comms flow on a weekly basis
- CfM radio, Fast FM and Muslim Community Radio in addition to radio communications by mosques with their congregations; bought advertising on Fast FM and Muslim Community Broadcasting channels and on Samaa, Dunya, ITV and BBC TV. We have also had articles and advertising published in the Telegraph and Argus, Keighley News, Ilkley Gazette and Yorkshire Post and broadcast on other radio stations including Pulse, Heart, Capital, BCB and Stray fm.

Impact statistics include:

- 30,013 subscribers to our public Covid-19 email bulletins. To date we have sent 424 public Covid-19 email bulletins.
- Worked in partnership with social housing provider Incommunities to target residents of its 23,000 rented homes in Bradford
- 100K people weekly reach for social media posts including key messages and videos by our community Key Influencers
- Almost 1.5 million visits to the Council's website pages on Coronavirus which residents see as a trusted source of information.
- 26,032 page views on CABAD Coronavirus page which supports key government and local Council messages
- The Household Plan delivered to every household in the district with advice on staying safe.

A particular success came with the anti-rumour campaign. This campaign was done in partnership with Asian Sunday and was set up to respond to pervasive rumour on social media about children who tested positive being taken into care. The campaign included video content in English and community languages targeting both parents and young people. This included rap by a young artist Faisal Motin from Bradford, and videos made by a senior safeguarding lead and the Deputy Leader on the Council. This was supported by John Wright and his team and resulted in the fake news being taken down and an apology made.

The key focus for Autumn is:

- Continued information about the restrictions and the risk
- Shared communications messages for all staff employed across the system
Promotion of the importance of self-isolation and the support package available.
- More real life stories to promote compliance
- The "looking out for" campaign which the CCG are leading with the partnership
- Mental health support

3.3.4 Engage, educate, encourage and enforce working groups

There are two working groups – one with a focus on engagement, one with a focus on enforcement.

A range of activity has been delivered to support the Four Es model of engage, educate, encourage and then enforcement.

- Emergency Planning delivered a workshop for West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum and local authorities on how we would respond in a lockdown situation
- Environmental Health have proactively targeted high risk businesses e.g. food processing factories
- Emergency Planning have led twice daily tasking meetings involving multi-agency partners – neighbourhood teams, police, fire, public health, youth workers, wardens, volunteers, redeployed staff, environmental health, licencing
- A facility is in place for the public, Councillors and officers to report COVID-19 concerns through the council website

- Proactive work Environmental Health, Licencing and police visit premises together to engage, educate, encourage and enforce.
- Enforcement visits – people are visited if a breach of COVID-19 rules has been reported

The enforcement role of Police and the Council is challenging with legal restrictions changing. Expectations from the public around what is possible to enforce don't match with the powers available to the Council or Police.

From July the direction of Council and Police resources have been coordinated through a Localities Tasking Meeting. There is currently a 4 E's Meeting twice weekly tasking activity, which also reports into the local Resilience Forum Tactical Coordination Group on Enforcement.

To date the Police have issued 157 FPN's (fixed penalty notices) Environmental Health have issued 1 FPN and others are pending. Licensing aver issued 3 FPN's and others pending evidence review. Managers of one venue and one Gym have been prosecuted and taken to court and issued with a fine of over £10,000. One wedding venue has been closed due to Health and Safety issues and another wedding venue issued with a Direction to Close for failing to adhere to regulations. There is planned and coordinated joint activity between the Council's Environmental Health and Licensing Teams and West Yorkshire Police out of hours and at weekends, in addition to normal environmental health and licensing inspection visits. West Yorkshire Fire Service are also available to support officer capacity on visits to venues and premises.

The Bradford COVID-19 Hub led by the Neighbourhoods Service are delivering a number of engagement activities. Staff from the Hub are sharing information, resources, skills, languages and experience from across diverse sectors seeking to collectively target engagement with residents in neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces, commercial centres and business corridors where there are challenges with social distancing and compliance.

A new community information stand has been launched in the Broadway offering shoppers and visitors information, support and key messages to stay COVID-19 safe. There was a 40% compliance with face coverings prior to the information stand only. Feedback from Broadway has recorded a positive difference with shoppers now wearing masks with a 80 – 90% compliance. The project started on 18th September and four staff attend every day, two on the stand and two carry out engagement. From Monday 5th October, there has been a barrow at the entrance to Kirkgate Market and also staff on entrance to Oastler market. There are plans to extend this to the Airedale Centre in Keighley.

Staff from the Hub have recently met with officers from Environmental Health and Licensing to discuss more collaborative approaches to working. Colleagues in Environmental Health have worked with colleagues in Public Health to develop checklists and scripts for staff at the Hub to use when visiting certain businesses, such as close contact services and food businesses as these tend to be the most problematic in terms of compliance. If they are still non-compliant after two or three visits a formal letter is issued. The aim is that this co-ordinated approach will help to ensure businesses not complying can be identified and actions taken to robustly

inform enforcement if appropriate.

3.3.5 Testing working group

The purpose of the Testing Working Group is to implement the Bradford District Testing Strategy. The strategy has four aims:

- Controlling and preventing transmission of the virus by identifying cases, tracing their contacts and supporting cases and contacts to isolate – to break the chain of transmission and prevent and protect the spread of the disease amongst the population
- Surveillance to understand the spread of coronavirus and to target future testing
- Protecting NHS services to deliver testing to support the safety of staff and patients
- Protecting vulnerable groups to reduce the risk of infection in groups, communities or settings where there are greater risks.

The working group brings together colleagues from public health, the COVID-19 response hub, the CCG and adult social care.

The working group plans, directs and oversees local testing through all offers: door to door, Mobile Testing Units, locally run testing at Marley Fields for key workers, testing for residential care staff via the national portal and testing at the City Centre Local Testing Site, Bradford University Regional Testing Site and Victoria Hall Local Testing Site.

Recently approximately 15,000 tests each week have been facilitated (pillar 2 tests). Around 5,000 properties have been visited by the door to door testing team, targeting wards with highest COVID-19 incidence. Of these visits around 1,000 tests are undertaken. Around 800 tests a week are undertaken at Marley Fields.

The working group liaises with the Department of Health and Social Care engagement lead on testing and through this route remains up to date with future testing options. This enabled Bradford to secure home testing kits targeting asymptomatic residents in areas of high incidence and the City Centre site (which was initially run as a walk up drop in site, as well as Victoria Hall which is a national pilot indoor testing site. We also ran a pilot project offering testing to asymptomatic residents working in high risk occupations.

3.3.6 Local contact tracing working group

Over the last two months, Bradford Council has been building up local contact tracing capability with a team comprising of Local Authority staff and recent graduates of University of Bradford, trained by Public Health England. Co-ordinated with the national NHS Test and Trace service, the LCT team receive details daily of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 in the BMDC area, that the national team have been unable to reach.

The team of local contact tracers organise a series of text messages, phone calls and home visits to try and establish contact. Calls are made seven days a week and home visits are carried out Monday to Friday. To date 28 local contact tracers have participated, giving support and information to enable COVID-19 positive individuals to isolate as well as obtaining details of their close contacts. This information is the fed back to the national Test and Trace team, who in turn then

phone the close contacts to ensure they too are isolating and offering support. Since 18th September, 1,060 Bradford residents testing positive for COVID-19 have had details of their close contacts successfully collected by the local contact tracing team.

3.3.7 Outbreak control working group

Since June, the Bradford District COVID-19 Control Team have been responsible for overseeing and managing outbreaks and complex cases of COVID-19 which occur within the District, in line with the local COVID-19 [Outbreak Control Plan](#) Joint Working Agreements. This work is overseen by the Outbreak Control working group. The definition of an outbreak in a COVID-19 scenario is where two or more people with confirmed COVID-19 (positive test) are linked by a common settings. Single cases may be investigated in high-risk settings or where a case is complex.

To date we have been involved in the management of more than 48 care home situations, 67 education sector situations (including schools), and 47 workplace situations. We have also investigated complex cases including supporting vulnerable groups such as sex workers, Gypsy and Traveller groups, and those with substance misuse issues.

The working group includes representatives from Public Health, Environmental Health, Infection Prevention and Control, as well as Voluntary and Community Services. The team work closely with the Public Health England Health Protection Team (Yorkshire and Humber) to provide robust outbreak and complex case management. The team also work proactively to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through engagement and site visits to ensure COVID-19 Risk Assessments are in place, implemented and adhered to.

3.3.8 Education settings working group

Since the start of the Autumn term Public Health has been working closely with schools and the education sector to provide timely public health advice on preventing and managing COVID-19 cases in school.

To date there have been approximately 150 schools in Bradford District with cases of COVID-19. Just over 50% of cases are in teachers and school staff. In the majority of cases this is reflective of community transmission into schools from areas with a high COVID-19 rates with bubbles isolated and send staff and teachers sent home for 10-14 days.

There is a dedicated national Department of Education (DfE) support line for new cases. Schools are asked to report all new cases to the DfE, but also the Local Authority so we can assess the severity of any COVID-19 clusters and offer support (often with Public Health England input). In this way schools should get the level of support needed. We offer infection prevention and control guidance, practical support on managing social distancing in the school, signposting for mental health support and financial advice for parents (to encourage compliance with self-isolation), additional testing if needed, specimen letters for parents and follow up visits.

There have been some schools where we have clear evidence of in school transmission. In these cases we call an Incident Management Team between the

school, Local Authority, and Public Health England to clarify transmission dynamics and support the school to implement control measures in a more detailed way.

Due to the sheer numbers of schools effected it has been a huge challenge to support all schools in a timely way and our support pathway has evolved over the last 6 weeks. We have a separate work stream supporting Bradford University who have begun to see COVID-19 cases and a testing unit near halls of residence was rapidly mobilised to support the response.

A COVID-19 education meeting with head teachers, local authority education and public health departments, PHE and the local academic network is also held weekly to lead the work strategically. Public Health have also presented and taken part in Q&A sessions in webinars for head teachers and with teachers unions.

Key issues for management of COVID in schools are parental misunderstanding of when to isolate, staff fatigue in schools and the numbers of staff that are isolating in some schools make teaching rotas problematic.

A range of guidance and support documents have been produced by the Public Health team with parents to support schools.

- [COVID-19 infection protection and control guidance for education and early years](#)
- [One page poster - what to do if you have COVID in your school](#)
- [Letter All parents- single case in school V00.03](#)
- [Letter direct and proximity contacts in a school V00.03](#)
- [Letter for School on outbreak– Advice to Parents v00.03](#)
- [Questions to assist identifying COVID contacts in schools](#)
- [Educational setting check list for COVID Prevention](#)
- [Minimum dataset for schools for outbreak investigation V00 02](#)
- [Quick guide for parents on when children should attend school or isolate](#)
- [Safe opening of parent toddler groups](#)

3.3.9 Vulnerable adults working group

The Vulnerable adults working group ensures there is appropriate support for vulnerable adults across Bradford District. The council's Department of Health and Wellbeing have developed a COVID-19 Support Team. This team provides a dedicated care liaison support role for independent care providers in the response to COVID-19. The team supports local providers of residential/nursing care and community based services to vulnerable people providing advice, guidance and support in their response to COVID-19. This includes advice on infection, prevention and control; latest guidance; routine repeat asymptomatic testing of staff and residents and links to support to manage outbreaks. The team works in partnership with providers to promote the wellbeing and safety of service users and staff within the sector.

This group also provides support to residents in Bradford District who have previously been advised to shield from COVID-19. All people who have previously shielded have been written to and offered advice.

3.3.10 Finance and resources working group

The finances and resources are managed by the finance and resources working

group. Bradford District received £3.78 million from national government in June 2020. This money has been invested in the COVID-19 Control Team, Neighbourhoods Team, Youth Work Team, CABAD, Race Equality Network, Council for Mosques and Consultant in Public Health Capacity. Bradford Council has since invested in the COVID-19 Control Hub, 30 COVID-19 Marshals and a local track and trace service and is seeking funding from central government to pay for this.

3.4 Horizon scanning

Controlling COVID-19 depends on future developments. Key developments are mentioned here.

Support to isolate is crucial. According to a national survey (of approximately 32,000 people) only 18.2 percent of people asked to self-isolate do so for the full period that is required of them. This is likely to be a major cause of infection within communities and providing support to help people remain at home when asked to do so will play a key component in driving down infection rates locally. In order to respond, the Council is developing a team of people who will visit individuals and families that are self-isolating to check on their welfare and their individual support needs. Where possible we will tailor a response. Typically this could involve help with shopping or food supply, collection of medicine and prescriptions, finding a volunteer to help look after a family pet (dog walking etc) a connection to a befriending service for a friendly chat, support with benefit claims or redirection towards the test and trace £500 payment that has been introduced by government. To date (4th November) 422 applications for the £500 support have been paid, 472 have been refused or are duplicate and 858 are outstanding. The top three reasons for refusal are that the applicant is not in receipt of benefits or have excess income, they are a duplicate application or no details of the applicant are found on Test and Trace records.

Support for people who previously shielded: In the last local down, the councils support arrangements focused on meeting the needs of both the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) as defined by the Government and the non-Clinically Extremely Vulnerable:

- The CEV Shielding list was issued to the local authorities by Government in Tranches. Our leadership took a decision to contact everyone on the list to explain the support structure that we had in place, identify support needs, which were captured on a central repository that enabled an automated workflow to the relevant support services. This exercise was repeated again in July in advance of Shielding being stepped down.
- We used 0113 4310000 as the gateway for contacting the LA for Covid related support. This number was managed by our Customer Contact centre who triaged the calls and ensured that they were passed to the relevant teams.
- Vulnerable people needing support were also identified via direct referrals from our 5 Community Hubs.
- Adult and Children's Social Care contacted everyone on their records to provide them with Covid safety guidance and identify any specific support.

Bradford Council is currently in the process of finalising our Support Plan in case Shielding is reinstated for CEVs. Our plan follows the draft Local Support Framework that was shared with us through the national Shielding Engagement Forum and covers the following issues: *Communication and awareness, contact with CEV, food support, mental health support, befriending and data management.*

Community engagement and support is crucial. It is imperative that Bradford residents support efforts to avoid infection from COVID-19 and avoid transmission if infected. This requires communities to understand how COVID-19 is spread, and the consequences of the infection as well as trust in the impact of communal efforts to control COVID-19. This is why listening to insight gathered through engagement is crucial so we understand what our communities think and are able to challenge misinformation which is commonplace.

Future of testing. The science around testing is developing rapidly. The council are in negotiations with NHS Test and Trace to pilot Lateral Flow Tests – these give immediate results indicating infectivity with COVID-19 and could be helpful tools in controlling COVID-19 in high risk settings such as care homes, schools and universities.

A vaccine to protect against COVID-19. A number of research teams across the world are working to develop a vaccine. It is possible there may be a vaccine available in the UK to the highest risk groups early in 2021, however this depends on vaccine development going smoothly, and safety or efficacy issues could delay this by weeks or months. If a safe and effective vaccine is developed there will be issues with administering the vaccine, it will take time to vaccinate all groups. There may be issues with groups of people who are hesitant to trust a vaccine. It is also unknown how long immunity will last following a vaccine. It may be that a COVID-19 vaccine will work like the flu vaccine currently does, requiring annual vaccination.

Further restrictions to reduce social contact. Following the planned national "2lockdown" between 5th November and 2nd December, local areas will be assessed as to which Tier they should fall into based on the infection rate.

Health inequalities: The report shared with Health Overview and Scrutiny in August included data evidencing that the correlation between dying from COVID-19 and deprivation is strong. 40% of people who died were residents who lived in the most deprived areas of Bradford District (quintile 1) compared to 7% in the least deprived areas (quintile 5). Whilst everyone is affected by measures to control COVID-19, some groups in Bradford are experiencing disproportionate health, social and economic impacts. COVID-19 has both amplified the existing inequalities in society, and created new risks and impacts for people who may not previously have considered themselves to be vulnerable. There have been three main ways Bradford Council has led the response to COVID-19; with the aim of reducing exacerbation of health inequalities. Firstly through working with communities, secondly through targeting prevention and control activities and finally through targeted research with partners.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members consider and comment on the contents of the report.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Bradford District Outbreak Control Plan (June 2020)
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/5921/bradforddistrictcovid-19outbreakplan.pdf>
- C-SAG bradfordresearch.nhs.uk/c-sag/
- Cases – coronavirus cases in the uk: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>
- Deaths - Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causeofdeath/datasets/deathregistrationsandoccurrencesbylocalauthorityandhealthboard>
- National restrictions https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november?utm_source=4ec0c5c2-dae1-4d85-81b0-bdd531c4bc31&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate