



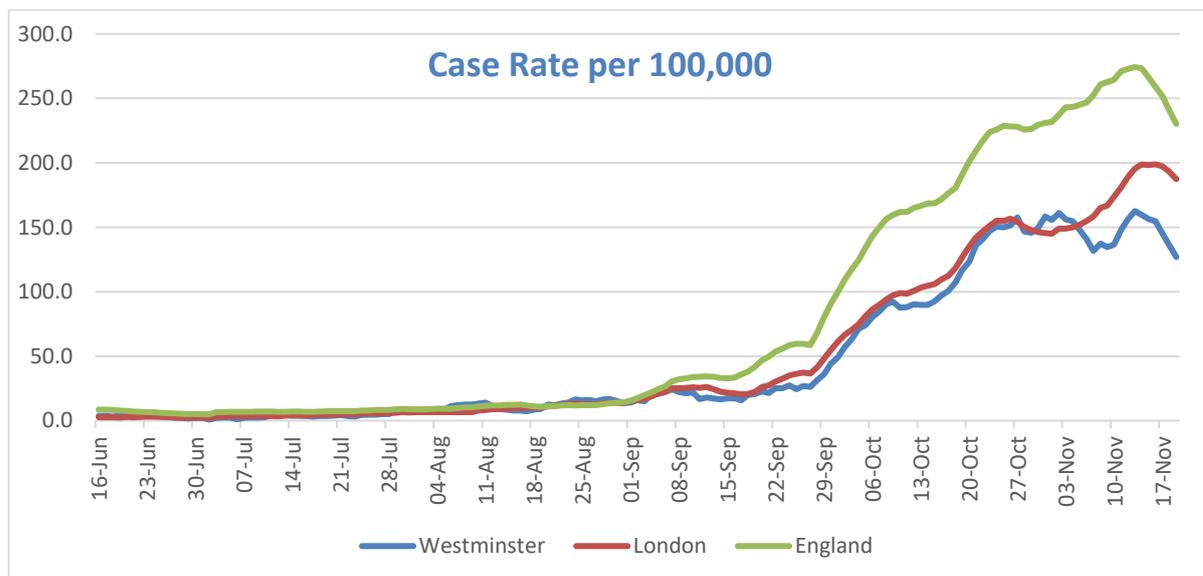
City of Westminster

Adult Social Care and Public Health

Title:	Cabinet Member Update for Policy and Scrutiny
Division:	Adult Social Care and Public Health
Briefing Date:	2 December 2020

1. **COVID-19 Update – Adult Social Care & Health**

- 1.1 There have been 3,773 residents that have tested positive for Covid-19 up to the 23rd November 2020^[1]. The accumulative rate of infections remains lower in the City of Westminster than the regional and national average.
- 1.2 Infection rates have increased in Westminster during the second wave in line with other London boroughs. For the last month the infection rate in Westminster has been lower than both the London and National averages.



- 1.3 Considerable effort has gone into management of COVID and preventing further spread to maintain protection of our communities. Key interventions include:
 - Outbreak management teams for schools, care homes, workplaces and community settings meet on a daily basis – so far they have managed over 90 outbreak and situations in locations such as schools, care homes, workplaces and universities. Actions to manage outbreaks are greatly informed by a daily flow of epidemiological intelligence received daily.
 - Regional testing sites, local testing site, mobile testing units and home kits have identified 2,793 cases among Westminster resident since August. During this

^[1] Public Health England. Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. Accessed 24th November 2020.

second wave testing capacity has been enhanced and the Council has worked with colleagues at DHSC to set up three local testing sites at Greenside Community Hall, Grosvenor Hall and Lydford Hall with one mobile testing site at Hyde Park. These tests are for individuals who are symptomatic.

- The Council has set up a local contact tracing scheme to supplement that of the NHS national test and trace programme.

1.4 Following the Lateral Flow Test (LFT) availability being made available at greater scale, all local authorities can now request tests to support targeted local asymptomatic testing. Two pilots are planned to inform Westminster's local asymptomatic testing approach in addition to learning from pilots elsewhere.

1.5 These tests use new rapid test technology with results being available within 30 minutes. The tests have the potential to be used to target certain sectors and/or settings. It is intended that national programmes for care homes, universities, and key businesses will be rolled out/supported in addition to local approaches to utilising LFTs.

1.6 Westminster pilots will commence in December with a targeted programme of rapid testing planned to be available for the borough following the learning from the pilot phase.

1.7 The Public Health department expects (as of 25th November final approval is awaited) the roll out of COVID vaccines to commence from December with significant growth in the early months of 2021. The vaccination programme is being organised by colleagues in the NHS with Public Health support including with communications.

1.8 Public Health and Communications colleagues continue to work closely in delivering the council's coronavirus communications, ensuring residents, businesses and stakeholders are aware of how to stay safe with advice on how to prevent the spread of the virus available across our diverse communities.

1.9 There has been a community engagement focus on using our engagement networks to ensure contemporary and accurate information is available on areas including the move to local COVID alert levels following national lockdown, testing, COVID-19 vaccination, and myth busting content.

2. **Flu update**

2.1 There is a high emphasis being placed on the national flu vaccination campaign this year in order to minimise the risk of both flu and COVID-19 co-circulating in communities with the consequent risk to individuals and the health care system as a whole.

2.2 The national NHS England ambition is to have 100% of health and social care workers and 75% of all eligible groups vaccinated by December 2020. Public Health are working with BAME networks, community champions and community engagement leads to ensure that the flu vaccine is promoted effectively to all communities and that there is an opportunity for communities to raise questions and have them answered.

2.3 There have been challenges with vaccine supply which are being resolved and all partners are working closely together to monitor and support uptake amongst the most vulnerable groups. The programme has now been extended to include a

porcine-free injected alternative to the nasal spray for all children and, from December 1st, the addition of all 50-64year olds.

- 2.4 Interim data indicate that uptake of the flu vaccine in WCC and RBKC to date is higher than at the equivalent time point in 2019-2020 flu season.

3. Community Champions

- 3.1 The 8th Community Champions Conference 'Rise' was held on the 19th November 2020, the first ever to be held virtually and hosted by our champions, to recognise and celebrate the Champions' efforts to support their communities since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, adapting their delivery approach to ensure they were able to continue to reach and support vulnerable residents via phone, WhatsApp and some socially distanced face to face doorstep support.
- 3.2 With the film premier of Rise, guest speaker Peter Merrifield CEO from *Support When It Matters* and the launch of the Digital Magazine, it was a lively event filled with joy, tears and lots of thought-provoking insight.
- 3.3 A network of COVID health champions, to complement the existing Community Champions programme, is being rollout out to empower residents to remain up to date with the latest information and advice about Covid 19 and preventative measures to stop its spread and to share this information with members of their community.
- 3.4 With 71 recruited to date, the Covid Health Champions use the information provided via the above channels, champions will spread the word by sharing with their family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and the wider community.
- 3.5 It is envisaged that by recruiting Champions from all sections of the community we will be able to mitigate as far as possible, the negative impacts of disparities and inequalities in disease prevalence and spread.
- 3.6 Champions will reach our older and younger, more vulnerable residents and the range of diverse communities to ensure messages are communicated effectively and received well. They will be supported with live information in accessible formats and community languages.

4. North West London NHS changes

- 4.1 In response to the requirements of the NHS Long Term Plan, NWL CCG's came together to form a NWLCCG Collaboration. North West London CCGs have an ambitious agenda for improving health services and working across the NHS and social care as part of the NW London Health and Care Partnership. The eight CCGs are expected to merge into a single body in April 2021, supporting the development of a new Integrated Care Partnership (ICS) across health and social care in NW London.
- 4.2 There is an ambition to create an integrated health and care system that works across the footprint including all stakeholders, NHS Trusts, Acute Hospitals and Local Authorities. The aim is to maximise benefits for all residents and staff across NWL (which has a 2.1 million population) by:

- giving every child and family the best start in life and continuing to support people to deliver healthy lives
 - Making sure there is care and support when residents need it
 - Ensuring that those who need to be in hospital receive high quality care and spend the appropriate time there.
- 4.3 The individual CCG structures will change significantly. Each borough will be led by a Borough Lead Director. Joe Nguyen, who is the deputy MD for Hillingdon CCG, has recently been appointed as Central London Borough Director Lead.
- 4.4 NWLCCG's ambition is to create a 'Quartet Model' of ICP leadership at borough base. This will include the Children's & Adult Social Care Lead, Community Health Provider, Mental Health, and a Primary Care Lead. The Quartet will form the foundation of the local ICP (Integrated Care Partnerships) for each borough.
- 4.5 The local CCG Governing Body will be replaced by a Local Committee in April 2021 with details on how this will be constituted currently being developed.

5. Testing in Care Homes

- 5.1 We have had a reliable testing regime in place for all care homes across the Bi-Borough since August 2020. This regime uses Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests, which are accessed via the national portal. Staff are tested weekly and residents are tested every four weeks.
- 5.2 If there is an incident or outbreak, the local Outbreak Management Team for care homes meets. They draw-in additional support as required, including from the local NHS Frailty Team, Public Health England (PHE) and further testing and re-testing is undertaken, as needed.
- 5.3 Testing in Extra Care and Supported Accommodation settings is accessed through the national portal and these settings will benefit from being included in the mass roll out of testing.

6. Testing for Family Members to Enable Visits

- 6.1 Initial discussions have been held with local care homes to gauge interest in being part of a pilot for treating family/friends as key workers. Most organisations were interested in implementing this offer and being part of a pilot.
- 6.2 There are some details to resolve before implementation can commence. The key ones are:
- Results from the national pilots currently being concluded in Devon and Cornwall.
 - Access to testing capacity from the rollout of mass testing via lateral flow devices.
- 6.3 As soon as these points are resolved we will support care homes to implement a testing to enable visiting programme.

7. Winter Pressures

- 7.1 Across Imperial and Chelsea & Westminster trusts, the position of the hospitals remains stable albeit pressured. There have been small but significant increases in Covid-19 hospitalisations which together with the start of the winter period has led to additional strain.
- 7.2 To date over autumn/winter capacity has averaged out at between 75 and 80 percent with ITU (Intensive Care Units) not being under greater than usual pressure. The systems remain on high alert, as the first wave showed how quickly things can change. The Adult Social Care Winter Plan is assured and is well aligned to respond to the pressures
- 7.3 The implementation of the new discharge hubs, as part of the national guidance, is being overseen by the multi-agency Tri-Borough Strategic Discharge Group. The position is well advanced with three, new hub leads employed to start within the next few weeks
- 7.4 New processes and operating procedures for the new hubs, including interface with the new Discharge to Assess (D2A) process, have been assured by all organisations in the system. This includes new representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector on the group, through the British Red Cross.
- 7.5 The new Continuing Health Care assessment process is also being implemented with a focus on completing all reviews within 6 weeks of discharge (as per national guidelines).
- 7.6 There are now weekly meetings between representatives of the hospital discharge team and key commissioners in both boroughs. This has enabled assurance of the spend of winter pressures monies. It also serves as a very important intelligence sharing forum, so that each party is aware of potential risks due to capacity or surge at an early stage.