

**MINUTES** of the **INFORMAL** meeting of the **SURREY LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD** held at 2.00 pm on 2 September 2021, remotely via Microsoft Teams.

These minutes are subject to noting by the Board at its next meeting.

**Members:**

(\*Present)

Joanna Killian  
\* Tim Oliver  
\* Ruth Hutchinson  
\* Sinead Mooney (Chairman)  
\* Clare Curran  
Luke Bennett  
\* Karen Brimacombe  
Annie Righton  
\* Cllr Mark Brunt (Vice-Chairman)  
\* Cllr Chris Sadler  
Dr Charlotte Canniff  
Sue Sjuve  
Dr Pramit Patel  
\* Gavin Stephens  
Lisa Townsend  
\* Andrew Lloyd  
\* Louise Punter  
Rebecca Pritchard

**Substitute Members:**

Nathan Rees - Communications Manager, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

**23/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Sue Sjuve, Lisa Townsend - Nathan Rees substituted, Rebecca Pritchard, Annie Righton and Dr Charlotte Canniff.

**24/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 15 APRIL 2021 AND 17 JUNE 2021 [Item 2]**

The minutes were noted as true records of the meetings and would be agreed at the next formal public Board meeting.

**25/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were none.

## **26/21 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]**

### **a Members' Questions [Item 4a]**

None received.

### **b Public Questions [Item 4b]**

None received.

### **c Petitions [Item 4c]**

There were none.

## **27/21 COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE UPDATE [Item 5]**

### **Witnesses:**

Dr Naheed Rana - Public Health Consultant (SCC)

Ruth Hutchinson - Director of Public Health (SCC)

### **Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The Public Health Consultant (SCC) noted:
  - the daily monitoring, intelligence and surveillance of data by the Public Health Team (SCC), including a review of the triggers and escalations concerning Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, test positivity, transmission and vaccinations; agreed actions and notifications.
  - an overview of Covid-19 cases in Surrey up to 24 August 2021 shown via the epi curve across the three lockdowns and the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, to date there had been 102,177 positive Covid-19 cases in Surrey.
  - the peak in cases as a result of the UEFA European Football Championship final and peak as a result of the easing of restrictions from Step 4 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown on 19 July 2021.
  - the number of cases and rates per 100,000 population for the 7-day period up to 29 August 2021: England - 296 per 100,000, South East - 267.9 per 100,000, Surrey - 242.9 per 100,000, Surrey Heath - 284.7 per 100,000 compared to Mole Valley - 195.3 per 100,000.
  - that rates over the last few months across the Boroughs and Districts in Surrey had been fluctuating, nationally Surrey's Boroughs and Districts were ranked towards the bottom end of the lower-tier local authorities in England for the latest 7-day period to 28 August 2021, recognising the targeted efforts to achieve the decrease in case rates.
  - that cases in Surrey were on a downward trajectory but could rise with schools starting and rates remained high as shown in the infographic on Surrey Covid-19 summary of cases and rates over a 7-day period published on 1 September 2021.
  - the heat map of cases per 100,000 population by age group across Surrey between 29 July 2021 - 21 August 2021 and within the Boroughs and Districts, with the highest cases in 20 to 29 year olds followed by 10 to 19 year olds. There was also a slight increase in cases for over 50 and 60 year olds.

- the weekly case rates per 100,000 population in Surrey and surrounding areas between 19 July 2021 - 29 August 2021, areas with higher cases were holiday destinations.
  - that in Surrey up to 30 August 2021 around 84% the adult population had received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccination, 77% had received their second dose; uptake varied across the Boroughs and Districts.
  - the triangulation of vaccination rates and case rates, to target areas of higher rates and lower vaccine uptake.
  - the weekly Surrey Covid-19 Intelligence Publications, infographic and summary.
2. The Chairman sought an update on an action from the June Informal Board:
    - Minute item 19/21: 1. The Public Health team (SCC) will liaise with the Vice-Chairman concerning his offer of logistical support by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council through volunteers to encourage the uptake of vaccinations.
      - In response, the Director of Public Health (SCC) noted that the ongoing work on encouraging the uptake of vaccinations was led by the Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System - Charlotte Keeble and the Public Health Principal (SCC) - Dr Lucy Gate led on the work with the Boroughs and Districts in Surrey.
      - The Director of Public Health (SCC) noted that there were pockets of lower vaccine uptake in localised geographical areas and population groups within the Boroughs and Districts.
      - The Director of Public Health (SCC) noted that the vaccination Equalities Impact Assessment was being updated and was held under the vaccine equality workstream whereby engagement with Boroughs and Districts was ongoing.
      - The Public Health Consultant (SCC) noted the targeted work within Reigate and Banstead through the five-week task and finish group set up from each of the Boroughs and Districts to triangulate the intelligence on the numbers of residents not vaccinated within the Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), with the local services, teams and communications.
  3. The Chairman noted that she had progressed the below action from the June Informal Board, having had a meeting with colleagues from Public Health to promote vaccine uptake particularly in Stanwell and Staines, it was encouraging to see that Spelthorne had a good vaccine uptake on the map, noting the success of the “Grab a Jab” campaign locally:
    - Minute item 19/21: 2. The Chairman will liaise with Spelthorne Borough Council to look to return such an offer in relation to logistical support of the vaccination programme through volunteers.
  4. A Board member asked whether there were any assumptions concerning future modelling and insights to help Surrey better prepare for autumn and winter.
    - In response, the Public Health Consultant (SCC) explained that a report was being prepared on different future modelling assumptions, including the impact of the vaccinations and a potential booster vaccine as well as hospital admissions and deaths in relation to Covid-19, and on winter bugs and viruses; and that the report would be taken to the next Board.
    - The Chairman highlighted the importance of monitoring and preparing for winter pressures, as the next Board was not until mid-November, she asked how Board members could receive the information in advance.

- The Director of Public Health (SCC) stressed the challenging nature of modelling and noted that the modelling report would be shared with Board members as soon as possible and was happy to run an informal private Board meeting on modelling.

**RESOLVED: (informally)**

The Board noted the verbal update and presentation.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

1. The Public Health Consultant (SCC) and Director of Public Health (SCC) will share the report on future autumn and winter modelling assumptions, in advance of the next Board meeting.
2. The Public Health Consultant (SCC) and Director of Public Health (SCC) to liaise with the Board's Committee Manager (SCC) to set up an informal private Board meeting to provide detail on the autumn and winter modelling assumptions.

**28/21 COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN UPDATE [Item 6]**

**Witnesses:**

Andrea Newman - Strategic Director for Communication, Public Affairs and Engagement (SCC)

**Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The Strategic Director for Communication, Public Affairs and Engagement (SCC) noted:
  - the dynamic situation, since the last Board the country had moved into Step 4 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown and in line with national guidance and insights from the Public Health Team (SCC) communications campaigns continued been tailored locally for Surrey.
  - the change in the guidance concerning self-isolation and international travel - noting the extensive messaging around testing and complying with public health campaigns.
  - the success of the RingGo parking app trialled over the summer in Surrey through a six-week campaign targeting the eight Boroughs and Districts where the case rates were higher, the campaign message was viewed over 323,857 times and the service used was free for the public sector.
  - the beneficial addition of RingGo similarly to NextDoor within the communications toolbox.
  - the data-led targeted communications campaigns focusing on less compliant groups in terms of vaccination uptake such as young men and young people, the SoonSurrey Instagram channel remained a useful tool as well as new summer festival assets - using as many channels as possible targeting in a granular way.
  - the targeted communications around the vaccination rollout in conjunction with Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) colleagues, colleagues within health and policing and university colleagues.
  - the next steps around winter pressures, a group had been set up between Surrey County Council and partner colleagues which had

agreed a set of themes which might arise in the future autumn and winter period.

- that she was happy to liaise with colleagues further on the specifics concerning the wide-ranging winter pressures and preparedness not solely limited to Covid-19 and the possible booster vaccines, but also concerning the flu vaccines - further information to follow from the NHS around the model of delivery which will be communicated across Surrey - respiratory illnesses and wider system pressures.
  - the winter leaflet would be sent to all households in Surrey following last year's success, it contained useful phone numbers and information as well as signposting to services; it would be a joint approach with health colleagues.
  - the focus on mental health, particularly in October for the World Mental Health Day which would be a system-wide collaborative campaign.
  - the Back to School campaign focusing on testing, noting incoming guidance on extending vaccinations to clinically extremely vulnerable children in a particular age group.
  - the new legislation coming into force in November for the mandatory vaccinations of people working in care homes, the cut off point for double vaccinations was 16 September 2021 - noting the work to increase awareness of that within organisations across Surrey.
2. The Chairman welcomed the informative update and asked whether the Strategic Director for Communication, Public Affairs and Engagement (SCC) was happy to link into the informal private Board around autumn and winter modelling assumptions.
    - In response, the Strategic Director for Communication, Public Affairs and Engagement (SCC) was happy to attend in order to provide an update on winter pressures from the Communications Team (SCC).
  3. The Chairman praised the work of the Communications Team (SCC) which continued to liaise closely with the Boroughs and Districts, noting the varied communications assets including the vibrant graphics and targeted messaging campaigns, the consistent themes and messages were popular with residents.

**RESOLVED: (informally)**

That the Board noted the activity outlined in the report.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

1. The Strategic Director for Communication, Public Affairs and Engagement (SCC) will be invited to the informal private Board meeting to provide an update on winter pressures and preparedness from the Communications Team (SCC) (see minute item 27/21, action 2).

**29/21 SURREY COVID-19 LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN [Item 7]**

**Witnesses:**

Ruth Hutchinson - Director of Public Health (SCC)

Caroline Chapman - Senior Public Health Contact Tracing Lead (SCC)

Charlotte Keeble - Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS)

Alison Mason - Senior Public Health Lead (SCC)

Lisa Harvey-Vince - Senior Public Health Lead (SCC)

Lisa Andrews - Public Health Principal (SCC)  
Clare Curran - Cabinet Member for Children and Families (SCC)  
Sinead Mooney - LOEB Chairman and Cabinet Member for Adults (SCC)  
Gavin Stephens - Chief Constable of Surrey Police

**Key points raised in the discussion:**

*National update - Roadmap out of national lockdown for England*

1. The Director of Public Health (SCC) noted:
  - the publication of the Covid-19 Response: Summer 2021 plan on 5 July which outlined Step 4 of the roadmap out of national lockdown for England which began on 19 July.
  - Step 4 was a fundamental shift concerning how people protected themselves alongside the targeted interventions to reduce risk.
  - the Surrey Local Outbreak Management Plan mirrored the key bullet points within Step 4, focussing on delivering the vaccination programme, enabling the public to make informed decisions through guidance - communications was key - rather than through legislation, managing the risks at the border and retaining contingency measures to respond to unexpected events - such as the increase in cases in the south west.
  - the updated Covid-19 Contain Framework: a guide for local decision makers on 5 August, detailing how local authorities could act and what powers they had, and outlined the key protections that remained in place: symptomatic testing and targeted asymptomatic testing in education and high-risk workplaces, self-isolation remained a legal requirement for those who tested positive, as of 16 August fully vaccinated adults and those under 18 years identified as a close contact of a positive case no longer needed to self-isolate - a PCR test was recommended - and rules for travel to England such as quarantine depending on countries on the amber or red list.
  - in place of legislation Step 4 set out cautious guidance both for individuals and for businesses in the community; key was a gradual and safe return to the workplace, the wearing of face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport, letting fresh air in, minimising the number and proximity of social contacts, encouraging businesses at large events such as festivals to use the NHS Covid Pass particularly in high-risk settings.

*Local update - Local Outbreak Management Plan*

2. The Director of Public Health (SCC) noted:
  - that Surrey's Local Outbreak Management (formerly Control) Plan was re-published to reflect the changes from Step 4 of the roadmap and the revised Contain Framework.
  - Surrey's Covid Management Group had ceased, replaced by the Surrey Heartlands ICS Resilience and Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Board (EPRR) from September, a Managing Director from NHS Frimley CCG sat on the Board and the terms of reference would be reviewed including the relationship with the LOEB and ensuring representative membership.
  - following the first meeting of the EPRR Board next week, she would share the EPRR Board's terms of reference with Board members and

would provide clarity on how that Board would interface with the LOEB, ensuring ongoing oversight.

### *Contact Tracing - National and Local updates*

3. The Senior Public Health Contact Tracing Lead (SCC) noted:
  - the challenge of contact tracing in terms of meeting the changing case numbers, with twenty daily cases in May, doubling and doubling again to one hundred daily cases in June.
  - despite the increase in case numbers, the contact tracing team was coping well due to colleagues in safeguarding for example being trained to make contact tracing calls, all cases received were completed in Surrey.
  - as daily cases further increased to over five hundred and then increasing again in July, cases had to be passed back to the national contact tracing team.
  - on 6 July changes made reflected the national increase, which saw the introduction of 'Local 4' giving people a four hour opportunity to complete an online questionnaire before cases were passed to contact tracing.
  - on 16 July as cases were too high some boroughs and districts in Surrey reverted to 'Local 24', after a four hour opportunity to complete an online questionnaire and twenty hours of national contact tracing, Surrey County Council were given the cases the national team could not reach.
  - on 16 July the national Integrated Tracing System computer programme was suspended until further notice due to the high case numbers.
  - on 22 July all of Surrey reverted to 'Local 24', that system continued and the case numbers are being monitored regularly, staff numbers are being increased and recruitment is underway.
  - on 18 August the Contact Tracing Delivery Group was formed, with a view to report into the EPRR Board.
  - between 16-22 August Surrey's Local Contact Tracing service reached 74.5% of those cases referred from the national team - most weeks 70% of cases were reached - and of those 67.2% were completed - some refused to engage or were unavailable.

### *Testing update: Symptomatic/Asymptomatic*

4. The Senior Public Health Contact Tracing Lead (SCC) noted:
  - symptomatic testing - those with symptoms could access PCR testing through the roving Mobile Testing Units (MTUs), Local Testing Sites (LTSs) and regional drive-through test sites; further highlighted an infographic around symptomatic testing produced by the Communications Team (SCC).
  - asymptomatic testing - twice-weekly rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing was recommended for symptom-free individuals and tests were available from Agile Testing Units (ATUs), participating pharmacies and were orderable online; further highlighted an infographic around asymptomatic testing produced by the Communications Team (SCC). There was a focus on Under-Represented Groups (URGs) and Disproportionately Impacted Groups (DIGs). Those with a positive LFD test result needed to take a PCR test.
  - the distribution of the testing sites was mapped across Surrey and was reviewed three times a week at the Public Health (SCC) data meetings taking into account outbreaks and meeting the needs within Surrey.

## *Vaccination Programme*

5. The Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands ICS noted:
  - that as of 22 August 2021 Surrey Heartlands administered 1,464,237 vaccinations - 773,448 first doses and 690,789 second doses.
  - welcomed the recent confirmation by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that 16 and 17 year-olds could get vaccinated, 57% of that age range in Surrey Heartlands had received their first dose which was the second highest in the south east behind Frimley.
  - welcomed the extension of the vaccination programme by the JCVI to children aged 12 to 15 who were at increased risk. GP practices had identified those eligible children and had written to their parents raising awareness of their eligibility and then booking them in with an appointment.
  - JCVI confirmation was awaited concerning children aged 12 to 15 who were not at an increased risk, plans for a vaccination programme for that group was underway through working with education leads.
  - over the past six weeks planning had been underway for a phase three of the vaccination programme which was due to commence on 6 September 2021, JCVI confirmation was awaited and the system was ready to implement the programme once confirmed.
  - phase three of the vaccination programme would run in two stages, the first on September to mid-October and the second in mid-October to 17 December.
  - stage one would be for those deemed most at risk such as adults aged 16 years and over 16 years who were immunosuppressed or clinically extremely vulnerable, those living in residential care homes for older adults, all adults aged 70 years, and frontline health and social care workers.
  - stage two included all adults aged 50 years and over, and adults aged 16-49 years who were in an influenza or Covid-19 at risk group.
  - Surrey Heartlands ICS was working with colleagues across systems to develop and deliver a number of mobile pop-up vaccination clinics: at the University of Surrey linking in with the universities as part of their induction programmes, at Pride events across Surrey including Godalming Pride, and at Wentworth Golf Club for the upcoming championship.
6. The Chairman congratulated Surrey Heartlands ICS and Frimley ICS for their achievements to date in terms of the high percentages for both doses of the vaccine. She asked for an indication of how quickly the notification might come through authorising phase three and how quickly the systems in Surrey could galvanise their phase three vaccination programmes.
  - In response, the Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands ICS emphasised the fluid situation noting the daily communications from NHS England - the notification could come through quickly.
  - The Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands ICS added that Surrey Heartlands' plans were being assured daily and the mobilisation would be within days. If confirmation from the JCVI was received on children aged 12 to 15 years who were at increased risk, mobilisation of a school-based programme could happen as quickly as 13 September.
7. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that many of the two hundred and fifty Community Champions would be from groups eligible for the third



dose. She asked how much notice would be provided on the start of the third phase of the vaccination programme, so it could be included within the weekly briefing provided to Community Champions along with the eligibility.

- In response, the Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands ICS noted that the eligibility list was available publicly online, Surrey Heartlands had prepared high-level communications for health and social care workers noting what to expect once confirmation was received on the third phase. She was happy to share that communications piece and liaise offline with the Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) on preparing communications once confirmation had been received on the start of phase three and on the eligibility.
8. A Board member welcomed the identification of the New Berry Lane car park, Hersham as a location for testing.

*Cllr Chris Sadler left the meeting at 3.09 pm*

9. The Chairman later asked for Board members to be kept informed on the move to phase three of the vaccination programme.

*Variants of Concern and Surge Testing*

10. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that:
- a Variant Under Investigation (VUI) was one which had mutations that had strong evidence of causing significant adverse effects and transmission of the variant within the UK or internationally. Nine VUIs were currently being monitored in the UK.
  - a Variant of Concern (VOC) was one with increased transmissibility, a change in epidemiology an increase in the severity of the infection and escape from immunity derived from natural infection, and also associated with the decrease in effectiveness of the vaccine. Nine VOCs were currently being monitored in the UK.
  - information on the VOCs and VUIs continued to be shared in the weekly Covid-19 Intelligence Summary and the lower tier local authority information on the variants was shared nationally.
  - in Surrey and nationally the samples of the PCR positive tests were sent for whole-genome sequencing to determine what variants were circulating in the community, the number of samples being sequenced had reduced due to lab capacity and increased Covid-19 cases recently.
  - at present there were no large surge or targeted variant testing operations in Surrey or planned in the imminent future.
  - the Public Health Team (SCC) continued to support and work with the Districts and Boroughs, Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care to carry out surge or targeted testing required in response to VOCs.
  - the Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) had put together a Surge and Targeted Testing Framework and Checklist, outlining the roles and responsibilities, the notification process, strategic scope, planning and delivery as well as the standing down procedure - it was out for consultation in Surrey.

*Managed Quarantine Service (MQS)*

11. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that:

- currently in Surrey there were two hotels under the MQS operated by the Department of Health and Social Care to allow quarantine of anyone that had come back from a 'red list' country.
- one of the hotels was accommodating some of the returning British nationals and refugees from Afghanistan - recognising other health needs.
- the Public Health Team (SCC) and Emergency Planning Team (SCC) were working with the Department of Health and Social Care, local NHS colleagues and Environmental Health teams to resolve any issues at MQS hotels.

*Tim Oliver left the meeting at 3.15 pm*

*Immigration Reception Centres (IRC) / Additional Facilities*

12. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that:
  - the Immigration Reception Centres (IRCs) were separate from the MQS, they were commissioned by the Home Office and there was one hotel in Surrey commissioned in July as a temporary overspill due to the significant number of people that were coming across the English Channel over summer.
  - some of the capacity at other IRCs such as in Kent were overwhelmed and one of the main IRCs closed on 4 August for essential security upgrades.
  - the hotel was used for a maximum of five days before the transfer to alternative settings, it was anticipated that the hotel would be in operation for between four and five months.
  - the Home Office organised security and transport of people to the hotel, monitored the health and welfare needs, and organised Covid-19 testing.
  - the Public Health Team (SCC) was working closely with the Emergency Planning Team (SCC), the NHS and Public Health England, meeting regularly to resolve any health and welfare issues.
  - there were a couple of other additional facilities in Surrey, there were two facilities in asylum settings for those undergoing the formal immigration and asylum processes: one facility was for short stay for families and single males and the other for long stay primarily for women and children.
  - the bridging hotel opened on 22 August and was for refugees coming back from Afghanistan, the Public Health Team (SCC) was working with the Home Office to understand the needs there.
13. The Chairman asked whether there was additional work needed to mitigate any risks concerning the MQS accommodating British nationals and refugees from Afghanistan.
  - In response, the Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that colleagues in Sussex where the majority of the refugees were being looked after in the hotels there, had put in place quite a number of practical measures to address the welfare and health needs, and Sussex had made an offer to Surrey County Council to extend that support to the Surrey hotel.
  - The Chairman requested an email update to Board members on the offer from Sussex; recognising the support from the public for refugees from Afghanistan.
  - The Director of Public Health (SCC) referred to the bridging hotel in Staines, noting the work by colleagues in Surrey Heartlands with regard

to the health provision for the refugees from Afghanistan, including midwives and GPs.

### *Schools and Universities*

14. The Public Health Principal (SCC) noted:

- the differing position compared to last year and the preparatory work undertaken over the summer.
- Public Health (SCC) and Education (SCC) colleagues continued to provide support to Surrey schools and early years settings throughout the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions, in anticipation of the new school year communications went out containing updates on the changes and guidance.
- the comprehensive Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance from Department for Education covering early years, primary and secondary schools, and further education including universities; which contained key differences:
  - bubbles were no longer required for children.
  - there was no longer a recommendation for face coverings unless there was an outbreak in a particular setting.
  - self-isolation for those under 18 was no longer a requirement if they were a close contact but they were requested to get a PCR test and schools were no longer required to be doing contact tracing as the NHS Test and Trace service took over.
  - testing remained in place so in Surrey all secondary school age children were requested to have on-site asymptomatic LFD tests twice weekly.
  - infection control measures should continue including good hygiene, ventilation - including CO2 monitors - and cleaning.
- preparation was underway regarding communications going out to schools, supplemented by leaflets produced by the Department for Education for early years settings and primary and secondary schools; guidance included Covid-19 safe measures and support for children's emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- all of Surrey's university settings had access to LFD testing and continued to encourage uptake of the vaccine, working closely with the University of Surrey around a pop-up vaccination site on campus, as well as considerations over international students returning to the county.
- that the same rules applied from 16 August whereby fully vaccinated adults and those under 18 years identified as a close contact of a positive case no longer needed to self-isolate but a PCR test was recommended, if tested positive self-isolation was required.
- the dynamic situation as a result of the start of the school year.

### *Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFLL) update*

15. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families (SCC) noted:

- the holiday camps run over the summer holidays which linked into the food programme for disadvantaged groups, having visited the camps she noted that they were well organised and children had a good time through the activities and learning about nutrition - although established due to the pandemic, she hoped such camps could continue in future years.
- Surrey County Council continued to support those who faced financial challenges, food poverty and fuel poverty - to be aided over the winter through Government grants.

- the emotional wellbeing and mental health support being offered through the new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Emotional, Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH) contract which would be ramping up in schools throughout September. Details on the waiting times, access and advice to the range of services for different needs were included in the report, as well as the focus on reducing the backlogs inherited over the last year.
  - a response to an action from the June Informal Board meeting concerning:
    - Minute item 21/21: The Cabinet Member for Children and Families (SCC) will follow up the action concerning the difficulty of getting dental appointments for Looked After Children and Care Leavers with the Corporate Parenting Board, providing an update at a future Board.
    - a steady increase in the completion of dental checks for Looked After Children had been recorded making more progress since the restrictions lifted, particularly on checks for children who had been looked after for more than one year; whilst more work was need concerning those children who had gone into the care system or had been looked after for less than one year to reach the levels of dental checks pre-pandemic - work with staff was ongoing to ensure that appointments were being booked.
    - feedback from foster carers and providers highlighted the difficulties in registering children and young people with new dental practices, particularly when they went into care and for those looked after for a short period. To address the issue, escalation should be made to Linda Cunningham - Surrey-wide CCG Designated Nurse for Looked After Children.
    - the recent changes to Surrey County Council's Tableau recording system which enabled planned dental appointments to be captured, so the focus could be on unmade dental appointments.
    - historically children who were two years old or under had their dental checks at the same time as their initial or their review health assessment, during Covid-19 the health assessments were likely to be undertaken virtually and so dental checks were not being done - the backlogs needed to be cleared.
    - foster carers and other providers still reported increased waiting times for appointments which was impacting on the speed of recovery, dental surgeries were being contacted regarding children who were previously registered there to check when their last appointment was made and when their next appointment could be.
    - service managers were scrutinising dental checks for those who were looked after for less than one year and performance would be monitored weekly until it reached its expected level.
16. The Chairman welcomed a future update in three months' time to allow the service to address the backlog.

### *Care Homes*

17. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted:
- that support continued to be provided to care homes experiencing outbreaks, ensuring that the appropriate controls were implemented and that testing continued, and encouraged vaccine uptake in staff working closely with the Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum and local GP practices.

- the first dose rate was 89% and the second dose rate was 79% for care home staff, noting the upcoming 11 November deadline to have all care staff fully vaccinated - unless exempt - to comply with the legislation.
- infection prevention and control training would continue to be offered for care homes throughout the winter period, ensuring the continuation of key measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing.
- work was underway with Human Resources teams and external providers such as Surrey Care Association to get the messaging out to the workforce or anyone deployed to care homes on the requirements going forward.
- on 16 August 2021 fully vaccinated adults and those under 18 years identified as a close contact of a positive case no longer needed to self-isolate - a PCR test was recommended, however an additional requirement for care staff was that they must take part in a strict testing regime of both PCR and LFD tests to continue working.
- from 16 August 2021 staff working with clinically extremely vulnerable residents must undertake a risk assessment to determine whether they could continue to work. The Public Health Team (SCC) continued to work with the health and safety team and Adult Social Care (SCC) to provide input to that risk assessment.

#### *Adult Social Care (ASC) update*

18. The Chairman as Cabinet Member for Adults (SCC), provided an update on Adult Social Care noting:
- the focus in Adult Social Care on winter pressures and preparedness, and importance of collaborative working with health partners.
  - the ongoing close partnership working with providers across the county, which was vital in managing Covid-19 within the care home setting at the start of the pandemic.
  - the importance of a more sustainable funding position for Adult Social Care going forward, linking to winter pressures and the ongoing pressures from Covid-19.

#### *Enforcement update*

19. The Chief Constable of Surrey Police noted that:
- since the gradual easing of restrictions, enforcement activity around Covid-19 had been low, however the majority of the additional surge funding was used to address general policing pressures that had arisen following the lifting of lockdown.
  - following the lifting of all restrictions on 19 July 2021 there had been a series of days where work levels were equivalent to New Year's Eve each day.
  - levels of serious and sexual violence had risen, with the remainder of the surge funding being used to resource specialists in the Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT).
  - the partnership working relationships around the MQS were working well, and Surrey Police looked forward to extending that provision over the coming days and weeks in supporting arrivals from Afghanistan to ensure that they received the right support.
  - from a policing perspective he was keen to be involved in the modelling discussions to help plan ahead for the autumn and winter.

## **RESOLVED: (informally)**

The Board:

1. Noted the report.
2. Would continue to provide political oversight of local delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan.
3. Would continue to lead the engagement with local communities and be the public face of the local response.
4. Members would ensure appropriate information on the programme and on COVID-19 in Surrey is cascaded within their own organisations and areas of influence.

## **Actions/further information to be provided:**

1. The Director of Public Health (SCC) will provide Board members with the Surrey Heartlands ICS Resilience and Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Board (EPRR) terms of reference; and will provide clarity on how the EPRR would interface with the LOEB.
2. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) will liaise with the Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands ICS on the high-level communications piece prepared for health and social care workers, in order to prepare a similar piece for Community Champions once confirmation had been received on the start of phase three and on the eligibility.
3. The Covid Vaccination Programme Director, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System will keep the Board informed on the move to phase three of the vaccination programme.
4. Concerning the Managed Quarantine Service hotel accommodating British nationals and refugees from Afghanistan, the Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) will provide an email update to Board members on the offer from Sussex; recognising the support from the public for refugees from Afghanistan.
5. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families (SCC) will provide a future update in three months' time concerning the difficulty of getting dental appointments for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
6. The Chief Constable of Surrey Police will be invited to provide an update from a policing perspective / will be involved in the modelling discussions at the informal private Board meeting to help plan ahead for the autumn and winter (see minute item 27/21, action 2).

## **30/21 SURREY COMMUNITY (COVID-19) CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME [Item 8]**

### **Witnesses:**

Jenn Smith - Senior Public Health Lead (SCC)

### **Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted:

#### *Phase One*

- that the Community Champions programme was established in November 2020, having been introduced to Surrey County Council by the Board's Chairman.

- currently nine out of the eleven Boroughs and Districts in Surrey had either fully or partially launched their programme, Tandridge District Council had not shown an interest to engage and talks were ongoing with Woking Borough Council.
- there were dedicated coordinators, one per Borough or District.
- there were around two hundred and fifty Community Champions, each having a wide network across Surrey with some having a large social media following.
- the information provided to Community Champions such as the weekly briefing was circulated widely across communities and the feedback loop from community engagement was important, questions asked by Community Champions were always answered.
- the steering group was composed of all the coordinators, public health and guest speakers from the ICSs.
- the Boroughs and Districts were asked to provide a webinar, the frequency was mixed across Surrey.
- that following evaluation and engagement with the coordinators, key challenges included:
  - Community Champion fatigue with less feedback being provided as a result of moving to Covid-19 recovery.
  - dwindling Community Champion attendance at webinars.
  - gaps in representation for some demographics which was being addressed through recruitment.
  - a disparity in programme delivery which was partly positive as it was tailored to local populations.
  - a lack of monitoring and evaluation due to existing work commitments and the dynamic nature of the pandemic.
- strengths included:
  - strong organisational support for the programme.
  - the dedicated and engaged coordinators and Community Champions.
  - the huge potential to widen the scope of the programme.

### *Phase Two*

- the newly recruited Project Support Officer (SCC), who introduced herself.
  - the intention to expand the reach to new settings and communities, such as mental health, learning disabilities and workplace settings; and to work closely with local parish councils.
  - that the phase would be planned next week with the Programme Manager - Covid-19 (SCC), and would include a large recruitment drive and training for the Community Champions, bringing in aspects of Making Every Contact Count, developing an evaluation framework, a communications plan to advertise the programme and to expand the scope to focus on winter wellness by encouraging the flu vaccinations and Covid-19 boosters and to promote screening programmes.
2. The Chairman welcomed the Project Support Officer (SCC); and asked how the Board could support the programme in terms of reaching out to Community Champions and supporting their engagement.
- In response, the Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) highlighted the importance of raising the profile of the Community Champions programmes across Surrey, noting the two cohorts in Elmbridge with community volunteers and councillors - with future proposals to be brought to the Board.

3. The Chairman welcomed the report which was in response to an action from the June Informal Board meeting concerning:
  - Minute item 21/21: 4. A written update will be provided at a future Board summarising the strengths and weaknesses of the Community (COVID) Champions programme across the county and a possible model template that could be provided to Borough and District Councils without the programme.
4. The Chairman provided an update on an action from the June Informal Board:
  - Minute item 21/21: 3. Board members will provide support as appropriate to helping with the recruitment of Champions across the county and the removal of the barriers in relation to the setting up of the Community (COVID) Champions programmes in Woking and Tandridge.
  - The Chairman would engage with Environmental Health Officers at Woking Borough Council following up their interest in establishing the programme there.
    - In response, she noted that she had engaged with Woking Borough Council having written to the political leadership there to offer support in terms of linking in programme officers within the Public Health team (SCC) with Environmental Health Officers at Woking Borough Council.
    - The Senior Public Health Lead (SCC) noted that the Programme Manager - Covid-19 (SCC) had been liaising positively with the EHOs.
5. The Chairman noted that for the next update to the Board, the recommendations in future reports would be tailored specifically around the Community Champions programme.

**RESOLVED: (informally)**

The Board:

1. Noted the report.
2. Would continue to lead the engagement with local communities and be the public face of the local response.
3. Members would ensure appropriate information on the programme and on COVID-19 in Surrey is cascaded within their own organisations and areas of influence.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

1. The Board will receive a future update on Phase 2 of the programme, including future proposals such as different cohorts of Community Champions; and in future reports the recommendations will be tailored specifically around the Community Champions programme.

**31/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 9]**

The date of the next meeting was noted as 19 November 2021.

Meeting ended at: 3.56 pm