

# Public Document Pack



**Meeting of:** Engagement Board (Covid-19)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3rd February, 2021  
**Time:** 2.00 pm.  
**Venue:** Zoom Meeting

**This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  To receive any apologies for absence.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary, personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests relating to items on this agenda and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  To consider the Minutes of the meeting of the Engagement Board (Covid-19), held 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021.	<b>3 - 5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>  Participants are requested to introduce themselves.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Intelligence update</b>  Anthony Threlfall to present.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Health Protection Board &amp; Outbreak Plan update</b>  Director of Public Health and Director of Children's Services to present.	

## **7 Community Engagement Update & Discussion**

Director of Neighbourhoods/Community Safety team to present and lead the discussion.

### **Engagement Board (Covid-19) Members**

Kerry Bertram

Councillor Allen Brett

Councillor Ashley Dearnley

Councillor Janet Emsley

Kate Jones

Steve Taylor

Councillor John Blundell

Denise Dawson

Dr Chris Duffy

Councillor Kieran Heakin

Councillor Sara Rowbotham

For more information about this meeting, please contact  
Nazam Suleman

01706 924834

[nazam.suleman@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:nazam.suleman@rochdale.gov.uk)

**ENGAGEMENT BOARD (COVID-19)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Brett (in the Chair); Councillors Daalat Ali, Emsley, Heakin and Rowbotham (Rochdale Borough Council); Dr C. Duffy and D. Dawson (Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale NHS CCG), K. Bertram (Action Together) and K. Jones (HealthWatch Rochdale).

**OFFICERS:** M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods), A. Fallon (Director of Public Health), W. Meston (Consultant in Public Health), D. Gardner, M. Hall, A. Threlfall (Public Health Directorate) N. Suleman and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** A. Mitchell (Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale NHS CCG).

**14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed, Councillor Blundell, Councillor Dearnley and Gail Hopper (Director of Children's Services).

**15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

**16 MINUTES**

Resolved:

That subject to the amendment of the designation of G. Hopper (from Director of Public Health to Director of Children's Services (in the list of Officer's present), the Minutes of the meeting of the Engagement Board (Covid-19), held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, be approved as a correct record.

**17 INTELLIGENCE UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health reported on the latest intelligence available for use by the Council and its partners to attempt to counter the spread of Covid-19 in the Borough.

In terms of direct impact on the Borough, the Board was reminded that the most vulnerable groups, susceptible to the virus, are those who are elderly and frail, those in care homes and older people with multiple health conditions. These people had a case fatality rate of 5% or more. It was therefore crucial to carry out all available measures to prevent spread in these groups.

In addition many other people over 50 years of age were also vulnerable, if they have existing health conditions but the case fatality rates in this group was much lower. A small proportion of people younger than 50 with underlying and multiple health issues were vulnerable.

There was currently 185 people in hospital, in Rochdale, with Covid-19. This, however, compared to 424 hospital patients at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, in the spring months of 2020. The fatality rate was so far (during the 2020/2021 winter months) much lower than it was in the spring of 2020

In terms of the indirect impact of the virus on vulnerable people it was noted that the response to the virus was causing harm. Most vulnerable includes those at risk of decline because of isolation, financial distress, lack of care and treatment. In addition some of the most vulnerable may be hidden or less obvious and could include: Young people with anxiety; people trapped in abusive relationships; wealthier people seeing their life's work in ruins; homeless and people with unaffordable mortgages.

Resolved that the report be noted.

## **18 HEALTH PROTECTION BOARD AND OUTBREAK PLAN UPDATE**

Further to Minute 11 of the previous meeting of the Engagement Board, held 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Director of Public Health gave a presentation that detailed statistics relating to the numbers of deaths and hospital admissions in the Borough as a result of Covid-19 and updated on testing arrangements across the Borough.

The Engagement Board was informed that a 'fast testing programme' was to be rolled out in Rochdale later in January 2021, in a bid to 'filter out' asymptomatic cases. In addition 'Lateral Flow Tests' – which delivered results in 30 minutes – would be available at four different sites throughout the Borough from 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Council were presently in discussions with the army about delivery of the initiative, which will run for six weeks.

The swab kits that would be used were of the kind used in the mass-testing initiative piloted in Liverpool and Merseyside during November 2020. Although these were not as accurate as lab-processed PCR tests, the Director of Public Health reported that they were useful for identifying asymptomatic cases in the population. Therefore this meant that those testing positive for the virus, despite not falling ill, would know to self-isolate, thereby helping to break the chains of transmission.

The meeting was advised that Lateral Flow Tests were particularly useful for when people had a 'high viral load', meaning when they were at their most infectious. These tests would allow asymptomatic carriers to be 'taken out of circulation' and stop them spreading the virus. Thus far 70% of the negatives were accurate.

It was envisaged that the sites would be placed in Rochdale, Middleton and Littleborough, with their exact location yet to be determined. There would be a drive-through centre in Heywood.

Resolved:  
That the report be noted.

**19 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a presentation and report of the Director of Public Health and voluntary sector partners which set out key themes of engagement activity across the Borough in relation to the pandemic and responses from the community thereto.

It was reported that there here had been sustained efforts to share key public health messages and regular updates on the current situation in the Borough, working closely with partners to ensure consistent messaging, including the public health actions taken by partners and public health.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.