

REPORT

Item No:

SUBJECT:	Covid-19 Update
TO:	Integration Joint Board
Lead Officer for Report:	Chief Officer
Author(s) of Report	Chief Officer
DATE:	03.02.21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This paper is coming to the Integrated Joint Board:

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.2 This paper sets out the actions taken to date during the pandemic response.

2. ROUTE TO THE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

2.1 This paper has been:

Prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input type="checkbox"/>
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By the command structure in the Health and Social Care Partnership.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The IJB is asked to:

- (1) Note progress made during the pandemic response
- (2) Request further updates in due course.

4. VARIATIONS TO DIRECTIONS

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

5.1 Background

5.1.1 COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 12 March 2020, with spread of COVID-19 within all communities in the UK in the intervening period.

5.1.2 Command structures were immediately put in place in both North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire, with the Health and Social Care Partnership fully participating in both. In addition, the pan Lanarkshire Resilience Partnership has supported cross-agency developments.

5.1.3 The pandemic response has involved significant partnership working across Lanarkshire as a whole to ensure a consistent and coherent approach. With command structures now stood down, the focus has moved towards recovery, with a strong eye to outbreak management and the demands that winter could bring.

5.1.4 An overview of the current developments around Covid-19 is included below:

5.2 Update on Numbers

5.2.1 As at 3rd February, the seven day case rate within Lanarkshire is 172.7 per 100k population representing a significant drop from the start of lockdown. Within the acute sector, there are 315 confirmed Covid positive patients, a drop from the peak of around 350, but significantly higher than the previous peak of 280 during the second wave in October 2020.

5.3 Care Homes

5.3.1 One of the greatest areas of focus has been around supporting the Care Home sector, covering key areas of work such as:

- Testing, outbreak management and ongoing surveillance
- Infection, prevention and control including PPE and cleaning requirements
- Education and training
- Supportive reviews and visits.
- Workforce requirements and supply of mutual aid

5.3.2 Across Lanarkshire, work began to strengthen the management and oversight of outbreaks in care homes in March 2020, enhancing the supports we had offered routinely up until then. This included:

- Social Work Quality Assurance Section – existing contact
- Care home Liaison Team Support – existing weekly contact
- HPT Management of outbreaks – daily contact during outbreaks
- Weekly conference calls with sector by HSCP, established March 2020
- Established early contact with Care Inspectorate
- Care home Assurance Group, meets daily, established 23rd April 2020
- Bronze care home sub group, meeting twice weekly, established 24th April 2020
- Development of Care Home Strategy 23rd April 2020
- Access to staff bank to enable sustainable rotas with supporting governance framework
- Enhanced PPE recommendations that sector move to table 4 on 1st May 2020
- Prioritised programme of testing for care homes commenced 5th May 2020
- Workforce group established to support screening programme established 14th May 2020

5.3.3 Following communication from the Cabinet Secretary on 17th May which outlined the additional requirements regarding accountability for provision of nursing leadership; professional oversight; implementation of infection prevention control measures; use of PPE; and quality of care; we have undertaken significant work to map our current provision of support and ongoing workforce and resource requirements to deliver this new request:

- **Care Home Assurance Group** – initially established on 23rd April, group was expanded to include Chief Social Work Officers, Chief Officers and the Medical Directors. The group has also undertaken a thematic analysis of Care Homes, identifying support needs around access to updated HPS guidance; management of outbreaks; standard infection prevention and control measures; and staff support around mental health and wellbeing.
- **Huddle** - All 93 care homes in Lanarkshire have registered to use the national safety huddle template hosted on TURAS. There is a daily safety huddle meeting involving social work, care inspectorate, health protection team and nursing staff where they review this information and respond to any escalations or concern's raised. Work continues with the Care Homes to improve completion rates, particularly at weekends.
- **Enhanced support from Social Work Quality Assurance** – including coordinated timetable of audits for each Care Home; supporting action plan development; coordinating links with colleagues in Care Home Liaison, Infection Prevention and Control, Care Inspectorate etc; and support for Homes to claim financial assistance where appropriate.

- **Care Home Liaison** – establishment increased by 0.8wte B7 and 3.4wte B6 to move to a 7 day service and enhance contact with each home in Lanarkshire. The team have undertaken visits; managed daily data returns; acted as an escalation point for PPE issues; and participated in the prioritised engagement visits as required.
- **Health Protection Team** – To enhance the outbreak management and screening testing in Care Homes, an additional 0.6wte B7, 3wte B5, 1wte B4 and 3wte B2 staff have been brought into the team.
- **Testing** – All staff continue have access to weekly asymptomatic PCR staff testing through either the social care portal or NHS laboratory testing. In addition to weekly PCR testing care home staff are now also requested to undertake twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing.
- **Infection, Prevention and Control** – In conjunction with Care Home Liaison, the IPC team provide advice and support covering virtual visits, attendance at Care Inspectorate unannounced inspections and providing support to Homes as required.
- **Senior Nursing Leadership** – a team is being developed under the leadership of a Deputy Chief Nurse to provide an immediate response during early stages of an outbreak similar to acute care setting where the focus is on early containment. This team would build on the existing care home liaison team and would have additional workforce requirements as detailed below, including IPC expertise. The outbreak testing team would be embedded within the team.

5.3.4 In November 2020 a Care Home Outbreak Oversight Group was established, chaired by a Public Health Consultant, to provide oversight of all active outbreaks. To date, Fifty-six care home outbreaks have been recorded and 37 IPC outbreak supportive visits have been undertaken by IPC specialist nurses. As an outbreak is declared the care home assurance team deploy an IPC nurse to support the care home manager to review practice and identify any immediate issues. This is in addition to routine IPC audits and support visits. Feedback from these outbreak visits is provided to the Oversight Group and common themes recorded. This supports the targeting of messaging, education and support for care homes.

5.3.5 Lanarkshire has moved in to Level 4 restrictions which means only essential care home visiting is permitted, alongside window and garden visits if deemed safe by the Director of Public Health. Essential visits continue to be encouraged where appropriate and guidance on what constitutes an essential visit has been shared widely.

5.3.6 The planned schedule for the first dose of the vaccine is completed across all 93 Care Home, with compliance of residents over 90% and staff over 75%. The Care Home Assurance Team are reviewing individual care home compliance of staff and residents and supporting individual homes to improve compliance although. There are a few care homes compliance that is approximately 50% this is due to staff who have been Covid positive in the past 28 days & perceived concerns around safety. Further information around concerns has been sent to ensure staff can make an informed decision about vaccination and we continue to engage with these care homes to improve vaccination rates.

5.4 Acute Respiratory Assessment Centre

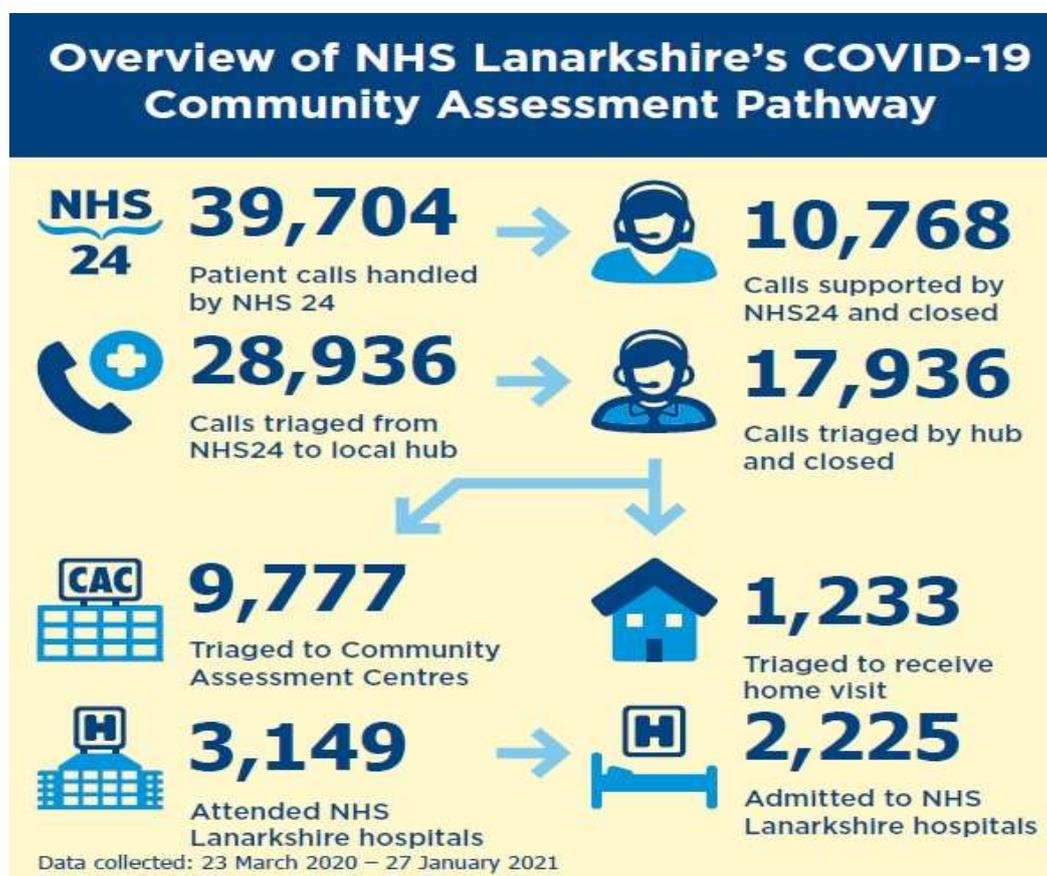
5.4.1 A Hub and two new Community Assessment Centres for COVID-19 cases were established at Airdrie Health Centre and Douglas Street Health Facility in Hamilton. In July, this was reduced to one Community Assessment Centre at Douglas Street due to reduced demand.

5.4.2 Patients suffering symptoms at home initially make contact through NHS24 and through the initial triage are then signposted to the NHS Lanarkshire Covid Hub. Patients are clinically triaged via the Hub and if required are then asked to attend the local Assessment Centre.

5.4.3 The model re-directs patients away from the routine GP pathway and diverts a flow of patients from the front door of the hospital. The centres have been staffed by volunteer GPs, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals and have been one of the success stories of the current arrangements.

Strict infection control procedures are in place at the sites, including segregation arrangements for the assessment centres.

- 5.4.4 The impact of the model is demonstrated in the following infographic, which was accurate as at 27th January 2021:



5.5 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 5.5.1 One of the biggest challenges during the early phases of the pandemic was the supply of PPE to frontline staff. The national PPE guidance has evolved over time, but overall the service has been able to maintain supplies to frontline staff in line with guidance.

- 5.5.2 There are no ongoing issues to report.

5.6 Delayed Discharge

- 5.6.1 In March the demand on delayed discharge activity was up by 30% with 125 delays recorded. Through a huge effort from all involved, this was greatly reduced to support the hospitals in creating additional capacity to manage the extra Covid demand. It should be noted that no individuals were discharged to Care Homes unless a Care Home would be their final destination.

- 5.6.2 Moving into recovery, a new model of Planned Date of Discharge was trialled in University Hospital Hairmyres during the pandemic, which has had a sustained impact on performance. Work is now underway to roll out the same methodology across the other two hospital sites ahead of winter.

- 5.6.3 Roll out is overseen by a pan-Lanarkshire implementation group with site implementation groups sitting underneath to support local coordination. In the North partnership, there is a weekly oversight group chaired by the Chief Officer and a daily Planned Date of Discharge call led by the

Head of Health, bringing all Social Work Seniors, hospital teams, equipment store, housing etc together to proactively plan the discharges of each individual on a daily basis.

5.6.4 Roll out commenced in University Hospital Wishaw across wards 9, 10, 11 and 12 (ward 9 currently being used as a red Covid ward), with moves to ward 5 and orthopaedics underway. In University Hospital Monklands, PDD has rolled out in wards 20, 21, 22 and 14. In Mental Health, wards 19, 20, Brandon and Clyde have rolled out the methodology and in our off-site facilities, roll out commenced in Wester Moffat and Coathill on 1st Feb 2021.

5.6.4 The impact of the programme to date can be seen in the weekly data, with a pre-Covid median of around 3500 associated bed days from delays on the weekly Monday census dropping to less than half of that since Autumn 2020.

5.6.5 While there is still a way to go to see the methodology fully embedded, strong progress has been made and the partnership working across the system as a whole has been the driving force.

5.7 Testing

5.7.1 Staff testing has continually evolved through national guidance over the period, with asymptomatic staff PCR testing commencing in long-stay and Covid wards, plus Care Homes. Since then, asymptomatic staff testing using Lateral Flow Devices has rolled out to all hospital, assessment centre, Care Home and patient facing community staff. NHS Lanarkshire is currently accounting for 22% of the national results reported by this route.

5.7.2 Within social care, registered services such as Home support (in-house and independent), Integrated Day Services, Locality Support Services, SDS providers etc are using weekly PCR testing and other front facing staff such as Social Workers are utilising Lateral Flow Testing.

5.8 Test, Trace, Isolate and Support

5.8.1 NHS Lanarkshire has a requirement to ensure a minimum of 50wte contact tracers on duty, 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. This number does not include other supporting roles such as team leaders and investigative officers. The positive support of North Lanarkshire Council should be noted in providing staff for the team.

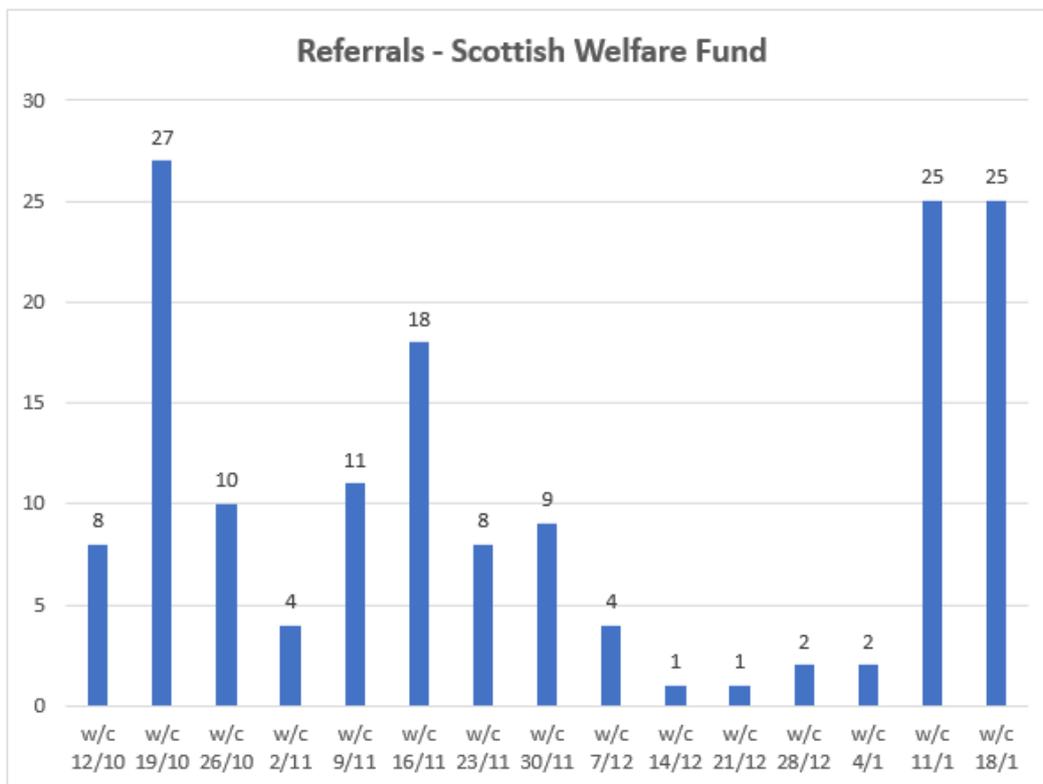
5.8.2 The average case interview completion rate inside 24hrs of notification is a measure of how quickly a contact tracer manages to interview the case, identify contacts and any events/settings of interest. As the following table demonstrates, performance has been improving over time and now sits at a very positive level, particularly when considering recent increases in demand:

September	74.0%
October	71.8%
November	91.2%
December	91.4%
January (up to 14/1)	93.9%

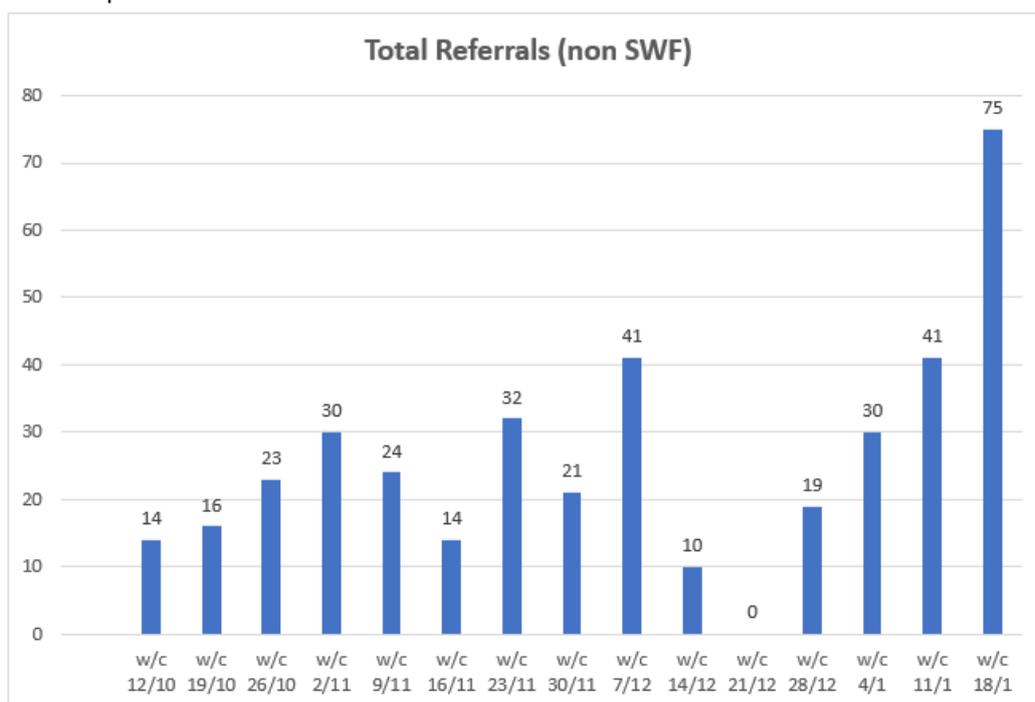
5.8.3 The average case completion rate inside 24hrs of notification is a measure of how quickly the team manage to complete all other investigative activity associated with a case before it can be closed off. Again, performance has improved over time to over 90%:

September	53.4%
October	56.3%
November	84.4%
December	86.0%
January (up to 14/1)	90.3%

- 5.8.4 During the second wave of the pandemic, the support for people programme has continued at pace, with the community advice line providing a single point of access to a range of support.
- 5.8.5 The Scottish Welfare Fund provides support to pay for essential items like food, gas or electricity for those affected by Coronavirus. Following the second lockdown, there has been a significant increase in referrals as noted in the graph below:



- 5.8.6 Referrals for other supports such as medication deliveries, dog walking, social calls, urgent food deliveries, food shopping and priority for supermarket deliveries (for shielding group) have also spiked in the second lockdown:



5.8.7 The third sector has played a hugely significant role in the Covid response, coordinated through VANL's Community Solutions Programme. From April to December 2020, the programme supported the following positive outcomes across North Lanarkshire:

Outcomes for adults	No of people
Reduction in isolation and loneliness	3294
Enhanced use of information, advice and education	1961
Improved independence and well-being	2083
People feel included, connected and safe	2824
Citizens have greater access to health and wellbeing supports and services	2232

Outcomes for Carers	No of people
Carers:-	
Have accessed a short break from caring	207
Have increased ability to manage or cope with their caring role	604
Health and wellbeing are optimised	641
Have been referred to direct carer support services	254
Have been signposted to direct carer support services	465

Outcomes for children and young people	No of people
Sense of wellbeing is increased	639
Mental health is optimised	605
Parental/carer attachment is improved	306
Physical activity is increased	617
Resilience is improved	610



5.8.8 Through the programme, 647 new volunteers were placed, with a further 55 recruited to support the Covid response, demonstrating the scale and success of the approach.

5.9 Winter Planning

5.9.1 A new national model of Urgent Care is being rolled out across Scotland, which has seen:

- Extended NHS24 call handling and local Board triage arrangements in place
- Acute Respiratory Assessment Centre provides a dedicated route for suspected Covid19/respiratory symptoms
- Mental Health Assessment Units accessible for direct referrals from other appropriate service providers.
- Specialist Assessment and Treatment Areas in acute hospitals to provide a dedicated route for suspected Covid-19 cases
- Advanced signposting and care navigation at core EDs who can be appropriately directed to another health care provider

5.9.2 The first performance reports from the new model should become available from February 2021

5.9.3 The seasonal flu vaccination programme was extended in 2020/21 to cover:

- Those aged over 65
- Those under 65 with a health condition
- Pregnant women
- Young and Unpaid carers
- Children aged 2 – 5 (and not yet in school)
- Primary school children (vaccination delivered at school)
- Healthcare workers (via occupational health) Households of those on the COVID-19 shielding list;
- Social care workers who provide direct personal care; and
- All 55 – 64 year olds (some of this group are already eligible due to qualifying health condition).

5.9.4 Across Lanarkshire, mass vaccination clinics were set up in each Locality alongside smaller outreach facilities, with the aim of ensuring sufficient capacity for increased demand, physical distancing and a learning opportunity ahead of the roll out of the Covid Vaccine.

5.9.5 As at 26th January 2021, 187,072 of the Lanarkshire population had been vaccinated. In the key groups we saw significant increases in uptake from the previous year with a 19% increase in 2-5yr olds, 17.4% increase in the at risk groups and 13.8% increase in over 65s.

5.10 Covid Vaccine

5.10.1 The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is the national body that advises the UK health departments on immunisation and they have set the eligibility criteria and priority groups to receive the vaccine. The table below summarises the priority groups:

Proposed timescale	Priority group	Order
Wave 1 (December 2020 to mid-February 2021)	1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers	
	2. All those 80 years of age and over and people who are housebound	
	2. Patient-facing health and social care workers	
Waves 2 and 3 (early February to May 2021) These groups will be invited in decreasing age order as detailed	3. All those 75 years of age and over	
	4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals	
	5. All those 65 years of age and over	
	6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality. (This also includes those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.	
	7. All those 60 years of age and over	
	8. All those 55 years of age and over	
	9. All those 50 years of age and over	
All those aged 16 to 49		

5.10.2 Wave 1 of the programme is now largely complete, bar for any catch up of eligible individuals who were unable to participate previously (e.g unwell, Care Home outbreaks etc).

5.10.3 All Care Homes have now received their first dose of the vaccine, with uptake at over 90% of residents and 75% of staff.

5.10.4 The programme for over 80s has also completed, led by GP Practices and community teams. Uptake is above 90%, with further catch up for cases who weren't eligible (e.g. through illness or Covid recovery) being undertaken.

5.10.5 Similarly, uptake across the health and social care workforce, including those in the independent sector, has been very strong, with the staff clinics coming to an end on 12th February. Any staff who have been missed can still book into the mass vaccination clinics set up for waves 2 and 3.

5.10.6 The programme for waves 2 and 3 commenced on 1st February 2021, with the aim of covering the 450,000 eligible population across Lanarkshire. Ten main hubs have been identified across Lanarkshire, which will run 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm. In addition, twelve satellite centres have been agreed which will run on a rotational basis to ensure accessibility across the population:

Site	Clinic Size
Airdrie Town Hall, Airdrie	Hub
Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex, Bellshill	Hub
Time Capsule, Coatbridge	Hub
Muirfield Centre, Cumbernauld	Hub
Alastair McCoist Complex, EK	Hub
Whitehill Community Centre, Hamilton	Hub
Civic Theatre, Motherwell	Hub
Fernhill Community Centre, Rutherglen	Hub
Stonehouse Lifestyle Centre, Stonehouse	Hub
Wishaw Sports Centre, Wishaw	Hub
Abington Community Hall, Abington	Satellite
Biggar Municipal Hall, Biggar	Satellite
St Athanasius Community Hall, Carluke	Satellite
Carnwath Community Hall, Carnwath	Satellite
Coalburn Leisure Centre, Coalburn	Satellite
Forth Sports Centre, Forth	Satellite
Garrel Vale Community Centre, Kilsyth	Satellite
Lockhart Hospital, Lanark	Satellite
The Fountain, Lesmahagow	Satellite
Sir Ian Nicholson Sports Centre Moodiesburn	Satellite
Shotts Sports Centre, Shotts	Satellite
Strathaven Leisure Centre, Strathaven	Satellite

5.10.7 In line with national guidance, the functioning of the vaccination centres is split into a number of roles, both clinical and non-clinical. Registered and non-registered staff have been drawn from across NHS Lanarkshire, with both Councils providing a significant number of staff to support the non-clinical roles.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 There has been a tremendous effort across the whole system (including third and independent sectors, communities and public partners) in building our response to the pandemic.
- 6.2 The dedication, bravery and commitment of all of our frontline staff should be commended in supporting us to continue to deliver a strong service to our residents in North Lanarkshire.
- 6.3 The delivery of the Covid Vaccination campaign is now underway, placing significant demands across the system as a whole, but again demonstrating the positive partnership working across Lanarkshire.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NATIONAL OUTCOMES

This relates to all nine national outcomes.

7.2 ASSOCIATED MEASURE(S)

A weekly performance framework has been developed to track progress.

7.3 FINANCIAL

This paper has been reviewed by Finance:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8. IMPLICATIONS (CONT.)

8.1 PEOPLE

The Strategic Planning Group has continued to meet throughout the pandemic, with the next session in March 2021.

8.2 INEQUALITIES

EQIA Completed:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8.3 CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES



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CHIEF OFFICER (or Depute)

Members seeking further information about any aspect of this report, please contact Morag Dendy on telephone number 01698 332075.