

REPORT



Item No: 8

SUBJECT:	Covid-19 Update
TO:	Integration Joint Board
Lead Officer for Report:	Chief Officer
Author(s) of Report	Chief Officer
DATE:	14.06.21

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 IJB

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 Integration Joint Board 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 An overview of the current developments around Covid-19 is included below:

5.2 Update on Numbers

5.2.1 As at 14th June, the seven day case rate within North Lanarkshire is 107.8 per 100k population representing an increase in recent weeks, with Bellshill one of four Locality areas in Lanarkshire causing concern. However, the impact on the acute sector continues to decline with only 12 confirmed Covid positive patients, a drop from the peak of around 350 in January 2021. There is currently one Covid-positive patient in level 3 ITU, though no cases within the off-site beds.

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 concerns 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 As at 10th June 2021, there are two ongoing Covid outbreaks in Care Homes in Lanarkshire (one in North and one in South) affecting 6 residents and 8 member of staff in total.

5.3.6 Uptake rates in the Care Homes for Covid vaccinations were 90.4% of staff and 95.8% of residents for the first dose and are currently at 87.1% of staff and 93.7% of residents for the second dose, with mop up sessions ongoing.

5.3.7 Lateral Flow testing continues in the Care Home sector and following updated Scottish Government guidelines on meaningful contact (indoor visiting), over 90% of homes are now able to support two designated visitors each week per resident. All homes are working towards this, but as per normal protocols, any outbreaks (not just Covid) create a temporary break in visiting.

5.3.8 In line with the request from the Cabinet Secretary, plans are now in place to continue additional support for Care Homes until 30th June 2022. The Lanarkshire Remobilisation plan has identified funding of £1,326,353 to provide:

- Professional oversight and clinical leadership and support ensuring health needs of care home residents are met.
- Outbreak management
- Recently a whole system approach to a sustainable vaccination programme was included
- Oversight of testing and review of tests results
- Conduct assurance visits and monitor information trends from safety huddle providing professional and clinical advice on provision of health care needs
- Support compliance with IPC whilst monitoring trends and escalations via safety huddle
- Support education and training in care homes in IPC measures.
- Support the development and implementation of testing approaches for care homes

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 As at 13th June, the weekly average cases were:
- 98 patients triaged per day by the Hub
 - 34 patients per day triaged to the assessment centre
 - 19 patients per day hospitalised
- 5.4.5 It should be noted that not all cases will be Covid related as the centres now cover all respiratory symptoms.

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 continues at pace across both University Hospital Monklands and University Hospital Wishaw. The impact has been clear, with significant drops in the numbers of delays and bed days associated. Previously, delays used to be largely split 50:50 between the acute sites and the off-site beds, but this has now moved to being heavily weighted towards the off-site facilities, which will be next on the list for roll out of the methodology.

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.
- 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 Covid Vaccination

- 5.8.1 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:

Cohort	Description	Cohort Size	Wave
1	Residents in a care home for older adults and their <u>carers</u>	>10,000	1
2	All those 80 years of age and over Frontline health and social care workers	29,730 >27,000	
3	All those 75-79 years of age	23,078	2
4	all those 70-74 years of age Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals over 16 years of age	32,449 23,373	
5	All those 65-69 years of age	36,548	
6	All individuals aged 16 to 64 years in an at-risk group <u>Unpaid Carers</u>	>60,000 Unknown	3
7	All those 60-64 years of age	43,003	
8	All those 55-59 years of age	49,881	
9	All those 50-54 years of age	51,583	
10	All those 16 – 49	277,143	

- Please note the cohort size is indicative as there will be significant overlap (e.g. health and social care staff, shielded and at-risk groups will overlap with age based cohorts).

- 5.8.2 As at 14th June 2021, 746,310 vaccinations have taken place across Lanarkshire, with 302,861 individuals having now completed the course. The first nine cohorts have been completed with first doses for 40-49 year olds nearing completion, first doses for under 40s underway and work ongoing for second doses across the cohorts.

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 at an advanced stage, 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.