



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **THE PLACE BOARD**

### **PART A - OPERATING AS THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**2nd November 2020 at 10.00am**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Cracknell (in the Chair)  
Councillor Jackson

#### **In attendance:**

- Rob Walsh (Joint Chief Executive)
- Joanne Hewson (Chief Operating Officer)
- Bev Compton (Director of Adult Services)
- Helen Kenyon (Deputy Chief Executive North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commission Group)
- Julie Walmsley (Voluntary/Community Sector Representative)
- Stephen Pintus (Director of Health and Wellbeing)
- Jane Miller (Care Plus Group)

#### **Also in attendance:**

- Zoe Campbell (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Jamie Dunn (CSSU Specialist)
- Murray MacDonald (Lincolnshire Housing Partnership)
- Phil Leake (Humberside Fire Authority)
- Ali Major (Signhills Academy)
- Mel Castle (Queen Mary Avenue Infant School)
- Pippa Robson (Sector Support)
- Gill Alton (Grimsby Institute)
- Karen Linton (Assistant Director for Skills)
- Mark Webb (eFactor)
- Darren Wildbore (Humberside Police)

## **HWBB.7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for the meeting were received from Councillor Lindley.

## **HWBB.8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

## **HWBB.9 COVID-19**

The board received an update on the latest COVID-19 epidemiology, recovery plan and outbreak management plan across North East Lincolnshire. Mr Pintus explained the rapid changing situation and that the Humber Coast and Vale positivity test rate was one of the highest and currently doubling every 10 days. The case rate for over 60 years old was concerning. The direction of travel was the same across the area, however, the infection rates amongst 16-29 years had slowed. The concern was that the increase in cases in the higher age group was more likely to see it affecting people's health and result in hospitalisation.

The spread of infection was spreading across the wards and the number of people being admitted to Diana Princess of Wales hospital as at the date of this meeting was 31 people in hospital beds with covid-19 and 7 people in the intensive care unit (ICU). Mr Pintus explained that there was a two week time lag before we would see admissions in the hospital. However, you would see the numbers going up and doubling and unfortunately manifesting in deaths.

On coming out of national lockdown, it was likely there would be a return to the tier system and the aim was for North East Lincolnshire to avoid going back into the high tier.

Next steps included the soft launch of the local contract tracing service with North Lincolnshire. There would also be more targeted communications, infrastructure support would be stepped up, new guidance implemented and there was a need for business continuity planning. Workforce wellbeing and fatigue going into the winter period was a concern and Mr Pintus stressed it was important to look out for staff and each other.

Mr Walsh reinforced the aim to work collectively to ensure that we were not in a higher tier when we came out of lock down as the impact would be significant and there was a collective requirement as a system to stem the rate of infection across the borough

Mr Webb queried if there were any new communications coming out for residents. Mr Pintus confirmed there was a revised communications plan

in light of the national lockdown and these would be specific to people's different roles and address the confusion that appeared to be prevalent.

Ms Miller stressed how challenging it was across the care sector due to the seriousness of the second wave locally. She explained that one of the challenges across the health and care sector was the workforce and enquired if there could be a discussion with the other sectors to look at joining forces to fill lower grade jobs when staff can be trained up in the health care sector and fill some of the pressure roles. Mr Walsh agreed that there was an acute pressure on the health and social care system at present. He thought our partnership strategic approach to recruitment and retention was welcome and he agreed to start the conversation. Mr Pintus recognised that absenteeism and fatigue was an issue and supported a joined up approach to bolster the workforce.

Ms Linton explained that during July 2020 there was a jobs initiative set out by the Chancellor to increase sector based work academies. It was aimed at people who were joining the unemployment register. She confirmed that in the past this initiative was successful in the health and social care sector and would speak to the Department for Work and Pensions Partnership Manager to see if the local authority could pick up some of the work based academies within the health and social care sector to increase capacity.

Councillor Jackson felt it was important to utilise people who are out of work at present and bring them into the health and social care sector, especially with the rise in unemployment due to the covid-19 restrictions and the affect this was having on the economy. It was a way of tackling getting people back into employment and keeping jobs and money in the local economy. Councillor Jackson welcomed an action plan of all the agencies working together locally.

Ms Alton confirmed that Grimsby Institute would welcome being a part of any group that looked at sector based academies, which had proved in the past to be successful.

RESOLVED –

1. That the updated be noted.
2. That a strategic approach to recruitment and retention be developed, to be led by Mr Walsh.
3. That discussions be held with the Department for Work and Pensions Partnership Manager regarding work based academies within the health and social care.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.26 a.m.