

Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday 18 March 2021

3.00 pm

This will be a virtual meeting. A meeting link will be circulated in advance.

Membership

Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair) Dr Nancy Kuchemann (Vice-Chair)	Leader of the Council GP and NHS South East London CCG Clinical Lead
Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Sarah Austin	Director Integrated Care for Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
David Bradley	Chief Executive of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
Cassie Buchanan Shamsur Choudhury Councillor Helen Dennis	Southwark Headteachers Representative HealthWatch Southwark Cabinet Member for Social Support and Homelessness
Sam Hepplewhite	Place Based Director (Southwark), NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group
Clive Kay	Chief Executive, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Eleanor Kelly Jin Lim	Chief Executive Officer of Southwark Council Director of Public Health, Children's and Adults' Services
Chris Mikata-Pralat Councillor David Noakes David Quirke-Thornton	Chief Executive of Community Southwark Opposition spokesperson for Health Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services

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Contact

Poonam Patel via MSTeams or email: Poonam.Patel@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 10 March 2021



Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday 18 March 2021
3.00 pm

This will be a virtual meeting. A meeting link will be circulated in advance.

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS	
	Voting members of the committee to be confirmed at this point in the meeting.	
3.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
4.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members of the committee to declare any interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
5.	MINUTES	1 - 9
	To agree as a correct record the open minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2021.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	COVID-19 UPDATE	10 - 35
	To receive and note a presentation from the Community Health Ambassadors Programme.	
7.	COVID-19 VACCINATION	TO FOLLOW
	To receive and note a presentation.	
8.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	To receive any question from members of the public which have been submitted in advance of the meeting in accordance with the (cabinet) procedure rules. The deadline for the receipt of a public question is midnight Friday, 12 March 2021.	
9.	UPDATE ON THE PANDEMIC AND SCHOOLS	TO FOLLOW
	To receive and note a presentation.	
10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	To note any other business.	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting will be Wednesday, 28 April 2021.	

Date: 10 March 2021



Health and Wellbeing Board

MINUTES of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Thursday 4 February 2021 at 3.00 pm. This was a virtual meeting. A meeting link was circulated in advance.

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
 Dr Nancy Kuchemann
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Jasmine Ali
 Sarah Austin
 David Bradley
 Cassie Buchanan
 Sam Hepplewhite
 Jin Lim
 Chris Mikata-Pralat
 Councillor David Noakes

OTHERS PRESENT: Caroline Bruce, Linda Drake, Clizia Deidda, Stephen Douglass, Layla Davidson, Stephen Gaskell, Alice Godman, James Hatts, Daniel Hooper, Genette Laws, Steve Lancashire, Elizabeth Macauley, Wendy McDermott, Louise Neilan, Sarah Newman Pauline O'Hare, Hayley Ormandy, Kelani Oshodi, Irene Payne, , Leidon Shapo, Anuradha Singh, Roxanne Smith, Duncan Whitfield, Chris Williamson, Natalie Woods, Rebecca Wycliffe

OFFICER SUPPORT: Poonam Patel – Constitutional Officer (Secondment)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped everyone was well and thanked them for following the COVID-19 rules and guidance to keep infection rates low.

2. APOLOGIES

Advance apologies for absence were received from Councillor Helen Dennis, Cabinet Member for Social Support and Homelessness; Clive Kay, Chief Executive, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of Southwark Council and David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services.

The Board noted that Duncan Whitfield was in attendance on Eleanor Kelly's behalf.

3. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those listed as present were confirmed as the voting members of the meeting.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items for consideration.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

6. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2020, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

7. COVID-19 - UPDATE

Jin Lim, Director of Public Health, Children's and Adults' Services introduced the report and drew the Board's attention to the recommendations of the report and the following three strands in the Council's outbreak prevention and control plan, January 2021.

- i. Prevent
- ii. Identify
- iii. Control

Chris Williamson, Head of Public Health Intelligence delivered a presentation to cover surveillance on COVID-19, from the monitoring report as part of Southwark's

Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, January 2021. The tabled presentation covered data on the following areas:

- i. Key Messages
- ii. Testing
- iii. Contact Tracing
- iv. Cases
- v. Case Demographics
- vi. Case Distribution
- vii. Secondary Care
- viii. Vaccinations
- ix. Horizon Scanning

In response to a question and answer session, the Board noted the following points:

- In response to increase coverage, all the vaccines received had been rolled out to be delivered to the people of Southwark in Southwark.
- The proposed long-term programme would cover at least nine months and help address those who were feeling hesitant about receiving their vaccine.
- There was a need to encourage people to update their contact details with their local GPs so everyone could be reached either by telephone or text.
- Approximately 100+ people in London were infected by the South African variant of the virus and the small number of those in Southwark had not been infected by it from overseas travel.
- The lateral flow tests were just part of the process to monitor and respond to an individual's COVID-19 test result – lateral flow tests were not a case of “test to release”.
- The national priority groups covered 1 – 4 and there had been little wastage of vaccines in January 2021.
- A daily reserve list was in place to avoid wastage and it was important to be mindful that people were still undecided or simply could not make their appointment.
- The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine allowed vaccinations to take place for those that were housebound.
- Those that were in the priority groups 1 – 4 and felt that they had not been contacted to book their vaccination appointment should not hesitate to get in touch to make an appointment:

Telephone: call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

Website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/02/call-for-people-aged-70-and-over-to-contact-nhs-for-a-covid-jab/>

General information about vaccine for COVID-19 - South East London (SEL) CCG:

<https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/what-we-do/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/>

RESOLVED:

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board received and noted the update from the Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive on the actions taken to prevent, identify and control the novel coronavirus pandemic in Southwark, implementing Southwark's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board considered and noted the Southwark vaccination framework and local approach being taken to address vaccine hesitancy and to ensure good uptake across all our communities, Appendix 2 of the report and the associated vaccine communications and engagement action plan, Appendix 3 of the report.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to establish a member and officer board across the Council and CCG to provide strategic oversight for the development and delivery of the local vaccination framework and associated delivery plan.
4. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to establish as a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board chaired by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety reporting back progress as part of the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.

8. COVID-19 VACCINATION

Jin Lim delivered a presentation to cover the Council's draft COVID-19 vaccination strategy and drew the Board's attention to Appendix 3 of Item 7, Southwark COVID-19 vaccination programme – communications and engagement strategy (1/2/21).

The tabled presentation included the following areas:

- i. Five priority work streams
- ii. Six key aims
- iii. Factors affecting uptake
- iv. Work stream 1 – Reducing inequalities of access
- v. Work stream 2 – Community engagement and communications to address vaccine hesitancy
- vi. Principles of community engagement for vaccine hesitancy
- vii. Work stream 3 – Data and intelligence
- viii. Work stream 4 – Vaccination programme delivery
- ix. Work stream 5 – Training, staff development and guidance

In response to a question and answer session, the Board noted the following points:

- The Council's programme so far was very collaborative with South East London (SEL) CCG and SEL CCG had been working on their partnership and communications plans.
- SEL CCG would be planning for the next cohort to receive their vaccination now that a diverse range of vaccination sites had been set-up from hospitals to the Excel Centre for priority groups 1 – 4. Accessibility and potential locations to establish 'pop-up' vaccination sites were key areas to explore in going forward.
- Weekly meetings were being held with the Council's comms. team and SEL CCG.
- Southwark's draft COVID-19 vaccination programme – communications and engagement strategy (1/2/21) contained three main themes:
 - i. Research and insight
 - ii. Opinion polling and research data
 - iii. Key concerns and myths
- A borough-wide and staff events were expected to be offered with an expert panel to help reach the residents, communities, faith leaders, faith groups and the staff to empower their knowledge about the vaccination programme; all as a means to build a level of trust and to help to address their concerns.
- The accuracy of data and the intelligence behind it was very crucial in reaching those that were hesitant about accepting the vaccine. The quality of the data could be a deal breaker for many that were undecided.
- It was important to strike the right balance when engaging with those that were yet to decide as it was the individual's choice to have the vaccine or not and no one should feel pressured or rushed in making their decision. Therefore, it was important to deploy an evolutionary approach towards the delivery of the vaccination programme.

- BAME demographic data was showing that those from an Indian origin were more likely to accept the vaccine than those from an African origin. Therefore, the cultural, faith perspectives and experiences within specific BAME groupings were variables to consider in the comms. and engagement strategy.
- There were 'open door' events organised for the Adult Social Care (ASC) workforce. This included advertising Q&A sessions with the public health team. One was held on 3 February and there were two more scheduled for 8 and 11 February. Badges stating "I'VE HAD THE VACCINE ASK ME ABOUT IT" were available to help promote awareness and vaccine uptake. Along with establishing a new virtual background for MSTeams virtual meetings, champions and representatives from ASC.
- In ASC services, there was a noticeable divide within the workforce from those that were willing to accept the vaccine and with those that were still undecided. This meant ASC services would continue with their efforts to help resolve the divide in the uptake of the vaccine.
- There was a series of COVID-19 related articles available in the latest edition of Southwark Life magazine and one from the vice-chair, Dr Nancy Kuchemann. Consequently, everyone was encouraged to do what they could to help raise awareness about the vaccines available.

Southwark Life:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultation-and-news/southwark-life>

RESOLVED:

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the presentation.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public question 1 from Mr Steve Lancashire

"Can we have an update on the timeline for the review of the Mental Health Strategy and also how the Suicide Strategy, although distinct, will be linked to it?"

In response, Jin Lim explained that there was an expectation to provide an update in Spring 2021, and the new steering group intended to meet fortnightly. Additionally, the mental health and wellbeing refreshed strategy would be closely aligned with the existing suicide prevention strategy. The Board noted that the suicide prevention strategy was a statutory requirement.

Public question 2 from Mr Tom White

“Given the growing mental health crisis as reported in the media in recent weeks and in the light of the presentation by David Bradbury to the last Board, what are the Maudsley doing to develop crisis services along the lines of the Place of Sanctuary proposals put forward by the Southwark Pensioners Action Group. A walk in crisis service is desperately needed to complement the prevention services in these very challenging times.”

In response, David Bradley, Chief Executive of SLaM accepted an invitation to attend a Southwark Pensioners Action Group meeting. David explained the various pressures and demands for mental health services due to the pandemic. In addition, a new facility in Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital was opened to provide more local services; and there were plans in place to establish a crisis café in Denmark Hill. The crisis café would be a place of sanctuary for anyone to walk into and use. The Board noted that it was Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (1-7 February 2021):

- <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Public question 3 from David Cooper

“What efforts are the Board undertaking to ensure that the ICS becomes a more transparent and democratically accountable (to councillors and service users) body?”

In response, the Chair and Vice-Chair explained that the ICS was not yet an accountable body. The organisations which were members of the South East London system had their own governance arrangements which defined their lines of accountability.

Public question 4 from Irene Payne

“Given that an adequate test and trace system is a vital part of responding to the challenge of Covid 19 how is the Board ensuring it uses the skills and experience of local authority public and environmental health officers to test, track, trace and isolate citizens of Southwark, to ensure we can control the virus locally as much as possible?”

In response, Jin Lim explained that the Council were working hard to follow-up on the test and trace system. Additionally, colleagues from housing, environment and enforcement were also part of the collective team effort to uphold regulations and support the overall processes in place. Support was also given to those that were self-isolating. This included providing a 'welfare check' service and signpost to community support should any resident need it.

10. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PRESSURES

The Chair welcomed the new Independent Chair for Partnership Southwark, Anuradha Singh and introduced Sam Hepplewhite, Place Based Director (Southwark) SEL CCG, and Pauline O'Hare, Director of Adult Social Care to present their presentation on Partnership Southwark recovery plan – delivery update, February 2021 from pages 50 to 55 of the Agenda.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- i. Addressing inequalities
 - ii. Safeguarding our communities and those who support them
 - iii. Start Well: Supporting children and young people – ‘keeping families strong’
 - iv. Live Well: Supporting working age adults
 - v. Age Well: Supporting our older and frail populations
 - vi. Care Well: Supporting those in care and residential settings
- Reablement services were driven by hospital discharges and there were elements missing from the processes to support independence. This was a key factor for those with long-term care needs and working around the impact of COVID-19 and long COVID-19. Adjustment to services were being considered to factor all the variables deriving from the pandemic.
 - There were unmet needs for hospital services and the backlog of these services were no different to what had been reported nationally on all mainstream platforms and news channels.
 - There were potentially two specific groups of unmet need. Those who were managing their diabetic status or yet to be diagnosed as diabetic to those that were harder to diagnose due to changes in their everyday lifestyle, wellbeing and mental health.
 - Patients waiting to see their Doctor no longer had to spend time waiting at the GP practice as appointments were delivered online.
 - There had been a greater appreciation for the voluntary sector, housing services and council providers in respect to their ability to work collaboratively. For example, at the Tessa Jowell Health Centre there was a call for volunteers to help deliver the vaccination programme on a Friday and by Monday they received the volunteers they needed.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions and participation..

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, 18 March 2021, 3pm – 5pm.

Meeting ended at 5.05 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6	Classification: Open	Date: 18 March 2021	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Update on Southwark Council's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, March 2021	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Jin Lim, Acting Director of Public Health Kirsten Watters, Consultant in Public Health (Health Protection)	

RECOMMENDATIONS

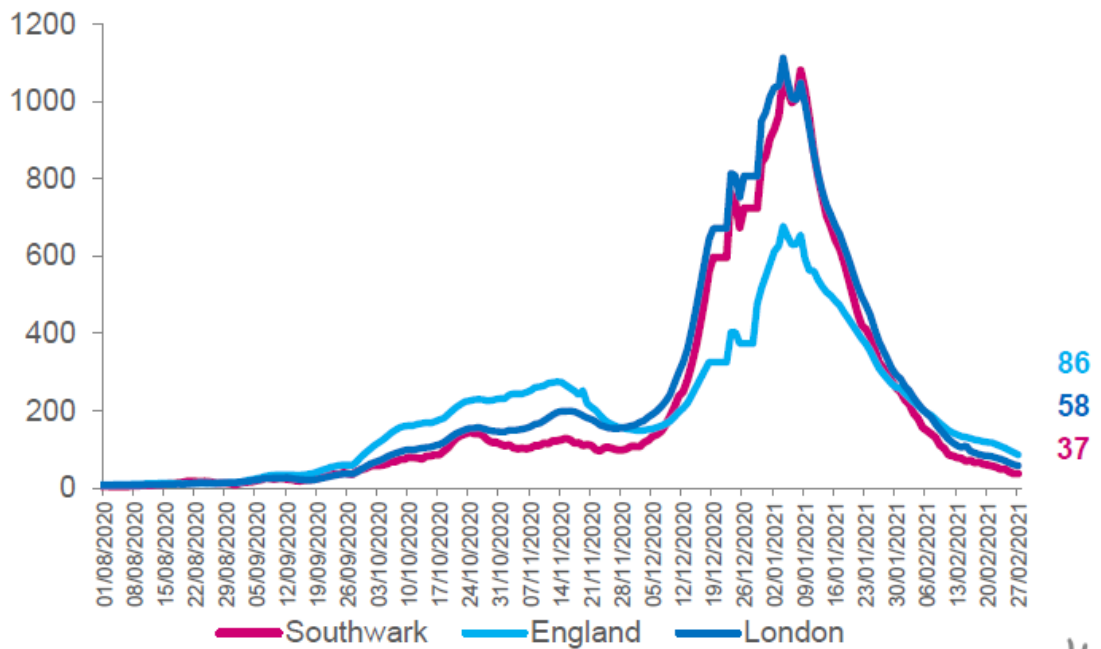
1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the update from the Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive (Appendix 1) on the actions taken to prevent, identify and control the novel coronavirus pandemic in Southwark, implementing Southwark's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP).
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board welcome and thank the Community Health Ambassadors for their support and work with local communities.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the further development and strengthening of communications and engagement in order to increase vaccination uptake and tackle hesitancy and misinformation (Appendix 2).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Southwark Council published its Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP) on 30 June 2020. In that document, the governance of Southwark's OPCP is established as being firstly Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive (OPCE) and ultimately both the Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet. This report to the Health and Wellbeing Board is the fifth update in reporting subsequent activity and progress relating to the OPCP.
5. Since the previous update presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 4 February 2021 both the epidemic itself and the local response have evolved.

6. February 2021 has seen the epidemic recede both locally and nationally following the second peak of infection that took place in the weeks immediately following Christmas 2020 and New Year 2021. Southwark, like the rest of London has seen consistent reductions in detected transmission with 7-day incidence falling below 100 / 100,000 population by the middle of February. At the time of reporting, there were fewer than 200 persons testing positive in Southwark each week.
7. Our local hospitals remain under significant and sustained pressure: bed occupancy for COVID-19 has fallen by approximately a half, but has only recently fallen below the levels observed in the first peak of spring 2020.
- There have been 117 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Southwark in the week up to 27 February.
 - Southwark's 7-day incidence rate is now 37 per 100,000; a decrease of 38% on a week earlier.
 - London's 7-day incidence rate is now 58 per 100,000; a decrease of 31% on a week earlier.
 - Overall positivity is currently 2.3%; lower than London as a whole at 3.1%.
 - Across London, half the boroughs now have incidence rates below 50 per 100,000; Ealing continues to have the highest incidence rate at 108 per 100,000.
 - There are 1,861 patients with COVID-19 in hospital across London.

Source: Southwark Covid 19 Headline statistics, 04.04.21



Weekly incidence rate per 100,000 population

Source: Southwark Covid 19 Monitoring Report 05.03.21

8. With the national vaccination programme proceeding at pace and with considerable success, the population health objective of vaccination is to firstly decouple transmission from severe illness and secondly (as emerging evidence supports) reduce transmission overall.
9. On 22 February 2021 the Prime Minister announced the roadmap out of lockdown with some key dates being:
 - **8 March** - Return to schools
 - **29 March** - Meeting outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private gardens; outdoor sport facilities will reopen, including golf courses and tennis and basketball courts; formally organised outdoor sports can also restart
 - **12 April** - All shops allowed to open, restaurants and pub gardens will be allowed to serve customers sitting outdoors, including alcohol, gyms and spas can reopen for individuals and households; hairdressers, beauty salons and other "close contact services" can reopen
 - **17 May** - People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors; Six people or two households can meet indoors; Pubs, restaurants and other hospitality venues can seat customers indoors; Indoor entertainment such as museums, theatres, cinemas and children's play areas can open; Performances and large events will be subject to limits though. For indoor events they can be at half capacity or 1,000 people, and outdoors they can be at half capacity or 4,000 people - whichever is lower. For large venues (at least 40,000 capacity) up to 10,000 will be allowed to attend; Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can reopen
 - **No earlier than 21 June** - All legal limits on social contact will be removed; Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen
10. The easing of lockdown for each step will be assessed against the 4 tests:
 - The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully
 - Evidence shows the vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated
 - Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS
 - The assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern

PREVENT STRAND

Communications

11. While continuing to share key public health advice and reiterate the existing restrictions, the Council is now preparing for the staggered loosening of restriction from 8 March 2021, as set out in the Prime Minister's roadmap.
12. Our Spring edition of Southwark Life will be delivered week commencing 15 March 2021, and will contain information on all our COVID-19 priorities including testing, vaccines and the loosening of restrictions.
13. We are also continuing to deliver the actions set out in the COVID-19 vaccination communications and engagement strategy with the objective of encouraging all residents to take up the vaccine when it is offered to them. Activity in this period, building on a large number of engagement sessions organised in January and February, includes:
 - Let's talk about the vaccine branding developed.
 - Resident webinar held on Zoom/YouTube, for nearly 300 residents, with an expert panel including Professor Kevin Fenton and Dame Donna Kinnair.
 - Staff webinar (all staff invited) arranged to answer questions about the vaccine.
 - Training sessions for elected members arranged.
 - Case studies developed including photos and quotes from real people having the vaccine and shared on social media, and through our VCS networks/community ambassadors.
 - Out of home advertising in planning.
 - Mapping of target audiences against activity to identify gaps and plan future comms and engagement activity
14. The Council also continues to promote our testing offer in the borough, including new sites such as the asymptomatic rapid testing site at London Bridge station.
15. We have also spoken to other councils that have had to implement surge testing due to the discovery of variants of concern, and have written an outline plan for Southwark in case we need to do the same.

16. The health and wellbeing board had received a communication and engagement plan at the last meeting. Further work is planned to develop and strengthen local communication and engagement in order to increase vaccination uptake and tackle hesitancy and misinformation. The areas for further development are outlined in Appendix 2 and will inform additional investment from Southwark Partnership, NHS and partners.

Community Health Ambassadors

17. There are currently 66 local residents and workers who have completed induction training and are now registered as Community Health Ambassadors in our Southwark network.
18. Ambassadors receive regular updates on COVID-19 prevention and guidance through a weekly newsletter, online ambassador network meetings and the network's WhatsApp group, as well as having access to an online catalogue of COVID-19 resources on different topics and in different languages and formats.
19. Ambassadors have signed up from across all areas of the borough, and the Network has especially strong connections and influence in the Peckham and Nunhead area. There is a spread of ambassadors across ethnic groups, with 41 (68%) of ambassadors who have provided ethnic background information, identifying themselves from BAME groups. Ongoing recruitment of additional ambassadors is targeted to support priority and underrepresented groups.
20. From monthly monitoring survey data, 212 messages were sent out on average per ambassador in January, with printed and direct messages being the most common message types.
21. Appendix 3 provides further information on the community ambassadors programme.

Other prevention work

22. Eighteen VCS COVID-19 prevention small grants applications were reviewed at the end of December 2020. Seven successful projects have been selected for a grant award and are in the process of being awarded to the recipient organisations.
23. Successful recipients include faith groups, a performing arts organisation, a Tenants and Residents Association, and organisations supporting different vulnerable populations. Funded activities include research into the barriers faced by communities, spreading awareness and prevention messages in different formats and languages, and support services for digitally excluded residents.

24. Engagement around the vaccine has also been taking place, with a free online community event on 1st March '*Let's talk about the vaccine*', for residents to hear more about the COVID-19 vaccine and have their questions answered. The event is particularly aimed at discussing and addressing the key concerns that may be contributing to lower take-up of the vaccine in London, and featured an expert panel drawn from the local community as well as Professor Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health.
25. A training programme is also being rolled out to equip key stakeholders with all the facts and information they need to discuss the vaccine with residents. Training a range of key stakeholders will support the conversation to extend into more vulnerable communities.

Enforcement

26. Enforcement continues to be challenging with improving weather, the messaging on the easing of lock down and the effective roll out of the vaccination programme. Despite the ongoing communications on the importance of adhering to national guidance in line with the government's proposals for the easing of lock down plans, there are increasing incidences of poor social distancing, very crowded public spaces and social gatherings. Recent weekends have seen particular problems at Borough Market and its vicinity with visitors travelling in from other parts of London for socialising, considerable numbers of fines having to be issued by the police and enforcement action taken by the Council.

IDENTIFY STRAND (INCORPORATING INTELLIGENCE)

27. The proportion of tests that are positive (test positivity) continues to decline, trailing the favourable downward trend observed in incidence rate. Approximately 3.6% of individuals who test via the symptomatic (PCR) testing pathway receive a positive result. The number of tests carried out by Southwark residents has declined since early January, to mirror the pattern across London. This is likely as a result of 'stay at home' instructions and a decline in community transmission.
28. Project EAGLE is the London-wide containment plan for emerging Variants of Concern (VoC). Over recent months a number of mutations have emerged which confer competitive advantages including increased transmissibility (such as the "Kent" variant) or possible reduced susceptibility to current vaccine technology (such as the "South African" and "Brazilian" variants). Project EAGLE is designed to identify and assertively respond to variants detected in the community. Plans are underway within Southwark Council to facilitate components of Project EAGLE including locally-targeted asymptomatic testing should the need arise.

29. The development of testing capacity and infrastructure continues at pace with the introduction of rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests forming an increasing proportion of all testing undertaken.
30. Mass rapid asymptomatic testing using LFDs operates in Southwark to identify those at risk of unwittingly spreading the virus. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) estimate that 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic. Southwark's Housing & Modernisation team continue to support mass testing which has seen the appointment of *Trojan* as provider but this was in the anticipation of a 6-week duration. There are now discussions to decide how best to support the programme given its newly announced extension to at least 30 June 2021.
31. In addition to the Damilola Taylor Centre testing site, Peckham, key workers and those unable to work from home are able to test at the new London Bridge Station test site which opened on 25 February 2021 and two pharmacies in the north of the borough. As seen across London, rapid test numbers are broadly plateauing: in week commencing 25 February 2021 a total of 2981 tests were reported in Southwark.
32. We continue to progress the local plans to complement larger community testing sites with a network of high street pharmacies and other appropriate work settings, opening incrementally. On a national level, employers of 50+ staff are able to apply to offer at-work testing and DHSC plan to roll-out widespread home testing in the coming weeks, starting with the households of school staff and pupils.
33. Test and Trace Southwark (TTS) has received lower and more manageable referral volumes. Performance has markedly improved operating around the 40-50% success rate for the local component of contact tracing (of cases), with the overall system performance exceeding the 80% mark.
34. Further call handling capacity has been trained and the service is now stable to maintain current operational capacity over the next several months into the summer of 2021. Planning is underway to deliver the service through to March 2022.
35. Seven-day service resumed on 9 January 2021 and the referral to hyperlocal follow-up has resumed.
36. A monitoring and evaluation strategy, along with quality improvement reviews to the OPCS have taken place over the period January to February 2021. A cycle of continuous improvement to all our pandemic response work is underway.

CONTROL STRAND (INCORPORATING VACCINATION)

37. The Acute Response Team (ART) has operated since February 2020, with a seven-day consultant-led service operating 0900-1700hrs every day. The publichealth@southwark.gov.uk is a monitored group inbox that serves as the single point of contact to all coronavirus-related enquiries. The team meets every weekday at 1600hrs to manage situations and respond to enquiries from across Southwark Council and organisations across the borough.
38. The volume of enquiries has fallen since the peak of the second wave but there continues to be demand from a range of hostels, care and educational institutions. It is anticipated that enquiry volumes will rise as lockdown eases.
39. The ART continues to provide support internally too for the Council. The team is working closely with the Health and Safety team and HR departments to support safe working practices within the organisation.
40. The NHS-led vaccination programme has begun in Southwark with local delivery initially via the Acute Trusts and both Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Roll-out of the programme started in December 2020 and those in the first four JCVI priority groups were offered their first dose of vaccination by the 15 February 2021. Roll out has now been extended to priority groups five and six, and work to extend access and develop further sites is underway.
41. A COVID Vaccination Strategy has been developed to support the programme, with the aim to improve coverage and reduce inequalities. Improvement work will be conducted under five workstreams, including: excluded populations, communications and engagement; addressing vaccine hesitancy, data & intelligence and staff development.

OUTLOOK

42. The epidemic is receding locally. The roadmap out of lockdown is a positive sign that spring and early summer 2021 is likely to see material relaxations of the many constraints that have negatively impacted health, wellbeing and our local economy. However, it is critical that the gradual approach is respected and that positive messages do not distract from the reality that the recovery remains precarious and must be informed by the four tests outlined in para 10.
43. The Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan is currently being refreshed. The key components of the plan must continue to address the challenges posed by the opening up of the economy and the widening of social activities:

- Ensuring good provision of both PCR tests for symptomatic as well as LFT for asymptomatic
 - Ongoing contact tracing
 - Responsive outbreak control
 - Communication and community engagement to support adherence to guidance and enforcement measures where necessary
 - Good vaccination rates with clear actions to tackle gaps and concerns
 - Alertness to and preparedness for the implications of the emerging variants and the ongoing mutation of the virus.
44. We do not expect the need for continued OPCP operations to relent in the medium-term. Even with at-scale vaccine roll-out by summer 2021, continued sporadic outbreaks of disease will likely continue into the winter of 2021/22.

Community impact statement

45. The OPCP involves close collaboration with a range of VCS partners and explicitly recognises the differential impacts of the pandemic on different groups.

Resource implications

46. In the same way that the pandemic has created new resource pressures across the public sector, the work driven by the OPCP has created unprecedented staffing and financial pressures across Public Health, Regulatory Services, Communities and Communications.
47. Ensuring the health and wellbeing of staff who have committed above and beyond their duties for more than a year is a priority. At the same time, qualified public health consultant leadership is highly constrained, with demand far outstripping supply at a national level. A sustainable approach that safeguards health and wellbeing is essential as we project the pandemic response into the next financial year and beyond.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Outbreak Prevention Control Plan	Public health First Floor, Hub 1 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	publichealth@southwark.gov.uk
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=365&MId=6771&Ver=4		
Covid 19 and the impact on health inequalities	Public health First Floor, Hub 1 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	publichealth@southwark.gov.uk
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=365&MId=6771&Ver=4		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Update report from the Outbreak Prevention Control Executive
Appendix 2	Further development areas – vaccination comms. and engagement
Appendix 3	Community health ambassadors

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Richard Pinder, Consultant in Public Health Medicine	
Version	Final	
Dated	07 March 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		10 March 2021

COVID-19 OPCE Report

Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive

Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

Southwark Public Health Division

4th March 2021

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Report title:	COVID-19: OPCE Report
Status:	Public
Prepared by:	K Rawlings
Contributors:	G Hogan; A Lobo; K Hooper; D Edwards; R J Pinder; I Blackmore; L Brutus; L Fagan; K Rawlings; C Williamson
Approved by:	J Lim
Suggested citation:	COVID-19: OPCE Report. Southwark Council: London. 2021.
Contact details:	publichealth@southwark.gov.uk
Date of publication:	4 th March 2021

This OPCE report gives a brief summary of key information on COVID-19 in Southwark

BACKGROUND

Coronaviruses are common globally and have been known to cause infection to humans. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

- Typical symptoms include fever and cough, and may progress to severe pneumonia with breathing difficulties.
- Symptoms are mild in most people, but a number of groups are classed as 'extremely vulnerable' to coronavirus, including:
 - Solid organ transplant patients
 - Those with certain cancers
 - Those with severe respiratory conditions
 - Those on immunosuppression therapies
 - Those with rare health conditions that increase the risk of infection

This report gives key information on the COVID-19 impact in Southwark, and the local response.

Reference

1. DHSC and PHE (2020) Coronavirus: latest information and advice. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

The OPCE Report is structured around the three key strands, and supporting workstreams, of the OPCP

OUTBREAK PREVENTION & CONTROL PLAN

The OPCP is structured around three main strands (Prevent, Identify and Control) and the three cross-cutting workstreams.

AIM: Mitigate the impact of novel coronavirus on Southwark's population and communities, focusing on those most at risk.

ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

PREVENT

Work with communities and settings to prevent transmission, focusing on those with greatest vulnerability

IDENTIFY

Collate and interpret data to ensure that cases, clusters and outbreaks of disease are promptly identified and those affected appropriately supported

CONTROL

Manage outbreaks by providing health protection advice and the institution of control measures (for individuals and communities) so as to prevent onward transmission

INTELLIGENCE , EVIDENCE & EPIDEMIOLOGY

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

References

1. Southwark's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP), ([link](#))

Summary of key developments and next steps in Prevent workstream over the last 7 days

PREVENT – GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Workstream Activities / Updates

General

- Focus on the mass testing and pushing messages through our regular channels, plus some paid for social media.
- Continued provision of COVID prevention messaging through usual channels.
- Vaccine webinar event for Southwark residents on 1st March.

Internally

- Staff are regularly reminded of the mass testing facility available to all front-line workers.
- An all staff webinar is being held on 3rd March to address any questions and concerns raised by Council staff.

Looking ahead

- Looking at wider comms for vaccines as the age groups widen out.
- Southwark Life to have a feature on the roadmap and vaccines.

Author(s): Ginette Hogan, Public Health; Kim Hooper, Comms

Summary of key developments and next steps in Prevent workstream over the last 7 days

PREVENT – TARGETED COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Workstream Activities / Updates

Businesses

- The Business FAQs and key messages regularly updated on the Council website.
- Weekly comms to over 10,500 businesses on effective prevention and available business support.
- Ongoing grant support to businesses via LRSG and ARG

VCS Covid-19 Prevention Grants.

- Waiting for final sign off to release funds to the 7 successful applicants.

Community Health Ambassadors

- There are currently 66 local residents and workers who have completed the induction training and are now registered as Community Health Ambassadors.
- A weekly e-newsletter is being distributed to Ambassadors to share news, key messages, events and signpost support.
- Fortnightly induction sessions and monthly Ambassador network meetings are taking place .
- From monthly monitoring survey data, 212 messages were sent out on average per ambassador in January, with printed and direct messages being the most common message types.
- Result from the same survey found that individuals in the Ambassadors' networks are most concerned about their mental health, vaccinations and financial support.

Universities/Young people

- Continuing close partnership working with schools, HE and FE institutions.

Looking ahead

- Ambassador training and recruitment continues with targeted approaches to recruitment from the VCS Latin American Network and Walworth area.
- Regular updating of messages to account for any changes in restrictions. whilst maintaining non-changing messages (mask, handwashing, etc.).

Author(s): Anthony Lobo, Public Health / Danny Edwards, Local Economy Team / Kim Hooper, Comms

Summary of key developments and next steps in Identify workstream since the last OPCE

IDENTIFY

Test and Trace Southwark (TTS)

In the **fourteen days between 15 February and 28 February inclusive**, 109 cases were referred to Test and Trace Southwark for local contact tracing. Of these:

- 44 were contacted successfully, of which: contact tracing was fully completed (43), or contact was made but the individual was unable to share details of contact (1) ;
- 48 cases were not reachable, due to maximum attempts being made (27), refusal to cooperate (4), not enough information to contact the cases (6), the case was too unwell or in hospital (10), or for any other reason (1).
- 14 cases were flagged as inappropriate for the LSCT team to follow-up, because they were already contacted by the national system (6), did not consent prior to referral to TTS (7), the case was older than 10 days (1).
- 2 cases remain open for further follow-up with Home Visits.
- 1 case was referred back to the national team for further follow-up.
- 16 cases were referred on for a Home Visit, of which:
 - 5 completed contact tracing; 1 was later deemed inappropriate; and 2 remain open

Workstream Activities / Updates

- Referral volumes have fallen markedly over the last fortnight with most days remaining <10 cases.
- Performance both locally and overall has improved markedly with recent local performance $\geq 50\%$ and overall performance system $\geq 80\%$ for both cases and their contacts.
- Challenges remain completely restarting home visiting: regulatory services are operating a full home visiting service. There are continued discussions underway with union representatives about fully re-starting the resident services home visiting service for the social housing sector.
- Local work is underway to identify areas for service improvements including options around faster handover times from the national system to TTS.

Looking ahead

- We are undertaking analysis to place the service on a longer-term footing, using the assumption that TTS will continue to operate until March 2022.

Summary of key developments and next steps in Identify workstream over the last 14 days

IDENTIFY

Rapid (LFT) testing

(1) MASS TESTING UPDATE

- www.southwark.gov.uk/covidtest
- National programme of local authority mass rapid testing
- Southwark: Council programme team supported by PH. Ongoing comms and liaison with DHSC.
- New **London Bridge Station** mass testing site went live on 25 February.
- LFT numbers are broadly plateauing; in w/c 25 Feb a total of **2981** tests were reported in Southwark (mirroring the picture across London).
- Current discussions to decide how best to support the programme given its newly announced extension to at least 30 Jun 2021.

(2) HIGH STREET PHARMACIES

- Led by PH. Aiming to develop a network of 10+ pharmacies to broaden the offer for key workers across the borough
- Initial pilot - 2 pharmacy sites now live for LFT testing (Jamaica Road Pharmacy and Bonamy Pharmacy)
- Additional sites to be identified via EOI, ambition to have a network of pharmacy sites across the borough to improve access

(3) SCHOOLS

- School lateral flow testing programme live
- Public health team providing support on LFTs as part of the planned return to school programme – 4 workshop/Q&A sessions and a school readiness survey underway
- New policy announcement: rollout of twice weekly rapid testing for households with children of school age (including home testing option)

Workstream Activities / Updates

- Peckham Pulse and Burgess Park PCR testing sites now operating as an LFT home test collection site in the afternoons
- Supporting Elephant Park construction site and local employers interested in providing in-house testing
- Targeted engagement and outreach to – PVI early years, charities, local businesses and many more
- LSBU now engaged in DHSC LFT 'use case' pilot study comparing LFT and PCR results in asymptomatic cases

Looking ahead

- DHSC developing new 'community collect' home testing model – starting with schools but likely to be extended to wider community
- Additional pharmacy sites to be identified and stood up

Author(s): Liz Brutus, Consultant in Public Health; Lucy Fagan, Public Health Registrar

Summary of key developments and next steps in Control workstream over the last 7 days

CONTROL

Workstream Activities / Updates

Between the **23rd February & 1st March**, there were **7 open outbreaks¹** being managed by the Acute Response Team:

- 3 in Care Homes
- 2 in a Hostel / Supported Living Setting
- 1 in a Higher Education Setting
- 1 in a Workplace Setting

In the same time period there were **5 clusters²** reported:

- 1 in an Early Years Setting
- 2 In a School
- 1 in a Higher Education Setting
- 1 in a Workplace Setting

There were also **5 single cases** reported.

All received support and advice from Southwark Council's Public Health Team. Where appropriate, situations were escalated to the LCRC.

Looking ahead

- Close monitoring of local incidence rates and location occurs daily to allow early action to be taken.

Author(s): **Kate Rawlings**, Public Health Programme Officer.

Reference

1. An outbreak is defined as two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 at a named location with a proven epidemiological link.
2. A cluster is defined as two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 at a named location where there is no evidence of an epidemiological link.

Key developments and next steps in the Intelligence workstream

INTELLIGENCE, EVIDENCE & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Workstream activities and updates

- The Monitoring Report is revised and reviewed by the Public Health Acute Response Team three times a week. Weekly updates are provided to senior officers.
- Local confirmed cases are reviewed daily against key high risk and vulnerable locations. Cases of interest are notified to the Acute Response Team for follow-up.
- The team review NHS Test and Trace contact tracing data to identify potential common exposure locations. These are shared with Environmental Health on a weekly basis.
- Inequalities analysis of vaccination coverage is underway and will feed into the vaccination coordination group on an on-going basis.

Looking ahead

- The initial Rapid Impact Assessment is being revised in light of the evolving nature of the pandemic. Updates will incorporate additional intelligence relevant to Southwark populations and local response work.
- The team will continue to consolidate data flows and develop monitoring and reporting of Covid vaccination across South East London, working with sub-regional partners.

Author: Public Health Knowledge & Intelligence Team, for Chris Williamson, Head of Public Health intelligence

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/publichealth

Southwark Public Health Division

 @lb_southwark  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

Partnership Southwark COVID-19 vaccinations communications and engagement approach

Area of the borough strategy	Proposed activity
Supporting borough coordination of activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new Partnership Southwark role to support the bringing together of our communications and engagement work on the vaccination campaign. Role to be hosted within the council.
Reducing inequalities of access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call centre support line – a phone number available to residents to help answer any queries they have in terms of hesitancy and access to the vaccine for those less likely to contact their GP to ask (whether about concern on impact on GP time, access to GP or in terms of trust) - Support care home residents and workers uptake - Wrap around comms and engagement to support access to the vaccine in specific areas in a timely way. For example, for each pop-up or ‘vaccine bus’ visit, with a team of people to promote the offer locally, do leaflet drops/knock on doors, and be available to answer questions.
Vaccine programme delivery, call and recall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport – commission VCS organisation to arrange taxis for more vulnerable residents to get to their vaccine appointment. - Text messaging aligned with other activity – eg. transport services
Communications and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and faith organisation grants – support outreach and engagement with key groups focused on vaccine engagement and local community insight generation on removing barriers. - Paid ‘ambassadors’ within outreach groups - Investment in community ambassadors – to expand reach and impact. Paid positions within key community groups with a clear JD to include outreach, running events, holding focus groups to test comms messages, signposting to info. These would be some part time positions to cover key groups such as OP, YP, key BAME communities, Disability etc. - Engage with employers in the borough to encourage vaccination uptake with staff. - Expanding and amplifying existing channels and messaging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ outdoor advertising ○ hyperlocal radio advertising ○ ethnic media placements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ advertising in supermarkets ○ targeted social media advertising (particular useful in targeting younger age groups) - Campaign with schools and with younger people 18-25 on wider vaccination programmes across the borough later in the year.
Insight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident experience of the vaccination programme so far - Commission follow up research (based on current joint research with Lambeth) to see whether perceptions have changed, and inform our comms and engagement ongoing strategy - Behavioural insights to vaccine hesitancy – working with an academic partner (local AHSN) to develop a deeper understanding of motivation and barriers within behaviour.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Videos of training – record training sessions currently in progress for those unable to attend and to make delivery more flexible. - Funding to support trainers to come in and support training alongside videos. This will support the programme in the council to train 1,000 people in the borough to have conversations about the vaccine.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AMBASSADORS NETWORK

Introduction

Southwark Council has worked in partnership with Community Southwark to build a network of Community Health Ambassadors to help us reach more residents with our messages from trusted voices in the community.

There are currently 66 local residents and workers who have completed the induction training and are now registered as Community Health Ambassadors in our Southwark network. Ambassadors have signed up from across all areas of the borough, and the Network has especially strong connections and influence in the Peckham and Nunhead area.

There is a spread of ambassadors across ethnic groups, with 41 (68%) of ambassadors who have provided ethnic background information, identifying themselves from BAME groups. Ongoing recruitment of additional ambassadors is targeted to support priority and underrepresented groups.

Role of Ambassadors

The Community Health Ambassadors Network empowers and supports Southwark residents to protect themselves and their communities. The main role of Ambassadors is to share accurate COVID-19 information with their networks, including messages on how to prevent transmission and stay safe, testing, NHS Test and Trace and vaccines.

Ambassadors also sign-post residents within their network to support resources which are available in different formats, languages and in relation to a range of different topics (e.g. COVID-19 guidance, financial support, food, medicine or other delivery support, mental wellbeing)

The role also encourages Ambassadors to provide feedback from their community, in terms of challenges facing their communities, and potential solutions and support required.

Ambassador criteria and expectations

The network is open to everyone living or working in Southwark and everyone's voice is important. Ambassadors include local residents, faith groups, voluntary sector workers, volunteers, medical professionals, teachers, TRAs, and Councillors. Even if Ambassadors only pass on the information to their closest friends and family, they are still encouraged to join the network, as they will still be having an impact.

In order to sign-up as an Ambassador, individuals are required to complete an expression of interest form, and attend a 90 minute induction session to meet the Network leads and to better understand what the role entails.

Once on boarded, the role of an Ambassador is to engage with their networks and local communities on the topic of COVID-19. There is no set expectations on time or engagement commitment. Ambassadors do not need to be (and are not expected to be) COVID-19 health experts, medical professionals, social workers, therapists or enforcers.

Support for Ambassadors

Ambassadors receive regular updates on COVID-19 prevention and guidance through a weekly newsletter, a detailed induction pack, online ambassador network meetings and the network's WhatsApp group, as well as having access to an online catalogue of COVID-19 resources on different topics and in different languages and formats. The weekly newsletter also includes details of relevant events, training and grant opportunities, and support services and schemes.

Through the network, Ambassadors have access to public health professionals and experts (through direct links to the Southwark Council Public Health team), who can respond to specific COVID-19 queries.

Ambassador Feedback

From monthly monitoring survey data, 212 messages were sent out on average per ambassador in January, with printed and direct messages being the most common message types.

Ambassadors have also provided qualitative feedback about the network, with comments appreciating the timely response from network leads to queries raised, finding the network meetings informative and supportive for the role, and an increased level of confidence about sharing accurate messages with communities and addressing barriers in their communities.

Next Steps

The intention is to accelerate the growth of the network to maximise the impact and reach into communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, by further utilising existing networks, groups, communication channels and community organisations to help promote the scheme to encourage residents to sign-up as Ambassadors.

The plan is to also sign-up more multilingual Ambassadors to better support communities impacted by language barriers, and to expand the reach of the network into priority groups and underrepresented communities.

Longer terms plans are considering progressing and transitioning the scheme, by broadening the role of Ambassadors from a COVID-19 prevention focus into wider health prevention themes to support population health and wellbeing recovery.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD REPORTS FOR INFORMATION
DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21**

NOTE: Amendments/queries to Poonam Patel, Constitutional Team,
MSTeams

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Councillor Jasmine Ali	1		
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