



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place and Senior Responsible Officer for Covid-19 Recovery

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	25 February 2021
Subject:	Covid-19 Update

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the work by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), partners and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to manage Lincolnshire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report will provide an update and overview of the situation since the most recent report presented to the Board on the 28th January 2021.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) is invited to consider the report and provide feedback on the proposed local recovery arrangements.

1. Background

In January the report outlined the position at the time and set out the changes that had occurred since the 17th December. On the 6th January a further period of national lockdown began in England. This remains in place and at the time of writing this report it is expected that the Government will announce further details with regard to the exit plan on the 22nd February 2021. A verbal update of any new announcements will be provided as part of the presentation of this report.

2. Latest Data

As of 22nd February 2021, the latest data for Lincolnshire can be found in the tables below.

A brief comparison of the data for Lincolnshire reported to OSMB in January 2021, against the latest data reported below, is as follows:

- Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population was 209.7 (24th January 2021) in comparison to 21st February, which is reported at 111.9 per 100,000.

- Lincolnshire cases reported in the last 7 day period was 1596 on 24th January, in comparison to the figure reported on the 21st February in the tables below which is 852.
- Deaths reported as defined below for Lincolnshire in the last 7 day period up to the 24th January was reported as 66, and below in the last 7 day period up to 21st February it was 36.
- Number of Covid-19 vaccines administered up to the 17th January for Lincolnshire was 49,633, as of the 14th February this was reported as 202,799.

Further breakdown of the latest data is below.

Tests (Updated: 21 February 2021)

	Total Tests Carried Out	Total Positive Tests	% Positive Tests	Positive Cases	Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population
Lincolnshire	44,380	1,006	2.3	852	111.9
Boston	4,576	136	3.0	119	169.6
East Lindsey	7,446	71	1.0	55	38.8
Lincoln	6,425	127	2.0	98	98.7
North Kesteven	8,337	165	2.0	137	117.2
South Holland	4,661	188	4.0	168	176.8
South Kesteven	7,491	207	2.8	180	126.4
West Lindsey	5,444	112	2.1	95	99.3

The data in the table above is a rolling 7-day summary of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 Tests. Data has been extracted from Public Health England (PHE) daily line lists, which provide data on laboratory confirmed cases and tests captured through their Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). The rates shown are crude rates per 100,000 resident population.

Cases (Updated: 21 February 2021)

	Cases in the Last 7 Days	Cases to Date
Lincolnshire	852	36,839
Boston	119	4,306
East Lindsey	55	5,776
Lincoln	98	6,445
North Kesteven	137	5,118
South Holland	168	4,424
South Kesteven	180	6,676
West Lindsey	95	4,085

Data on cases are sourced from Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). This is PHE's surveillance system for laboratory confirmed cases. Laboratory confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 confirmed in the last 24 hours are reported daily by NHS and PHE diagnostic laboratories. This is the most accurate and up to date version of data and as such it will not align with the data that is published nationally ([link to tracker](#)) due to delays in reporting.

Deaths (Updated: 21 February 2021 at 16:00)

Area	Total deaths to 21 February 2021	Total deaths in the last 7 days (15 February 2021 to 21 February 2021)
Lincolnshire	1,496	36
Boston	168	0
East Lindsey	360	11
Lincoln	178	0
North Kesteven	209	6
South Holland	174	8
South Kesteven	245	8
West Lindsey	162	3

Total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic of people who have had a positive test result for Covid-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test. The actual cause of death may not be Covid-19 in all cases. People who died from Covid-19 but had not tested positive are not included and people who died from Covid-19 more than 28 days after their first positive test are not included. Data on Covid-19 associated deaths in England are produced by Public Health England from multiple sources linked to confirmed case data. Deaths newly reported each day cover the 24 hours up to 5pm on the previous day. As of 31st August 2020, the methodology for counting Covid-19 deaths was amended and, as such, the total number of Covid-19 related deaths was reduced. Data is available to Local Authorities and the general public here:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations>

Community/Asymptomatic Testing Programme (Updated: 21 February 2021)

Total Tests	Vol. Positive	% Positive	Vol. Negative	% Negative	Vol. Void	% Void
19,047	283	1.49%	18,696	98.16%	68	0.6%

Vaccinations in Lincolnshire – Period Covered 8 December 2020 – 14 February 2021 (Published: 18 February 2021)

First Dose				Second Dose				Total Vaccinations to 14 February 2021
Under 70s	70-74	75-79	Over 80s	Under 70s	70-74	75-79	Over 80s	
72,776	46,039	34,479	45,358	1,524	17	10	1,596	202,799

The number of people who have been vaccinated for Covid-19 split by age group published by [NHSEI](#). All figures are presented by date of vaccination as recorded on the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS) database.

3. Update on the current LRF priority response activity

Mitigating the spread of the infection

There remains a significant response activity underway; the areas to highlight in this report are below which provides an overview of this work.

The new variants that have been recently identified have resulted in further measures being introduced within the UK. This includes increased quarantine restrictions for international travellers returning from countries on the "red list" and additional surge testing measures introduced in areas where new variants have been identified. Lincolnshire does not have any major airports and we do not have any hotels that are providing quarantine accommodation as part of these new restrictions. In addition, neighbouring areas are not currently part of the international travel measures in place from the 15th February 2021 and the closest airport to Lincolnshire with these measures in place is Birmingham International airport. This has been confirmed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

At the time of writing this report, plans were in place to implement any additional local community testing requirements that may be needed in the county if a response was required due to the identification of a new variant in the county. Partners across the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) are working in collaboration to ensure a coordinated approach should it be required. Some other areas of the country have been identified for surge testing; this will have additional testing capacity available to them in an effort to control and suppress the spread of new Covid-19 variants. Lessons learnt from those areas are being shared across the network of LRFs.

In addition, there has been some further work nationally to identify an additional cohort of individuals that will now be added to the list of clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). For Lincolnshire we have approximately 32,000 CEVs currently; this new cohort adds a further 8,100 people to the list. These individuals will be asked to shield until receiving the vaccine due to the risk factors that have been identified nationally; this is in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The Covid-19 vaccination programme

Lincolnshire had a very positive start to our delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, and it can be reported that this has continued to meet and exceed the target set out nationally for local areas to achieve.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) identified the initial priority groups as:

- Over 80 year olds
- Health and care staff
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- Those between the ages of 70-79 years.

Lincolnshire's first large vaccination centre at Boston's Princess Royal Sports Arena (PRSA) went live on Monday 18th January 2021 with the second going live at the Lincolnshire Showground in Lincoln on Monday 1st February 2021.

The Prime Minister announced on the 14th February that the top four most vulnerable groups had all been offered a vaccine. The Covid-19 vaccine rollout in England has entered a new phase, after the rollout is now being officially expanded to the over-65s and younger people in at risk groups.

People in these groups are actively being contacted directly to be invited to attend one of our vaccination centres through agreed mechanisms to receive their vaccine.

Covid-19 – Testing programme

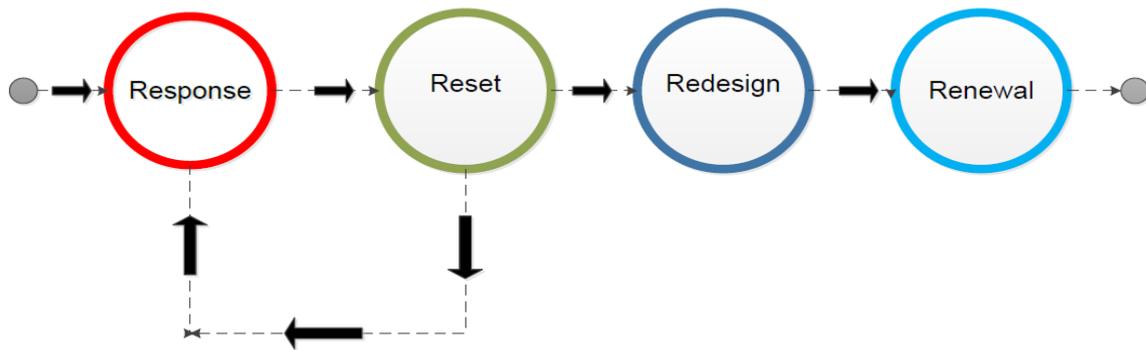
The temporary targeted community testing sites set up within the county, located in Lincoln and Boston, are for people who are not displaying symptoms. This approach looks to identify asymptomatic people within the community who when tested have the virus; local contact tracing is then provided. This is useful in identifying members of the community that may be spreading the virus without their knowledge as they do not have any symptoms. It has been agreed that these will remain in place for longer than first planned with an initial extension for approximately one month; the requirement for these will be monitored and reviewed.

4. LRF Recovery planning

The management of the pandemic during the response phase has focused upon containing the virus and mitigating its harms. The onward journey requires us to put measures in place to enable us to live with Covid-19 while going about our day-to-day activities.

Therefore, as we plan and prepare our communities for the journey ahead, it is important that we set out our approach for recovery 2021. The Government indicated that the timeline for easing of restrictions out of lockdown 3 would be announced the week of the 22nd February. In order to prepare for this there has been work undertaken to review our local recovery plan from 2020.

During the early summer of 2020, work began on the recovery and renewal strategy for Lincolnshire. This was based on the information available at the time and reflected the Government's strategy on recovery (May 2020). The recovery strategy in 2020 required the ability to be able to move back into a response phase if the need arose. This was due to the level of uncertainty at the time, as until such time that a vaccination programme was in place there was a significant risk of a second wave of the virus in the winter of 2020. The approach below was developed with this in mind.



As we now know, there was a need to step back into the response phase in the autumn of 2020. Since then, there have been two further national lockdown periods and a number of changes to the restrictions in place across the UK to reduce the spread of the virus. In addition to the challenges faced in 2020, a further complexity has developed with the identification of new variants of the virus. This has had an impact on the level and duration of the restrictions in place as we moved in to 2021.

Therefore, the approach for recovery 2021 must reflect the current situation and the information that we now have available. This should take account of the provision we now have in place to mitigate the harms of the virus. As the vaccination programme roll out continues and the testing provision is more widely available this allows for longer term planning. This will inevitably determine the restriction levels in place and the pace at which these will be eased. Regardless of this, there is a need to plan for our communities to live with the virus to a greater or lesser degree for the foreseeable future. The local arrangements set out will be reflected upon as more information is released nationally to ensure our local position meets all necessary requirements.

It is important to acknowledge that all partners and agencies may not be in position to move at the same pace. The recovery journey needs to take account for this as some organisations and partners may continue to have a main focus on response for some time to come due to the nature of the service they provide. On this basis the local approach for recovery 2021 will have three stages.

A. Planning & Preparation (in progress)

The planning and preparation phase will run in parallel to the response phase in order to ensure we are "recovery" ready when the time is right. This will be when there are the appropriate measures in place to formally transfer fully to the recovery phase. This will allow us to review our strategic aims, priorities and outcomes and enable us to identify the resources required.

B. Mobilisation & Coordination (medium term)

This phase will allow a multi-agency response to be put in place to ensure that appropriate partners take the lead for relevant aspects of the recovery process.

This will ensure delivery is vested in the most appropriate organisation or partnership. LCC will provide a coordination function throughout recovery to ensure the systems that have been put in place are effective to support the journey.

C. Oversight & Assurance (long term)

This will provide a support and challenge role to the recovery process and ensure the plan remains ambitious but achievable and that no one area is left behind. The final phase will look to give oversight and assurance to support local and national reporting as required. This will enable the LRF to develop an exit plan to return to a business-as-usual position. It is conceivable that the pace at which this occurs will vary in different work strands.

The overwhelming concern for the recovery phase is how to address the legacy issues brought about by Covid-19. The duration of the pandemic has added to these concerns and the actual and potential longer-term effects on the nation including our health and wellbeing and our economy. In addition, the future way in which both our rural and urban communities need to adapt and evolve as a direct impact of Covid-19. These issues need to be reflected in the way we set out our approach to recovery. In addition, there is a need to build greater resilience in our emergency planning systems to better support our communities to deal with pandemics of this nature in the future.

Recovery Governance

The formal transition from response to recovery will result in the standing down of the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), the Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) and the cell structure as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act supported by the LRF secretariat. This will be replaced by the Recovery Strategic Coordination Group (RSCG) which will have the responsibility to ensure the recovery process is mobilised and coordinated across the LRF. In addition, this will provide assurance that there is a plan in place and progress is made to a position of business as usual.

The response cells that would remain in place into the recovery phase are set out in below.

- Multi Agency Information (MAIC)
- Warn and Inform (W&I)
- Engage, Enable and Comply (EEC)

It is proposed to use a theme-based approach to the wider recovery programme, identifying existing structures to lead a key part of the recovery plan. The overarching themes are set out in the table below with the identified lead body.

Theme	Lead Body
Economy & Business	Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
Health & Wellbeing	Joint Working Executive Group (JWEG)
Community & Voluntary Sector Engagement	Community Volunteer Cell (CVC) cell to remain active and refocus their activities

Each would be required to focus on a joint strategic aim which is "to identify vulnerabilities and address inequalities" within their recovery planning and set out how this would be achieved. The on-going active cells would underpin and support the wider thematic work as appropriate and relevant. The LEP has made progress on its recovery planning and has a strategy that has been developed which includes its five-year plan. A similar approach would need to be adopted by the other groups identified as leads for the key themes of recovery.

Feedback on initial proposals

Draft proposals have been shared with SCG, TCG, Cell Chairs and the Chief Executives of LCC and the District Councils for comment; this approach reflects their feedback. The key elements from the feedback were to use existing structures where possible to avoid duplication and reduce the overburdening of the current systems. The feedback also reflected that the scope is wide enough to encompass what is required of recovery; however, it is easy to understand and engage with.

5. Exit Strategy

The LRF will continue to work across the partnership to support the delivery of the strategic priorities and will prepare and plan to support an exit from response into the recovery phase when the mitigating measures are in place. The LRF coordinate the response and are satisfied our current reporting procedures and structures are fit for purpose. These will be reviewed periodically to ensure these remain fit for purpose and in line with national policy and guidance.

6. Conclusion

Protecting the public's health, and mitigating harm to our residents, families and vulnerable people will continue to be our priority as we plan for our move from response to recovery.

7. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

A full risk register is maintained as part of the SCG.

An Impact Analysis is in place and is a live document which will be reviewed throughout the period of the response. This has been developed from the detailed impact assessment and action plan that has been agreed by the LRF.

8. Background Papers

Background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Data on the levels of Vaccination in the UK	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 07917 463431 or via email at michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank