### Bristol Covid-19 Local Engagement Board

**Minutes**

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<td>Bristol Covid-19 Local Engagement Board</td>
<td>30/10/2020</td>
<td>14:00 – 15:00</td>
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**Co-Chair**

Marvin Rees  
Asher Craig

**Attendees:**

Marvin Rees (MR) - Mayor  
Cllr Asher Craig (AC) – Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Claire Hiscott (CH) – Deputy Leader of Conservative Group  
Cllr Paula O'Rourke (PO) – Clifton Ward Councillor  
Cllr Gary Hopkins – (GH) – Knowle Councillor  
Cllr Eleanor Combley – (EC) - Bishopston and Ashley Down  
Councillor Christina Gray (CG) – BCC Director: Public Health  
Tim Borrett (TB) – BCC Director: Policy, Strategy and Partnerships  
Andrea Dell (AD) – Head of the City Office  
Andy Bennet (AB) – Police and Crime Commissioner  
John Smith – (JS) – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Huzaifa Adamali (HA) – Respiratory Consultant – Southmead Hospital  
Ines Lage – (IL) - TUC  
Oona Goldsworthy (OG) – Brunel Care  
In addition, Party Group Leaders and City Leaders have been invited to join the Zoom

**Apologies:**

Mike Jackson (MJ) – BCC Chief Executive  
Sado Jirde (SJ) – Black South West Network  
David Jarrett (DJ) – BNSSG

**Agenda Item:**

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| 1.   | 14:00 | Welcome  
- Cllr Asher Craig welcomed members and Stakeholders to this week’s Covid-19 Local Engagement Board, which has been extended on this occasion to other attendees as there is a key announcement to make.  
- CG asked all participants to maintain confidentiality until information is in the public domain. | AC  
CG |
2. 14:05  Public Health / Local Outbreak Management Planning Update

- CG advised that a Multi-Agency Bristol Gold meeting has been convened due to concern regarding rapidly increasing local rates.
- An enhanced 7-point priority plan has been agreed with PHE and SHSC on top of the outbreak management plan. This identifies additional action such as deeper analysis, engagement, communication and enforcement. PH Team is also, looking further into local contact tracing and protecting the vulnerable. This package has been referred to informally as ‘Tier 1 Plus’.
- The rate in the over 60s in the last seven days is 160 per 100,000.
- This week the health system has experienced considerable pressures. Our healthcare system has collectively agreed to escalate. The number of people being hospitalised is increasing and there are currently 99 people in our hospitals from Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This is a dramatic increase in the last 10 days.
- The strain on the Health Care System and the increase in the over 60s rate is concerning. We have not yet received national direction as to which tier Bristol will be allocated but Bristol show a steep curve which will become exponential if we do not intervene.
- Mayor Rees advised Bristol’s situation is worsening and changing quickly, there is a pressure on the hospitals that needs responding to and we want to act early.
- The Council is analysing the financial implications of going onto Tier 2 and Tier 3.
- Marvin Rees advised that he proposes to write to government requesting a move up to Tier 2 but being clear that we need a clear exit strategy and criteria from HM Government. We also need to understand whether it is just Bristol entering into Tier 2 or the surrounding areas.
- Andy Bennett advised this year Avon and Somerset Police are sending out the message to ‘Stay at home’ for Halloween weekend. All neighbouring policing teams will be working later on Friday and Saturday and managing the extra demand. We need to be prepared that the likelihood is that there will be more enforcement notices and fixed penalties issued over the weekend.

3. 14:10  Communications activity

- Saskia Konynenburg advised that we are already expecting a busy weekend with Halloween so it is important that this discussion remains confidential as we do not want to encourage a peak in close social interaction ahead of any tier escalation.
- Press release from BNSSG Healthier Together partnership has gone out today explaining the actions they are doing for example fast discharge from hospitals, restarting telephone support service.
- In our second press release we will remind the public with the actions to prevent Covid – Hands, Face, Space; details on Covid Marshals and reminder to the public to use the Test and Trace app.

4. 14:20  Q&A

What are the differences between Tier 1 and Tier 2?

- CG advised on Tier 2 you can only mix with other households outside the home and in very limited numbers.
• Under In Tier 2 arrangements Care Home visiting is also suspended. In Bristol there are currently only a small number of residents who have tested positive – less than 10 residents across 130 care homes.
• The main action to prevent Covid getting into the care homes is making sure the staff have the correct PPE and are practicing good Infection Prevention and Control. There is currently very good practice in our local care sector. ASC work closely with public health and the NHS to provide support.
• We have no current evidence to suggest that visitors are a risk to care homes and due to this we are requesting dispensation from the Government to allow visitors to continue visiting Care Homes during Tier 2 but we will keep reviewing this.

What does the modelling show if we go to T2?

• It does flatten the curve, and the sooner you react the better the impact.
• Evidence suggest that the biggest impact on transmission is achieved through total lockdown in which you would be likely to see an improvement in around three weeks.
• John Smith raised whether neighbouring areas will go into Tier 2 as well as Bristol. Bristol is a lot higher than North Somerset and South Gloucestershire however people commute and can transmit throughout the region.
• MR advised the Government need to take a view on this to see what the most appropriate action is.
• There is a likelihood that if people don’t do all they can to comply in Tier 2 it may prolong the situation and lead to Bristol being moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

What is the time frame of moving to Tier 2 and what financial support we will receive from the Government?

• There is a national process to follow, starting with an imminent letter to Government requesting to escalate, setting out our negotiating position and seeking Ministerial approval. We will then move to inform the public early next week.
• The request will be considered at National Silver on Wednesday then National Gold on Thursday so we will not have formal agreement from the Government until later next week.
• CG advised that the money is only released once on each Tier:
  ➢ On Tier 1 all Local Authorities have £1 per head for contact tracing or additional enforcement.
  ➢ At Tier 2 you get an additional £3 per head.
  ➢ If you go to Tier 3, you get an additional £8 per head but this Tier has the biggest impact on the economy.
• We will need to have negotiations on what this will mean for our economy now that Furlough has ceased.
• The expectation around funding is that Local Authorities will be expected to utilise the funding that was given to them and including around £200,000 for Covid marshals.
• Mohammed Saddiq advised that he is not persuaded that going into Tier 2 is likely to have the impact we need. The pain that will be created going into Tier 2 is likely to be prolonged if we then have to go into Tier 3.

What is the criteria going from T3 down to Tier 2 and T2 to T1?

• CG advised there is no national criteria and this is an issue that has been raised with Government.
• Christina advised the modelling around T2 and T3 reduce the R Rate by only a few points, our aim is to get to below 1.
• If we are able to stay on Tier 2 for 7-14 days, it gives us time to discuss with the government and other Local Authorities what else we need to do.
• Whatever decision we make we want to make as a city.
• From a technical standpoint the most effective intervention would be more of a short national lockdown. TB advised that there is intelligence to suggest Ministers might be moving towards national measures and we may see announcements next week that could pre-empt our Tier escalation. We will keep Board members appraised on this or other news.

5. **14:35 Summary, actions and next steps**

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• Based on the current issues, the City Council is requesting to Government to move in to Tier 2.
• Any questions, comments please email SK.
• Clarity on messaging – letter going to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to include city’s requests around fair funding and the issue of care home visiting and enhanced testing for families of care home residents.
• Monday will be begin the process so this will likely come into effect towards the end of next week.
• Public communication planned for Monday to take action to help contain this spread of Coronavirus.
• The council and Board members will continue to liaise with neighbouring councils regarding the potential to escalate as a Region.

6. **14:45 Closing remarks**

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• Chairs will inform Board members confidentially whether we are moving as a City or Region.
• We will stand this board up to weekly meetings for standing members.
• Thank you for coming to the Board.