

## **People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Present: Councillor Sylvia Liddle, in the chair, Councillors Davies, Gee, Oates, Whittle, Slater, Salton, Smith,

Also Present-

Deputy Youth MP Muhammed Bapu

Councillor Julie Gunn, Executive Member

Jayne Ivory, Director of Children's Services and Schools

Prof. Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and received apologies for absence from Councillor Afzal.

### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 were submitted.

**Resolved-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### **4. Update on the work of the Youth Forum.**

The Committee received an update on the work of the Youth Forum and in particular the work they were doing in raising awareness of the issue of Young People and Mental Health. The Committee were informed that the issue had been highlighted as a real issue of concern for young people in the borough and this had been made worse by the ongoing pandemic and its effects on young people and isolation. The Committee were also reminded that uncertainty over examinations and the future were effecting mental wellbeing and this was having a detrimental effect. The work was ongoing and a further report would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

**Resolved-** That the report be noted and that further update reports be submitted to the Committee in the next municipal year.

### **5. Vaccinations and Work of the Public Health Department.**

The Committee received an update from Jane Scattergood, Regional Covid-19 Vaccination Director on the progress of the vaccination in the borough and the uptake by cohort. The

Committee looked at the locations of the vaccination centres and the community based venues being used.

The Committee received information on the targeting of the vaccine by occupation and a timetable for the completion of the JCVI 1-9 cohorts by both first and second doses. The local ambition exceeded the national targets for all areas. The Committee also received information on the steps being taken to overcome issues of resistance in communities and the way that reassurances were being given to achieve the maximum take up of the vaccine. This was being achieved through simple key messages including:-

- Information on the safety of the vaccine and the vaccine approval process that has been used
- That getting vaccinated means protecting yourself, family and friends.
- That the vaccine can't give you the infection and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill.
- Targeted communications and engagement plan developed to connect with vulnerable groups and communities
- Rapid local insight into barriers of uptake and vaccine hesitancy.
- Clear communication messages to encourage uptake through alternative methods.
- Influencer toolkits made available for local partners to provide coaching and 1:1 support to their client group to encourage uptake of the vaccine.
- Clear engagement with Local Authority Directors of Public Health on appropriate ways to encourage vaccine uptake.
- Connections with local leaders to act as advocates within the community, to dispel myths and provide accurate information.

The Committee welcomed the progress on the distribution of the vaccine and the steps being taken to maximise the take up and work to breakdown resistance.

The Committee were updated on the work that was ongoing to keep the community as safe as possible and the steps being taken locally and regionally to try and achieve the maximum levels of vaccines available that would match the infection rates in the borough and the region and how this would best support reducing infection and illness rates. The Committee supported the work of the Chief Executive, Directors of Public Health and others in making representations to seek to achieve this.

**Resolved-** 1. That the Regional Director be thanked for her work and the informative presentation on the vaccination programme.

2. That the Committee support the work to seek to ensure that the vaccination programme nationally reflects the infection rates in areas and would wish to be kept informed of progress.

## **6. Review of Safeguarding**

The chair welcomed Stephen Ashley to the meeting. Stephen informed the Committee that he was the lead on the review of the Council and Partners work on Safeguarding Children. The Committee were informed of the key areas of the review of safeguarding and how this was being conducted. The Committee were informed that the review had children at the heart and would seek to ensure that the voices of young people were heard.

The Youth Forum Members would be involved in the review this would be of and the detailed outcomes reported back to the Committee. Members of the Committee welcomed the involvement of young people and the Youth Forum and would look in detail at the findings of the review, how the Council responded and how the outcomes were implemented where applicable. The review of safeguarding would form a large part of the Committees work programme for the new municipal year.

**Resolved-** 1. That the arrangements for the review of Safeguarding be noted.

2. That the progress of the review, the recommendations and the response of the Council to these recommendations be one of the key work programme areas for the next municipal year for the Committee

Chair of the Committee at which the minutes were signed .....

Date.....