

Minutes of Engagement and Communication Sub-Group

Friday 19 March 2021

Commencing at 1.00pm

Via Zoom

Present:		
Debbie Twell	Lay Member for PPE	NHSRCCG (Chair)
Helen Wyatt	Patient and Public Engagement Manager	NHSRCCG
Gordon Laidlaw	Head of Communications	NHSRCCG
Dr Richard Cullen	Lead GP/Chair	NHSRCCG
Julie Adamson	Director of Services (Projects)	VAR
Lesley Cooper	Information and Research Officer	Healthwatch
Janet Wheatley	Lay Member for Primary Care	NHSRCCG
Lydia George	Senior Planning and Assurance Manager	NHSRCCG
Sue Cassin	Chief Nurse	NHSRCCG
Jacqueline Wiltschinsky	Consultant in Public Health	RMBC
Mrs R Nutbrown	Assistant Chief Officer	NHSRCCG
In Attendance:		
Jayne Watson	PA to Chief Nurse	NHSRCCG

		ACTION
1	Apologies	
	Shafiq Hussain	
2	Conflicts of Interest	
	Nothing to report	
3	Quoracy	
	It was agreed that the meeting was Quorate.	
4	Minutes of the Last Meeting	
	The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2020 were approved as a correct record. An update paper was pulled together in place of the January meeting. Mrs Nutbrown said she found that document really helpful. If that form of reporting was used in future it would be included in the Governing Body reports	
5	Action Log	
	Mrs Twell went through the action log with members and updated accordingly. It was agreed that the log would be amended to indicate subjects that would need to be discussed at future meetings.	

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**6 Vaccine Volunteers**

Mrs Wyatt had received an amazing response for volunteers and there were currently 270. Rotherham Heroes and VAR had been really good at supporting the process and providing support to Helen. It had been a steep learning curve to everyone.

Almost 1700 volunteer sessions had been filled since the vaccinations started. Sessions were 4-5 hours in length and there was more to come and would become more challenging over the coming weeks. That amount of hours was not sustainable in the future. People have given amazing feedback on working as volunteers – they love it and we couldn't run the vaccine centres without them.

Mrs Twell added that the PPG network meeting last week; people there were so full of joy about their involvement and they were really pleased to be involved.

Mrs Adamson reported that they have quite a wide reach on social media across the borough and the one thing coming up time and time again was the absolute gratitude for the staff and volunteers. Everybody knew what they are doing and wanted to pass on thanks to Helen and the team. An amazing effort all round.

Mrs Cassin said we couldn't do it without the volunteers. We would lose some of those people who had been volunteering as they go back to college and work if they had been furloughed. Mrs Wyatt added that people had asked to be kept on even if they are going back to work; they had offered to volunteer at weekends.

An example of a young person being a volunteer was a lady had gone into the St Anne's site and was really anxious person. The volunteer went round with that person, sat on the floor and kept her calm all the way round. Mrs Twell felt it would be a nice gesture to write to the volunteers to thank them. Mrs Cassin suggested that the letter should come from Mrs Twell as the Chair of this group. Mrs Twell agreed to do that.

DT**7 Mental Health**

Mr Laidlaw reported that TRFT were experiencing increased attendance at A&E in relation to patients with mental health issues. In light of that, RMBC were undertaking suicide prevention work. There was a whole pyramid of issues, with the top of the pyramid being suicide. Needed to look at how the sections all talk to each other. It was about promoting the access to services and how we can help those that have high levels of need to maintain that. There was a lot of work underway as a prevention element with Public Health and RDaSH.

There was an increase in eating disorders in children and work was underway with CAMHS.

There was also bereavement support for Covid

Mrs Wiltschinsky reported that as part of the recovery process a mental health and wellbeing recovery cell had been established by RMBC which was Covid related.

8 Vaccine

Bookings had increased again but the vaccine supply may be limited in April. Over 100k residents had been vaccinated in Rotherham so far. The focus was now on second doses to be delivered in April

	<p>£195k funding had been allocated from RMBC to target ethnic minority and hard to reach groups to increase the uptake of the vaccination process.</p> <p>Mrs Cooper added that Healthwatch were holding Wednesday 'Let's Talk' events on Zoom. The topic in March was the Covid vaccine and a myth busting session.</p>	
9	Winter/Spring Messages	
	<p>Mr Laidlaw reported that accessing services in an appropriate way was being explored as services start to come back on board. GP practices would be re-opening and we needed to look at how people use those appropriately and ensure people are using them in the right way. Also needed to look at appropriate use of A&E, with people utilising the 111 system and pharmacies wherever possible. Video calls would still exist in primary care as we move forward.</p> <p>Mr Laidlaw added that meetings would take place with the Trust on joint working to ensure the hospital and primary care were aligned. The focus was to try to clear the backlog to services as people had been waiting a long time.</p>	
10	Annual Report	
	<p>Mrs Nutbrown reported that there was task and finish group that were meeting regularly to bring the report together. Mr Laidlaw would have to include a new section on Covid.</p> <p>Mrs Twell asked regarding deadlines and dates as our next meeting was not until May. Mrs Nutbrown confirmed that the first draft of the report would be presented at the next AQuA meeting in April to give assurance that work was in progress.</p> <p>The final report would be presented to the Extraordinary AQuA in June.</p> <p>Mrs Wyatt had pulled information together for the section in the report and it would be shared with Mrs Twell and members.</p>	HW
STANDING ITEMS		
11	SYB ICS: Communication and Engagement	
	<p>Mrs Wyatt reported that a lot of recent work had tended to be on cancer. There had also been some work across the ICS engagement on Long Covid.</p> <p>Mr Wyatt added that there were a large number of projects going back well over a year. Attitudes to those will have change when we come out of Covid. Some of the work was done 2-3 years ago and wouldn't be relevant and therefore would need to be revisited.</p>	
12	Rotherham Place Communication and Engagement	
	<p>Mr Laidlaw reported that governance had been used a communication cell and that will move back to discuss reset and recovery. Did start to have comms and engagement strategy last year which would now be out of date and would need to be revisited.</p>	
13	Updates from Partners:	
	<p>Mrs Cooper reported that things had been quiet other than Covid, Vaccines and Dentists.</p> <p>Mrs Wiltschinsky reported that Public Health had been meeting with Public Health</p>	

	<p>England on behaviours; vaccine update in young age groups and more information around social distancing in work places. Information was expected and would be shared when it had been received.</p> <p>Mrs Adamson reported that the VAR health messages have funding to continue that team after 21 March 2021 and would be speaking to Mr Laidlaw regarding priorities – Covid would be at the top of the list.</p>	JWilt
14	Any Other Business	
	<p>Mrs Twell raised the question of what we do moving forward. Mrs Nutbrown added that she had written a principles document that was going to AQUA in April which outlined what we were thinking.</p>	
15	Items/Risks for Escalation	
	Nothing to report	
16	Future Dates	
	<p>21 May 2021 1.00pm via Zoom 16 July 2021 1.00pm via Zoom 17 September 2021 1.00pm via Zoom 19 November 2021 1.00pm via Zoom</p>	