

SAGE meeting paper: Cover sheet

Please complete this cover sheet for each substantive and non-routine paper being discussed at SAGE, unless these details are clearly provided in the paper itself.

SAGE meeting date: 19/11/2020

Paper title: The UK's Four Nations' Autumn Interventions

Paper ID: To be completed by SAGE Secretariat

Author(s): Angela McLean, Matt Keeling

Fliss Bennee, Thomas Waite,

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Supporting papers: Annex A – methodology paper
(for storage in the repository)

Handling instructions: N/A.

Suitable for publication: Yes

Written on: 18/11/2020

Considered at: SPI-M ☐

SPI-B ☐

NERVTAG ☐

Nosocomial working group ☐

Environmental and Modelling group ☐

Children sub-group ☐

Evaluation group ☐

[Other] ☒

SAGE Impact of Interventions Task and Finish Group

Word count: 3450

Summary of paper

1. Reason for bringing to SAGE (include links to any commissions from SAGE or elsewhere); how does this build on previous SAGE discussions?

Action from SAGE 67: Angela McLean to lead a task & finish group to evaluate the impact of recent non-pharmaceutical interventions across the UK, with input from ONS and DAs. This paper reports the findings of this group and builds on previous SAGE discussions on the impact of England's tiers system.

2. What are the key conclusions of the paper (and confidence in these)?

Growth of COVID-19 epidemics can be controlled and reversed by interventions. There is strength in the diversity of approaches adopted by our four nations. When we plot information in ways that make it easy to compare one nation's experience with another's, we can learn valuable lessons from what each of our nations have tried. (Highly likely)

When looking across the four nations, we see that epidemics shrunk in every local area subject to national restrictions in Northern Ireland, and to Tier 3 interventions in England. All other interventions were followed by a more mixed picture, and although the general trend is

for a reduction in growth rates some local epidemics continued growing in the weeks following intervention. (Likely)

3. What are the key questions to be considered at SAGE?

Does SAGE agree that there is additional value in comparing and contrasting the outcomes of different interventions across the four nations?

Does the evidence and analysis presented here change SAGE advice on the re-introduction of tiers after the English national lockdown?

Can generalised lessons be learned from the most effective restrictions to control COVID19 from the combined evidence from the four nations?

4. Are there any proposed next steps?

There will be further insight to be gained in re-running the analysis at a later date, particularly as schools re-open and close in different nations over the following weeks and months.

Adding in data on mobility/contacts alongside comparisons of growth rates may help to build hypotheses, but may require access to mobile phone data which is currently unavailable to modellers.

There is continued merit in bringing together the four nations to share learning on the impact of interventions, in order to capitalise on the diversity of our approaches.

PHIA probability yardstick – to be used when expressing likelihood or confidence

