

Summary Steering Brief – Support for the CEV at COVID–O on 9th October

Sequencing

1. CDL will invite MHCLG Secretary of State to present a paper on support for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) to COVID-O. CDL will then invite comments from other Secretaries of State.

Key lines

2. The paper sets out the following proposals for support for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and you will be asked to:
 - Note agreement between MHCLG and HMT on the funding model and guidance issued to Councils for CEV at Local Alert Level 3+ ('shielding').
 - Acknowledge that a small proportion of individuals will turn to their Council for support under Local Alert Level 3 guidance restrictions, and Councils should be funded accordingly as part of the wider Council support package. If agreed, MHCLG and HMT will need to agree funding.
 - Agree that a nationally procured food box service should not be stood up (we do not have a view on this although the principle was agreed at COVID-O on 6 August).
 - Agree to stand up a nationally procured call centre, as back up provision to enable contact with CEV (we do not have a view on this; this was also subject to 6 August discussion but was not agreed).

Steers

3. You may be asked to set out DHSC's plans to communicate the new approach to the CEV alongside announcements on tiering next week. You may wish to set out that an announcement will be made on Monday, which will reference a new approach to provide advice for CEV at each tier, as agreed at COVID-O on 1 October. The detailed guidance providing full details on what may be followed at each tier will be published at the same time as the guidance on Local Alert Levels. We will also write directly to all in the CEV group to outline the changes.
4. We do not plan to announce the recent decision to add Chronic Kidney Disease and Downs Syndrome to the CEV group as part of announcements next week. Engagement with specialist charities and patient groups is underway, which will inform the best way and timing for communicating this decision with those affected.
5. **HMT** may ask for further engagement with DHSC on risk stratification due to the uncertainty of how many people may be added to the CEV group as a result of the new model. You may wish to say that detailed work is ongoing and that you will provide a full update on the latest clinical advice and options at COVID-O next week (where there is a provisional slot for next Friday, on which more advice will follow early next week).