

Message

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Sent: 25/01/2022 1:05:58 PM
To: [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: UKG/DA meeting

For info

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From: Pearson, Karen <Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2022 13:05
To: Brady, Jayne <Jayne.Brady@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: Luney, Peter <Peter.Luney@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: UKG/DA meeting

Jayne

We attended the Sue Gray meeting, convened understandably by Simon Ridley today. Focus was on where we all go next. Some useful info from Simon on how they are structuring their thinking. Thin on detail but large common ground with our initial thoughts:

Simon:

Four potential areas for exploration:

- Reflecting on what we have done over the past couple of years, and ongoing population protection. JVC decisions about vaccinations, some level of guidance but question about how specific this will be to covid (it may be more general)
- Supporting higher risk vulnerable people in specific settings – testing, anti virals, interventions in hospitals
- Managing future risk in contingency – contingent capability. Targeting testing? How to ramp back up? International travel? Broader capabilities on surveillance?
- Lessons learned and building national resilience, innovations in service delivery

UKG likely to bring something forward before their sunset on 26 March

SG, WG and ourselves all in similar positions, and the DAs made the case for ongoing structured discussions on testing, vaccines, travel and self isolation. We said that the Covid 22 work can't be seen in isolation from Recovery, building resilience, and planning for future pandemics. We noted that we may have to bring something forward ahead of other jurisdictions given our election cycle.

Simon:

- UKG unlikely to say no testing needed, but need to reduce from where they are at present – what is the best targeted approach?
- How might capability be maintained in case of need to ramp up again this year?
- Possible greater use of private market??
- How to turn back onto higher levels of testing? Stockpiling or some other means?

Meetings of this group will continue

Karen