

## HOCS ECT UPDATE, 22 APRIL

### RESTRICTIONS/RELAXATIONS

#### *Where are we?*

- Significant number of decisions made last week in relation to relaxations – They will take effect starting tomorrow, then on the 30<sup>th</sup> and then indicative date of 24 May (review on 20 May)
- Overall the relaxations have been very well received, with the engagement at official level having been very positive

#### *What next?*

- Another set of proposals have come in for consideration on the 13 May review point. These are being worked through by the Cross Departmental group.
- These are related to sport, libraries, conferences and meetings.
- And today you will be considering a request from DfE on a partial return to face to face classes in FE.

#### *The broader context*

- There is a need now to pause and reflect, to allow us to see the impact of the relaxations coming into play tomorrow and next weekend.
- The vaccine programme continues to excel, but the danger of the new variants and the third wave continue to loom over us.
- We need to continue with the messaging about staying outdoors, about being careful, to allow us to enjoy ourselves and see our friends and family but do so safely, in order that we can make further relaxations and keep people well.
- We will need to continue to pursue the virus, we continue to see a worrying number of cases in Derry City and Strabane and Mid Ulster areas though they appear to be levelling off. PHA continue to work very closely with local government in these areas

#### *Summary*

- So where are we on the Pathway delivery? Well on our way thankfully, within the head room we have. Now we need to keep an eye on making sure we continue in this direction safely.

## **RECOVERY STRATEGY**

### ***Where are we?***

- Work is progressing with all departments to develop a cross Departmental Covid recovery Strategy
- A range of interventions have been received and analysed
- We are on target to have the remaining interventions submitted next week
- The first draft of the strategy (Maximum Viable Product) is being discussed with officials as we meet

### ***What next?***

- The remaining interventions will be analysed and consolidated for inclusion in the draft strategy over the course of the next two weeks
- Central to this will be further engagement with officials on an ongoing basis
- [If pushed for a date – currently on target to have a final draft strategy for consideration before the end of May]

### ***The broader context***

- The strategy will set out recovery priorities over the next 24 months
- In addition to setting out those interventions, the strategy will also identify interventions that will seed future and longer term ambitions.
- It is, therefore, important this work dovetails with the longer term aspirational PfG and we are working to ensure that happens
- Consideration is also being given to governance and delivery arrangements

### ***Summary***

- We are currently on target to have a draft cross departmental Covid Recovery Strategy for consideration by the end of May
- This is an ambitious though achievable target but there is much to do
- Departments are keen to work with us on this
- Ongoing engagement with the relevant policy areas in the Departments will be key to us achieving that target