

Message

From: McBride, Michael [Michael.McBride@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 10/10/2020 14:36:00
To: McCormick, Andrew (TEO) [Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; McBride, Michael [Michael.McBride@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Young, Ian (Prof.) [Ian.Young2@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Pearson, Karen [Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Jackson, Neill (TEO) [Neill.Jackson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Brennan, Mike [Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; May, Peter [peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk]; Pengelly, Richard [Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Gray, Sue (DoF) [Sue.Gray@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Meharg, Tracy [Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Chris Stewart [chrisstewartdfe-stewartc@nigov.net]; McNabb, Chris [Chris.McNabb@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Baker, Derek [Derek.Baker@education-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Godfrey, Katrina (DfI – Perm Sec) [Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Widdis, Hugh [Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Shape of the week -covid

Andrew

Quad meeting and CDL meeting which I understand PM may join for a time all scheduled for Monday pm with FMdFM.

Michael

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: McCormick, Andrew (TEO) <Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 10 Oct 2020, 2:06 pm

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: Shape of the week -covid

All,

Agree Monday is essential, so important all contributions and comments are timely.

I also understand a meeting of UKG, Irish Government and ourselves is being organised for Monday afternoon (I think at official level).

NIO asked me about financial concerns at local government level – while they are well aware of structural differences, it may be helpful and important to link into what is being considered at UKG level.

Many thanks.

Andrew

PS please check any replies are to my Executive Office account not my old DfE account.

From: McBride, Michael [mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 10 October 2020 10:49

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: Shape of the week -covid

Karen,

Decision are needed on Monday and a full Executive Meeting is required.

Michael

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From: Young, Ian (Prof.) <Ian.Young2@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk>

Date: Saturday, 10 Oct 2020, 9:14 am

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: Shape of the week -covid

Karen

I think we should plan for the Executive to meet on Monday if possible – the position is worsening rapidly. We are working on an update to the Modelling paper with additional data and updated numbers after meeting with some Ministers yesterday.

Best wishes

Ian

Chief Scientific Advisor
Director of Research for Health and Social Care
Department of Health

From: Pearson, Karen [<mailto:Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>]

Sent: 10 October 2020 6:52 AM

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: Shape of the week -covid

I am coordinating a paper to get a decision next week on whether the Executive takes actions to halt the COVID trajectory. We are at around 1000 cases per day and growing hospitalisations.

So Strategic Decisions are needed next week on COVID interventions. If action is not taken, that will constitute a decision and the consequences of that need to be articulated at Executive. Michael and Ian have been clear on that already. It is current policy at Executive level that R should be under 1. That policy is not being seen in practice for some weeks. Interventions are needed to meet the policy objective.

NI is days away from nhs being overwhelmed. There are significant implications for the economy, jobs and benefits if interventions are made without financial mitigations. We need to be able to spell out for Executive what the chancellor's announcement means for us here. That will inform and aid decision making.

Neill - Executive meetings will be needed in addition to the Thursday meeting. Either Monday pm or Tuesday am please.

Compliance and enforcement meetings will be needed with key sectors early next week. This follows from ongoing discussions in the strategic enforcement group, and from further work done with police and councils yesterday. This is in hand.

Contingency arrangements are now essential.

I am pulling a paper together. We can present a framework for decision making. In tandem decisions are needed next week. As above, if interventions are not made that will be a decision in itself.

There are choices about key sectors and education in particular. One way to look at this is:

- to protect nhs, there are short and medium term significant consequences for economy and education which can be managed out through concerted effort over time: or
- if any sector or sectors are prioritised, there are nhs consequences to be faced now.

Whether or not a sector or education is being protected in other jurisdictions is relevant in terms of longer term competitive advantage and life chances. It is also true that decisions on sectors and education will limit the positive impact which can be made on nhs now. That's the difficult choice to be made.

Ministers need to decide next week if they can tolerate the nhs implications they will see in days. All other risks and consequences can be attended to through concerted effort over the short medium and long term especially if money is available.

For papers, I'd be grateful for:

- up to date health data, most of which I can get from the dashboard and the modelling paper. But would be good to know if there are any updates Michael and Ian would want to make to the modelling paper from last week which set out the facts very clearly
- a summary of the implications for us from the chancellor's statement yesterday
- what money we have left in the pot regardless of the chancellor's statement, which could be directed or potentially redirected to supporting interventions if we need to close sectors
- what is the least worst bad situation for education in terms of closure
- where are we on invoking contingencies such as on line learning, feeding children if they are not at school, and ability to provide schooling for key worker and vulnerable children if we need to go back to that
- what is the best advice on shielding
- where are we on support to vulnerable people if we need to put that in place
- for each contingency, how many days are needed to stand up arrangements

The above are illustrative and there will be more issues. In summary, the decisions need to be made on the following basis:

- the realities of the COVID numbers and nhs impact in days
- the impacts of prioritising nhs, if that is the decision, and the consequences of that. Or an acceptance of nhs impacts if the decision is in a different direction
- work on compliance and enforcement
- a finance strategy to mitigate impacts
- an understanding of the lead in time for contingency arrangements to be stood up
- contingency arrangements agreed and invoked
- broader operating environment including winter

We may need to meet over the weekend or early Monday. Michael and Ian have, I think, spoken to most if not all depts on the modelling and if there are no significant updates to that, then that's the baseline we are working to.

With thanks, we have a lot of information about impacts. Nothing more needed on that. Next week we need decisions, and not taking action is a decision. I can't see a way to balance. Best we can do is mitigate.

Can I puts be send to me by 10.00am on Sunday so I can pull together.

Many thanks

Karen

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