

Executive Covid-19 Taskforce

Minutes of the meeting on 18th January 2022 at 8.00am via zoom

Attending: Jayne Brady
Peter May
Mike Brennan
Tracy Meharg
Denis McMahon
Richard Pengelly
Katrina Godfrey
Bill Pauley
John Smith
Karen Pearson
Peter Luney
Chris McNabb
Jane Holmes
Doreen McClintock
Patricia McIntyre

NR
NR

 (Minutes)

Apologies: Colum Boyle

1. Minutes from 11th January

Minutes were agreed.

2. UKG/DA update on relaxations

Karen Pearson gave an update in relation to UKG and DA formal review of restrictions.

Jayne Brady sought an update in relation to financial support schemes and invited contributions on proposals for the use of Covid Funding for 21/22.

Bill Pauley gave an overview in relation to the financial funding support schemes currently on place, hospitality payment scheme is due to go live for applications on 19 January . Ongoing engagement continues with the relevant sectors, work continues in relation to the definition of nightclubs.

Katrina Godfrey provided an update on engagement with the Bus and Coach sector.

It was noted that details in relation to financial support schemes and use of Covid Funding for 21/22 will be encompassed in a DoF Executive paper on January monitoring round. It was agreed to liaise with DoF Colleagues and include detail in the ECT paper on the optimal use of Covid funding for 21/22, in context of the Covid recovery strategy.

Action: Karen/Peter to engage with DoF colleagues and circulate draft paper for comment.

Karen advised colleagues of consultancy contract now in place for wider support, if they wish to avail of any assistance to let her know.

3. Protect

Richard Pengelly provided an update on current health statistics, Omicron is the dominant variant, expectation close to reaching the peak in relation to case numbers.

4. Adherence (Peter M)

Peter May gave an update on the Adherence workstream.

5. Communications

Chris McNabb provided an update on planned communications following the meeting of the Executive on 20 January.

6. Civil Contingencies

Doreen McClintock advised that no significant issues have identified by C3 leads as requiring escalation.

7. Executive meeting on 20th January

Peter Luney spoke to the draft paper circulated relating to the options and the approach for relaxation of restrictions put in place in response to the Omicron variant.

Peter advised a paper will be being provided to the Executive this week with advice/options to provide clarity in relation to strengthening the use of face coverings.

Karen Pearson highlighted need to capture information and learning gathered in terms of the plan for living with Covid.

Jayne Brady advised that the frequency of meetings, as the situation in relation to omicron variant ~~emerges~~, will emerge, will kept under review, next meeting scheduled for 25 January.