

## STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT GROUP

9.15am, 9 October 2020

### Attendees

- Junior Minister Lyons
- Junior Minister Kearney
- Karen Pearson, TEO
- NR TEO
- NR TEO
- Minister Swann (TBC)
- Dr McBride
- Professor Young
- ACC Todd
- Julie Harrison, DoJ
- Anthony Carleton, DfC
- NR DfC
- NR DfE
- Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
- Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services

### Action points from meeting

- Julie to issue update to members on the new penalties coming into force
- Karen to notify members when the new regulations will come into force
- Karen to provide draft of regulations to Suzanne and Jacqui (SOLACE) in advance
- Jacqui Dixon gave undertaking that the MOU between Chief Executives of all local councils and Police would be in place by Monday 12 October
- NR DfE to take back action point on guidance needed for students around travelling and where they should stay, and engagement with retailers around new regulations. Additionally, local government need to be sighted on what is decided.
- CMO to action Suzanne's point around up-to-date coming through from DoH and PHA to councils
- NR DfC to investigate Suzanne's request re additional funding for street furniture
- Karen and Julie to look at issue raised by police over 10 day ticket delivery and how that can be fed into the regulations process.
- Karen to convene meeting of police, solace with TEO, DfE, DfC, and DoJ to review the structure of future meetings and to have a paper/org chart with Ministers next week
- A number of meetings to be organised for the Junior Ministers next week (Karen TEO/Mark DfC/TEO Private Office)
  - Faith Leaders & NICVA

- Sporting Codes
- Stocktake meeting with Karen and Junior Ministers
- Chris McNabb to explore a comms set piece on enforcement for next week, and to engage with communication counterparts in police, councils etc. to develop a joined up approach to communications

### **Note of meeting**

JM Lyons welcomed members and handed over to JM Kearney to chair meeting.

### **Professor Young gave an update on the current situation:**

- number of cases continue to increase rapidly
- currently doubling every 7 days with no sign of slowing
- numbers differ across the north - Derry and Strabane close to highest in UK
- we have the worst trajectory
- Number of hospital cases increasing rapidly – 64 admissions 8 days ago now 128. In about 10 days that will exceed wave one

Dr McBride added that we are 10 days away from a significant situation in our hospital service.

### **Karen Pearson**

Karen Pearson gave an update on the new regulations coming in for three key areas:

- Increased penalties for breaching covid-19 regulations
- New fines powers for local government based on the Welsh model of Improvement notices
- New settings added for mandatory wearing face masks – including masks for staff in retail and hospitality sector, private hire buses, taxis, driving instructors.

Karen estimated that the new package of compliance measures would be available next week.

Julie Harrison DoJ gave an update on the new penalties and will undertake to issue information of the new levels to members.

### **ACC Alan Todd**

ACC Alan Todd gave an update on the current policing situation:

- 6 Community Restorative Notices issued for gatherings
- 12 fixed penalty notices in Belfast
- 6 Prohibition notices for parties
- 3 for members of the same family (£1,000) for not quarantining

- A number of arrests for repeat offenders – just started to see that trend in repeat offenders over the weekend

PSNI are prioritising their enforcement resource on house parties/ gatherings, licenced breeches and quarantining – but they are keeping that under review.

Alan raised a concern over a very practical issue – the printing of the fine tickets take 10 days. So if the regulations come into place on Tuesday police won't have the tickets to begin enforcing.

Alan recommended that a bed in period of 7 days would be useful as happened in March/April – to allow the tickets to be printed and the public to understand the new restrictions that are coming in.

Alan also highlight that going forward the make of the enforcement group should be refined and its role and purpose defined. Asked members to consider possibility of moving this away from Ministerial-led and move to official-led engagement to avoid any accusations of political control.

Alan also noted that the police response would be reviewed by Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in the coming weeks. So it would be useful to get this group on the wider enforcement piece further developed.

Police have been engaging with retail representations re Face coverings but complacency has crept in for the public. Looking at introducing 'Notified Days of Action' to improve compliance.

He also highlighted difficulties re the practicalities of enforcement and said that members shouldn't expect to see a surge in fines.

### **Jacqui Dixon, Solace**

- MOU between Councils and PSNI coming into place with Chief Executive working closely local police commanders
- Engaging with supermarkets but would be useful to get some further guidelines on what we are asking them to do – ie one way system or marshalling
- We are redeploying staff to assist Environmental Health colleagues to engage in the community – ie checking on risk assessments
- We are happy to engage with Taxi drivers around new regulations affecting them

### **Suzanne**

- 48hr improvement notice very helpful
- Targeting our resources at those premises with high risk
- Joint tasking with police – we have people out targeting different areas

- Much better information sharing and joint up working with universities in place
- Guidance needed for students on where they should stay
- Student situation calmed now but can ramp up again – still need guidance on gatherings and bubbling for HMOs
- More work on culture of compliance 'our spaces our places' and comms needed
- Chambers have been calling for additional funding for marshalls/hand sanitisers etc
- We need up-to-date data coming through from DoH and PHA
- Will speak to retailers today
- Mentioned the setting up of CCGNI and looking at the emergency planning arrangements – strategic coordination groups so important / multi agency

**Karen highlighted that the civil contingencies structures under active consideration with officials.**

CMO highlighted meeting that took place last week that would be a good structure for a meeting and Karen undertook to set up a meeting today. He also said it would be need to be a CCG lite approach given the demands on agencies and the longer term need.

JM Kearney moved the meeting on to talk about the comms challenges and a number of suggestions were made.

CMO suggested that the Churches could be useful in getting the messaging out. Suzanne highlighted engaging with community groups. JM Lyons also mentioned the Sporting Codes.

JM Lyons made a suggestion about using 'Community Voices' to support the messaging.

Chris McNabb provided an overview of the messaging and indicated he would like to speak to Junior Ministers about resources needed to develop communications.

JM Kearney asked Chris to engage with his counterparts in councils, police etc to develop a joined up approach to communications, and asked for a comms set piece around enforcement to be explored for next week.

Meeting concluded.