

Attachment 1

Official – Sensitive

Four Harms Meeting
Friday 14 May 2021: 10.30 – 11.30
Minute

Attendance

Penelope Cooper (Chair)
 Alan Johnston
 Andrew Bruce
 Audrey MacDougall
 Brenda Campbell

NR

Carol Tannahill
 Daniel Kleinberg
 Dominic Munro
 Gary Gillespie
 Gregor Smith (CMO)
 Ian Kernohan
 Jim McMenamin

NR

Katherine Peskett

Ken Thomson
 John Paterson

NR

NR

NR

Paul Johnston
 Pauline Aylesbury
 Reuben Aitken

NR

Sam Anson

Sean Neill

Shirley Rogers

NR

NR

NR

NR

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome from Penelope Cooper as meeting chair.

2. Minutes of last meeting and actions

- Some minor comments on minutes from 7 May would be sent in writing, including changing the unemployment figure to 5.5%.

3. Overview of current situation (Harm Leads)**Possible implications of new variant:****Harm 1**

- Growing concern was noted about the B.1.617.2 variant which had originated in India. This variant was now prevalent in North West England and could become the dominant variant within a fortnight. It was likely to be more transmissible (SAGE papers estimated up to 50% more transmissible than B.1.1.7.). While there were also higher case numbers associated with this variant in parts of London and the East Midlands, the North West of England was of particular concern. The JCVI met on 13 May to discuss a potential vaccine and testing response. Consideration was being given to surge vaccination and accelerating second doses, but this had not yet been confirmed. Initial indications were that