



Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel

Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 Response

Date: 16 March 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Chief Executive and Council Gold Lead

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and assurance to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel about the Council's response to COVID-19.

The Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel is recommended to:

- Note this update on the Council's response to COVID-19.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

- **30 April 2020:** Council Urgency Committee agreed a programme of Council meetings in light of the Council's focus on responding to the immediate challenges of COVID-19.
- **5 May 2020:** Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel (OSBP) agrees an approach to receive a monthly COVID-19 update item that provides a high-level strategic overview of the Council's response to COVID-19
- **26 May 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **23 June 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **21 July 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **18 August 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **September 2020:** Select Committees resume, agreeing work programmes for the rest of the municipal year. On 29 September [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **13 October 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **24 November 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **15 December 2020:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **26 January 2021:** [OSBP discusses update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.](#)
- **16 February 2021:** OSBP discussed update paper on the Council's response to COVID-19.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update and assurance for the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel (OSBP) about the Council's ongoing response to COVID-19.
- 1.2. The COVID-19 update agenda item at OSBP was designed as a temporary mechanism during COVID-19 to replace usual scrutiny arrangements during the pandemic when scrutiny committees were wound down. This agenda item provides a strategic oversight of the management of the response from the Council's Gold lead. This report provides an update on developments since the last report on 16 February 2021 and key metrics used by officers to monitor and manage ongoing response to COVID-19.
- 1.3. This is the 11th COVID-19 summary report received by OSBP.

2. Recommendations

- 1.4. The Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel is recommended to:
 - Note this update on the Council's response to COVID-19.

3. Policy Context

- 1.5. The content of this report is consistent with all the Council's corporate priorities (as outlined in the Corporate Strategy 2018-22) as the need to protect the health and wellbeing of all our residents (particularly the most vulnerable) at the current time underpins the delivery of every commitment within the strategy. However, the recommendations are particularly relevant under the priority of:
 - *Delivering and defending: health, social care and support* – ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need
- 1.6. The Coronavirus Act (2020) sets out the temporary emergency measures that enable public bodies, such as local authorities, the NHS and police to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. These measures are wide-ranging and involve the establishment of new powers and duties as well as changes to existing powers and duties.

4. Background

- 1.7. On 5 May, OSBP agreed that all formal scrutiny activity be channelled through the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel, which will receive a standing item at each meeting to provide members and the public with a high-level strategic overview and assurance about the Council's response to COVID-19. Full Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all Select Committees ceased operating and all scrutiny activity was channelled through OSBP and specifically the seven scrutiny chairs.
- 1.8. At the AGM in July, Council agreed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee, six Select Committees all began again in September, along with the wider council bodies of planning, licencing, audit etc.
- 1.9. In August, in light of the recommencement of all wider scrutiny bodies, the Chief Executive advised OSBP that officers would consider how best to provide timely information to members through the most relevant channel to avoid duplication of efforts and reporting.
- 1.10. At the 19 September meeting of OSBP, it was agreed that this regular update paper continue and include key metrics and data collected by officers to support the ongoing response to COVID-19.
- 1.11. In light of the government's roadmap to ease coronavirus restrictions, decreasing case rates and progression of the vaccination programme, the Council's attention will now turn to planning for the reopening of society and the implications this has for Council

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services. The Council's emergency response to COVID-19 will therefore start to be scaled back as we focus on service planning for 2021/22 in the context of lessons learned and impact of COVID-19 on services, residents and the borough. Therefore these centralised updates to OSBP are anticipated to cease as we move towards the 21/22 municipal year in which a full programme of governance, both executive and scrutiny, is anticipated to resume. If an emergency response were to be reactivated, so would emergency governance structures and reporting inclusive of response updates to OSBP if the select committees were to be paused.

5. Lewisham Council's response to COVID-19

- 1.12. On 4 January, following a rapid rise in infections, hospital admissions and case rates across the country, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown and instructed people to stay at home. The Prime Minister reported that hospitals were under more pressure than they have been at any other point throughout the pandemic.
- 1.13. [A full description of national lockdown rules are available on the government website here.](#)
- 1.14. On Monday 22 February 2021, the Prime Minister announced the Government's roadmap for easing restrictions across the country. The roadmap, which has now been published online, outlines four steps for easing restrictions. Before proceeding to the next step, the Government will examine the data to assess the impact of previous steps.
 - This assessment will be based on four tests:
 - The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
 - Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
 - Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
 - Assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.
- 1.15. There will be a minimum of five weeks between each step: four weeks for the data to reflect changes in restrictions; followed by seven days' notice of the restrictions to be eased.
- 1.16. [Full details of the government's roadmap is on gov.uk here.](#)

Managing critical services

- 1.17. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Council is using resources to protect and support critical services. Adult and children's social care services are continuing and our waste collection teams are still collecting bins. Schools are currently only open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.
- 1.18. [A summary of changes is available on the Council website.](#)
- 1.19. The performance of critical service delivery is closely monitored by the Council's Gold Group through a daily dashboard of data. The data monitoring dashboard indicates if and when a critical service is struggling due to high demand or absence which will prompt action to provide resources to ensure the continued delivery of critical service.
- 1.20. Following the government's announcement that schools will return on 8 March, the Council has been working hard to support schools prepare to welcome all students on 8 March. All schools have robust plans in place to reopen which include testing arrangements for secondary school pupils, secondary school staff and primary school staff. Schools and colleges have discretion on how to phase the return of their students

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from March 8th to allow them to be tested on return.

- 1.21. The Council COVID-19 Response Team is currently developing a plan of which services will be operating during the timeframes set out in the government's roadmap (8 March, 29 March, 12 April and 21 June). The plan will cover COVID-19 Action Team resourcing requirements, service operation over the coming months and considerations for a slow and phased return to the office. It is likely that there will be a continued focus and pressure on the Council regarding testing, support for vaccinations rollout as well as enforcement and business support. This will have implications for staff availability and service provision in the short to medium term and may affect the Council's ability to reopen services forced to close under COVID-19 restrictions. Officers are also exploring options for the medium and long term provision of specialist COVID-19 services if needed.

COVID-19 Action Team

- 1.22. All Council services have been prioritised for the purposes of responding to COVID-19. Staff from non-critical services have been deployed to the Council's COVID-19 Action Team to support critical services and the Council's response to the pandemic. The COVID-19 Action Team replaces the Council's original staff volunteering scheme and is staffed by officers from non-critical service areas who have been deployed to support the Council's response.
- 1.23. Staff have been deployed to support community testing, test and trace, shielding, personal protective equipment distribution, voluntary community services liaison, lockdown enforcement and supporting small businesses claim grants.

Supporting the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

- 1.24. People classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (i.e. at the greatest risk of severe illness due to COVID-19) were advised to shield at the start of the pandemic – this involved taking additional action to prevent themselves from coming into contact with the virus (e.g. staying at home at all times and avoiding any face-to-face contact)
- 1.25. During the first wave of COVID-19, the Government created a centrally coordinated shielding programme for people who did not have family, friends, neighbours or other nearby networks to assist them. The support offer covered two key areas:
 - Essential groceries – a free, standardised weekly parcel of food and household essentials, and priority delivery slots with supermarkets;
 - Medicines – arrangements to have medicines delivered to people's homes by local community pharmacies or their dispensing doctor
- 1.26. The shielding programme was paused on 31 July and all clinically extremely vulnerable individuals were advised to adopt strict social distancing rather than full shielding measures.
- 1.27. The government announced in January that a further group of residents would be added to the clinically extremely vulnerable cohort. A further 12,000 residents were identified as clinically extremely vulnerable in Lewisham. The government has used a new risk assessment model to enable a more sophisticated approach to clinical risk based on multiple risk factors.
- 1.28. This model combines a number of characteristics to estimate the risk of catching and then being hospitalised or dying from COVID-19. These include age, sex registered at birth, ethnicity, body mass index (BMI), and specific health conditions and treatments.
- 1.29. Community Connections Lewisham (which has developed from the Lewisham Local service delivered during the first lockdown) continues to directly support both those who are shielding and those who are not shielding in terms of food and practical assistance.

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Testing

- 1.30. The current Government guidance says that if people have symptoms of COVID-19 they should get a test which can be booked over the phone or online.
- 1.31. Currently in Lewisham there are now three live testing sites for people with coronavirus symptoms: one mobile testing site in Catford, one local testing site open every day in Deptford and a third testing site at Molesworth St in Lewisham town centre.
- 1.32. Residents in care homes are being testing on a monthly basis and care home staff are tested weekly. This identifies asymptomatic cases and supports effective isolation to prevent outbreaks in care homes.
- 1.33. Community Testing is a tool to help identify and isolate individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and may inadvertently be spreading the virus. This is also known as rapid testing.
- 1.34. There are currently four rapid testing sites for those who do not have coronavirus symptoms in Lewisham: Catford Civic Suite, Green Man in Downham, Deptford Lounge and Ignition Brewery in Sydenham. There is also a dedicated site at Wearside specifically for critical staff who work at the Wearside Depot.
- 1.35. The Council is encouraging people to book testing if they need to leave home for work or volunteering, if they live in the same household or support bubble as someone who needs to leave home for work or volunteering or if they are in the same household or support bubble as primary, secondary and college-age children and young people.
- 1.36. As at 7 March 13,411 tests have been administered in the Community Testing centres with a positivity rate of 1%.

Enforcement

- 1.37. All legislation for the new lockdown is in place until March 31 meaning the rules and restrictions may need to be followed until then. The presence of crowded environments, often with individual and group non-compliance with government directives, poses increased risk of COVID-19 infection and contributes to hospitalisation and mortality rates.
- 1.38. Local authority enforcement powers relate mainly to breaches by businesses. By 5 March the Council had made 8,000 checks on businesses and undertaken 900 visits. The Council's approach seeks to coordinate that activity while providing a visible presence to reassure the general public and engaging the Police for wider enforcement where necessary.
- 1.39. As we exit lockdown the rules for businesses will change and the approach of the enforcement team, supported by communications, will be to ensure that businesses understand the changing rules and follow them. This will commence ahead of the first changes on 12 April when, if the four tests outlined by government are met, all shops will be allowed to open and restaurants and pubs allowed to operate outdoors only. As the restrictions are eased further in steps 3 and 4 of the roadmap businesses will be supported to operate safely.

Vaccinations

- 1.40. Led by the NHS, the national programme to vaccinate the public against COVID-19 disease is designed to reduce severe disease and death amongst those who become infected. A secondary aim is to reduce transmission though it is not yet known how effective vaccination will be in achieving this aim.
- 1.41. There are 7 vaccination sites across Lewisham: Waldron Health Centre, St Johns Medical Centre, Sydenham Green, Downham Health & Leisure Centre, The Jenner Health Centre, Lewisham Hospital and Vantage Pharmacy.

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- 1.42. The following are the JCVI groups in order of priority (2021);
- 1.43. 1st dose vaccine by 15th February
- Older people's care homes residents and staff
 - People 80 years of age and over, and healthcare and social care workers
 - People 75 years of age and over
 - People 70 years of age and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable
- 1.44. 1st dose vaccine by 15th April
- People 65 years of age and over
 - Adults under 65 years of age at high and moderate risk due to medical conditions, including people newly added to the shielding list in February, and informal or unpaid carers
 - People 60 years of age and over
 - People 55 years of age and over
 - People 50 years of age and over
- 1.45. 1st dose vaccine by 31st July
- Key workers and the rest of the population
- 1.46. A communications and engagement campaign to support the vaccine roll-out is likely to be required for a sustained period of time as the JCVI priority group timetable progresses. Different messaging, tailored assets and flexibility in communications platforms will be deployed to support the roll-out, helping maximise vaccinations among those groups. The aims of communication and engagement is:
- To raise awareness of the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccination.
 - To encourage the take up of the COVID-19 vaccination, according to priority group.
 - To engage with groups disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to build trust, provide information, hear concerns, and address vaccine hesitancy.
 - To support those who may be excluded such as people with a learning disability or those who are digitally-excluded to access vaccination information.
 - To address any vaccination misconceptions.
 - To demonstrate a swift and efficient roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination in Lewisham.
 - To support the NHS in managing expectations.
 - To encourage broader participation in the vaccine survey especially BAME residents.
- 1.47. Further information and data regarding the vaccination programme will be provided to members by health colleagues.

6. COVID-19 in Lewisham – position as at 5 March 2021

- 1.48. The rate of cases has fallen in the last week both in Lewisham and across London.
- 1.49. The number of new cases has decreased to 107 in Lewisham during the week up to 27 February (most up to date data). Lewisham continues to see a case rate lower than the London and national average. We continue to monitor the situation daily to enable us to respond appropriately.

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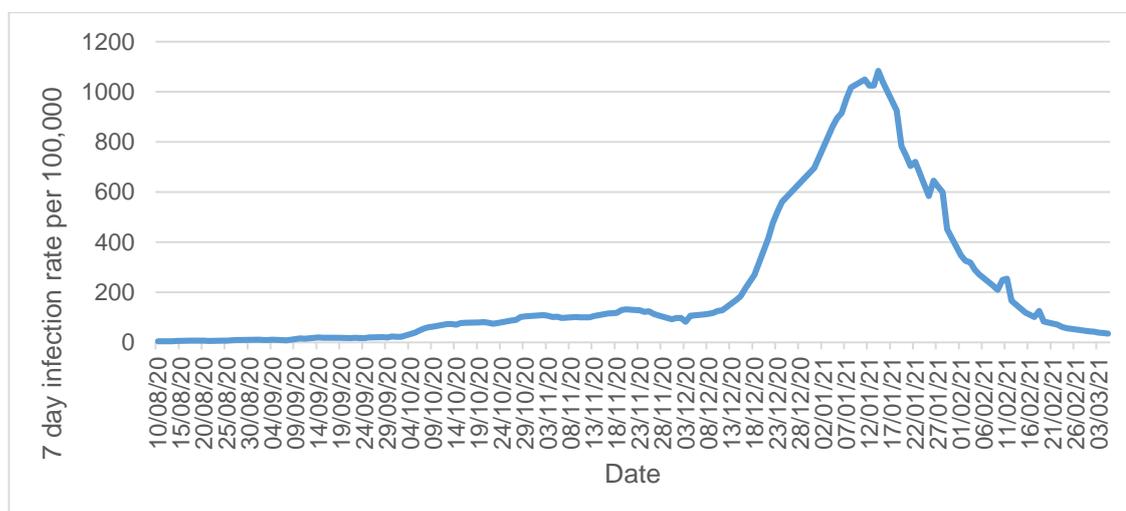
- 1.50. The testing rate in Lewisham has fallen and remains below the London average. Positivity has also fallen.
- 1.51. Case numbers and infection levels in Lewisham:

Number of COVID-19 lab confirmed cases in Lewisham			
Last 7 days	Last 14 days	Last 21 days	Total cases
107	264	521	21,218

Rate of lab-confirmed cases in the last 7 days (per 100,000 people)		
Lewisham	London	England
35	58	86

- 1.52. As at 5 March, the weekly testing rate per 100,000 population (7 day moving average) is 268.1, compared to 312.7 at a London level. The seven day test positivity levels (per 100 tests) in Lewisham are 2.6% compared to 3.1% across London.
- 1.53. The graph below shows the 7-day rate of infection per 100,000 in Lewisham since August 2020.

7-day infection rate per 100,000 in Lewisham since August 2020



- 1.54. The R number is the average number of secondary infections produced by a single infected person. An R number of 1 means that on average every person who is infected will infect 1 other person, meaning the total number of infections is stable. If R is 2, on average, each infected person infects 2 more people. If R is 0.5 then on average for each 2 infected people, there will be only 1 new infection. If R is greater than 1 the epidemic is growing, if R is less than 1 the epidemic is shrinking. The higher R is above 1, the more people 1 infected person infects and so the faster the epidemic grows.
- 1.55. As at 5 March, the reproduction (R) number for London is: **0.6 - 0.8**

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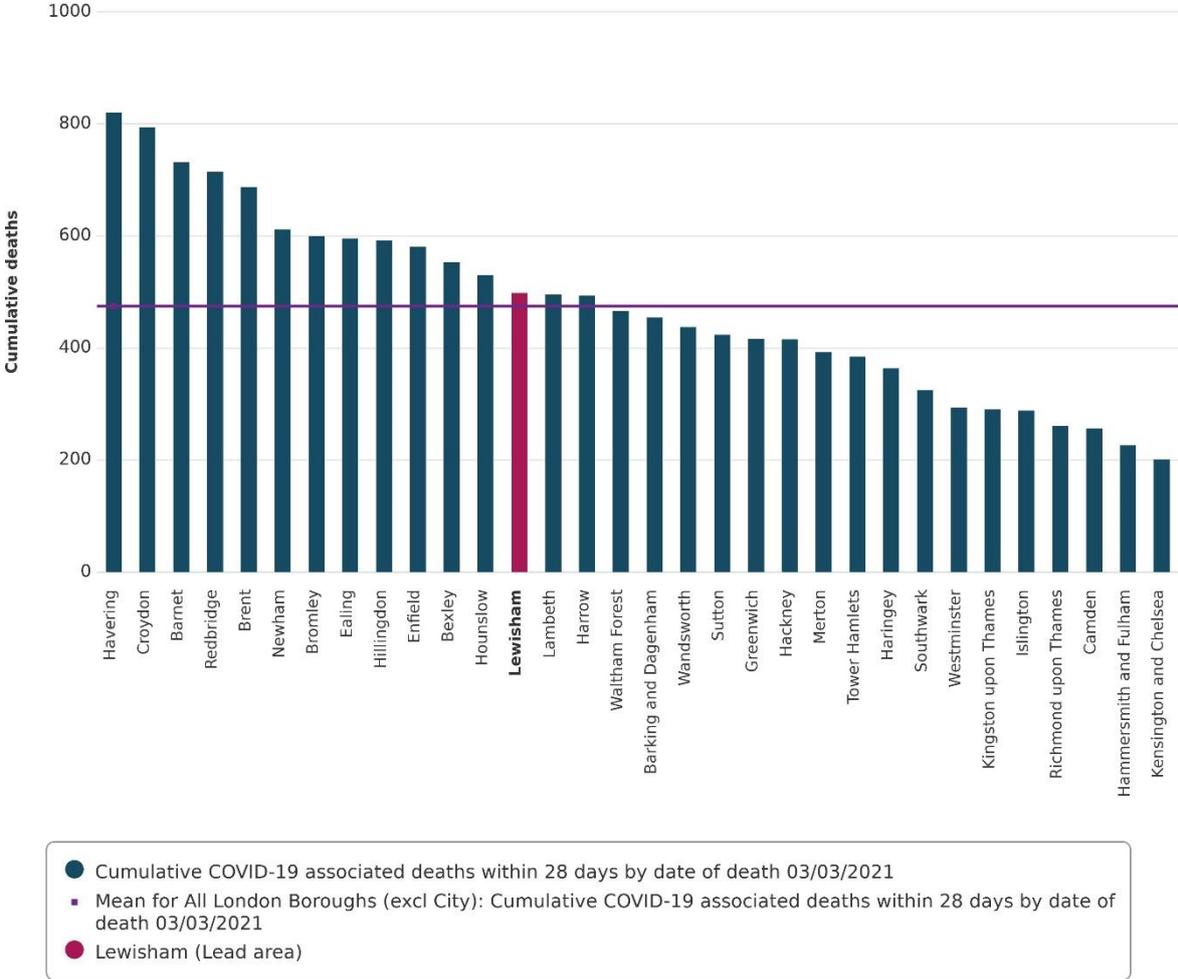
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Mortality in Lewisham

- 1.56. There are two primary sources of information on COVID-19 mortality in all settings in Lewisham – Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Lewisham Registered Deaths.
- 1.57. ONS data is currently the only official, verified source of COVID-19 deaths registered in the UK that is available down to a local authority level. The data is published fortnightly and the numbers will therefore differ to the local registered deaths data that is available prior to verification by ONS. [This data is publically available from the ONS website.](#)
- 1.58. The Public Health Team now routinely receive details of all deaths registered at Lewisham Registry Office on a weekly basis. This information is considered highly confidential and sensitive. It is also shared before the official data verification process undertaken by ONS and for these reasons it is not for wider publication.
- 1.59. A total of 499 deaths from COVID-19 have been registered in Lewisham and verified by ONS up to 3 March 2021 from the beginning of 2020.

Cumulative COVID-19 associated deaths by date of death where the death was within 28 days (03/03/2021) for All London Boroughs (excl City)



Source: Public Health England

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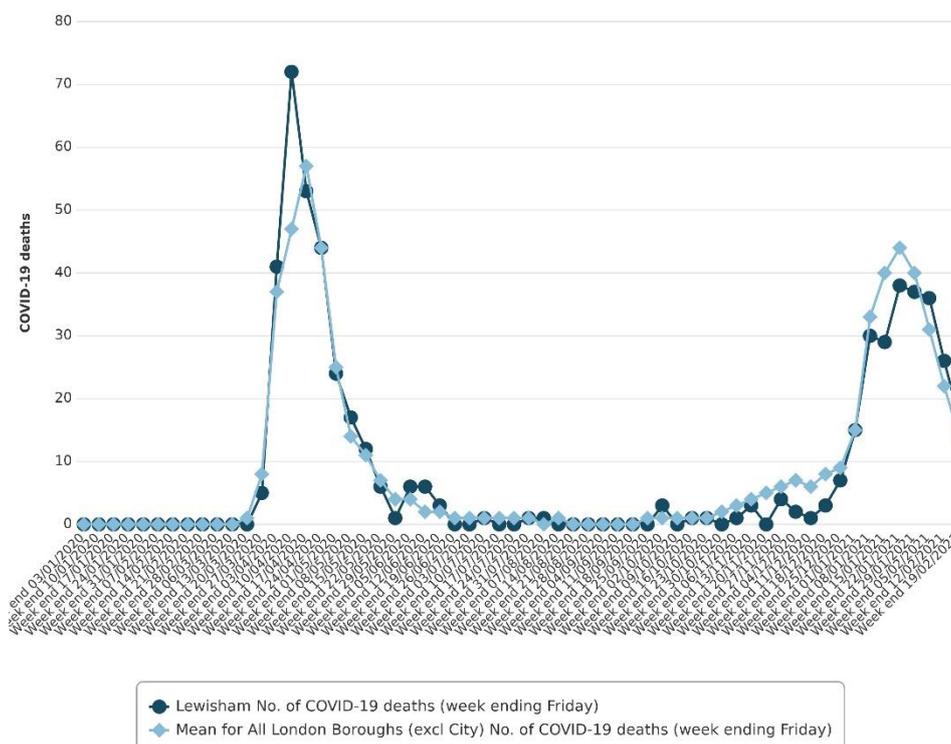
- 1.60. Lewisham has the 13th highest cumulative number of deaths from COVID-19 of all London boroughs, just over the London mean.
- 1.61. The graph below illustrates the number of deaths from COVID-19 in Lewisham compared to the mean for all London Boroughs between January 2020 and February 2021 (latest available data).

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Number of COVID-19 deaths (week ending Friday) (from Week end 03/01/2020 to Week end 19/02/2021) for Lewisham



Source:
Office for National Statistics

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1.62. Up to 19 February 2021 there had been 36 COVID-19 deaths registered as occurring in care homes in Lewisham.

7. Financial implications

1.63. The Council is facing in-year financial pressures due mainly to the need to ensure that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the Council continues to protect its residents and maintain front line critical services.

8. Legal implications

1.64. The Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March this year. It gives the Government emergency powers to combat the COVID 19 pandemic. The provisions of the Act are time-limited for two years, though this period may be shortened by ministerial direction. In addition the Act is subject to Parliamentary review every 6 months.

1.65. The Act enables the Government to restrict or prohibit public gatherings, control or suspend public transport, order businesses such as shops and restaurants to close, temporarily detain people suspected of COVID-19 infection, suspend the operation of ports and airports, enrol medical students and retired healthcare workers in the health services, relax regulations to ease the burden on healthcare services, and assume control of death management in particular local areas.

1.66. Many of its provisions are specific to local government. For example the Act temporarily suspends local authorities' legal duty to meet the care needs of all people who are eligible under the Care Act 2014. Instead, councils will have a duty to provide care only if necessary to avoid breaching a person's rights under the Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). However as set out in the report, the Council has not sought to rely on any of the easements to the Care Act allowed in the Coronavirus Act.

1.67. The Act also makes provisions for elections and annual general meetings to be

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deferred and for council meetings to be held remotely.

- 1.68. A number of directions have been made to legislative provisions using the Coronavirus provisions. For example, the Secretary of State issued a direction on 31 March 2020 to Ofqual about the calculation of students' GCSE, AS and A level results and on 9 April in respect of technical qualifications though many of the government's intentions for local government have been expressed through non statutory guidance. Whilst having no statutory force, the Council would be well advised to have regard to this guidance, and only departing from it with good reason, particularly bearing in mind that the Secretary of State retains the power to issue directions if necessary.
- 1.69. Under Section 17 Crime and disorder Act 1998 the Council has a duty in the exercise of its functions to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.
- 1.70. Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act inserted a new section 2B into the NHS Act 2006 to give a local authority a new duty to take such steps as it considers appropriate to improve the health of the people in its area. The steps in this report are consistent with that duty.
- 1.71. Under S3 Local Government Act, 1999 the Council must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This duty remains even in these exceptional circumstances.

9. Equalities implications

- 1.72. There is emerging evidence that suggests a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on groups with protected characteristics. National research shows there are significant health inequalities affecting Black African and Caribbean communities, which are perpetuated by inequalities in the wider determinants of health such as housing, employment and education. These have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and may underpin some of the excess deaths in these populations.
- 1.73. Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council are partnering to conduct a review gather insights on health inequalities within Black African and Caribbean communities in Birmingham and Lewisham asking 'how do we break the cycle of inequality?'. The Council has also submitted evidence to the Women and Equalities Committee about the different and disproportionate impact that the Coronavirus – and measures to tackle it – is having on people with the protected characteristics under the Equality Act.
- 1.74. The Council is supplementing this work with an extensive impact assessment of COVID-19 on the borough, with a focus on those with protected characteristics.
- 1.75. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 1.76. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- 1.77. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster

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good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed in the paragraph above.

- 1.78. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for members, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. They must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 1.79. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>
 - <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>
- 1.80. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 - Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 - Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities
 - Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities
 - Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities
- 1.81. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements
- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 - Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 - Engagement and the equality duty
 - Equality objectives and the equality duty
 - Equality information and the equality duty
- 1.82. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirement including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance>

10. Climate change and environmental implications

- 1.83. There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from this

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report.

11. Crime and disorder implications

- 1.84. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

12. Health and wellbeing implications

- 1.85. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report, however it should be acknowledged that COVID-19 presents a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of Lewisham's residents, as it does across the world. The Council's response and recovery objectives are rooted in promoting good public health and safety for Lewisham's residents.

13. Background papers

- 1.86. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel 5 May 2020 - Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 Response](#)
- 1.87. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel 26 May 2020 - Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.88. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel 23 June 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.89. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel 21 July 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.90. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel 18 August 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.91. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel September 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.92. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel October 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.93. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel November 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.94. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel December 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)
- 1.95. [Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel January 2020 – Scrutiny of the Council's COVID-19 response.](#)

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
Council Gold	A gold/silver/bronze command structure is a hierarchy used by the emergency services and other public sector organisations (including local authorities) to manage the response to major incidents. Gold command is responsible for formulating a strategy for dealing with the incident and has overall control of resources.

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Term	Definition
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The three main symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature and a new, persistent cough, and loss or change in sense of smell or taste.
Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel	<p>Lewisham has two Business Panels (sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel is made up of the chair and vice-chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the chair of each of the Select Committees, and two other non-Executive councillors.</p> <p>The main functions of Business Panel are reviewing key decisions once they have been taken (potentially “calling in” key decisions that have been made but not yet implemented); coordinating and approving the overall scrutiny work programme; and allocating scrutiny work in the event that it crosses the remit of more than one scrutiny body.</p> <p>Three parent governors and two diocesan representatives sit on the Education Business Panel, alongside the councillors that make up the regular Business Panel. The Education Business Panel reviews.</p>
Shielding	Those who are at the greatest risk of severe illness and have been advised to shield by the NHS.

15. Report author and contact

- 1.96. If there are any queries about this report, please contact Charlotte Parish, Principal Officer – Policy, Service Design and Analysis by email charlotte.parish@lewisham.gov.uk.

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