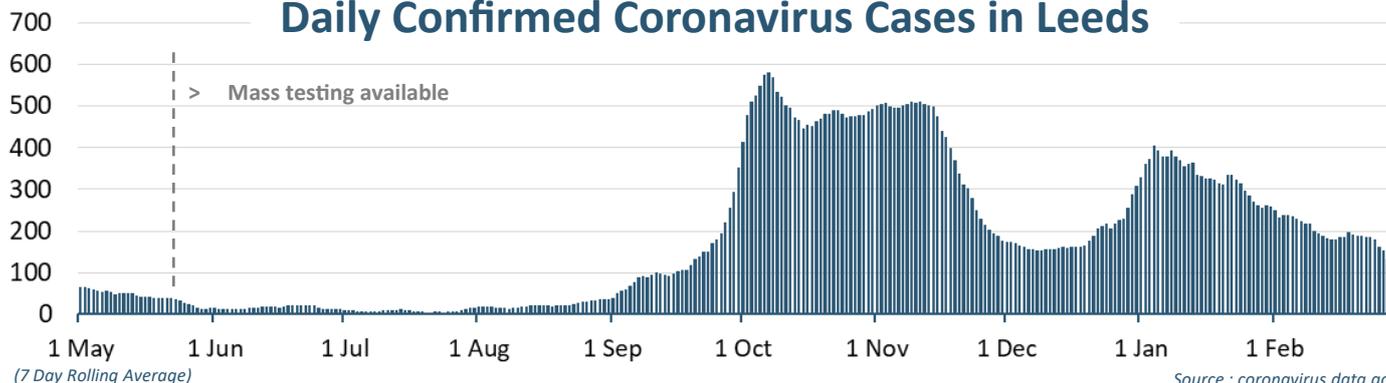


Daily Confirmed Coronavirus Cases in Leeds



Headlines for Leeds

Regional economic analysis of the first stages of the Covid-19 crisis have now been published by the ONS. In the second quarter of 2020 (Apr-Jun), Yorkshire and the Humber’s economic output contracted by 18.7%, very much in line with national trends.

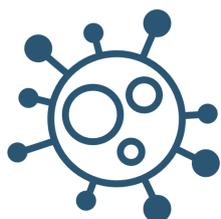
Accommodation and Food Services were by far the hardest hit, followed by construction. Although, there is a lag in this data, it does illustrate the scale of the immediate impact on the region’s economy.

According to data collated by WYCA, there were some signs of increased economic activity in West Yorkshire’s economy in the second half of January into early February, with urban centres seeing small increases in activity, although Leeds and Wakefield were the exceptions, with activity stable.

These trends clearly have an effect on the commercial property market. The city centre vacancy rate was 10% in February 2020, and it has now risen to 14%, as of December 2020, the vacancy rate for shopping arcades has risen from 12% to 19% in the same time period.

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 158.9 per 100,000 (163.8 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ standing at 158.9. (a reduction of 3% over 7 days) The latest regional average is 141.9 (151.3 a week before).

Leeds is currently recording the following figures



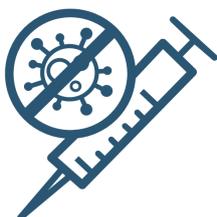
158.9 Cases rate
per 100,000 people
(7 day rolling average)



30 Current Cases
Reported across 15 Care
Homes in Leeds



1491 Registered Deaths
That mention Covid-19, an
increase of 32 over last 14 days



201,402 vaccinated
Registered patients
within Leeds



482 Covid-19 related
Incidents reported to West
Yorkshire Police in last 7 days

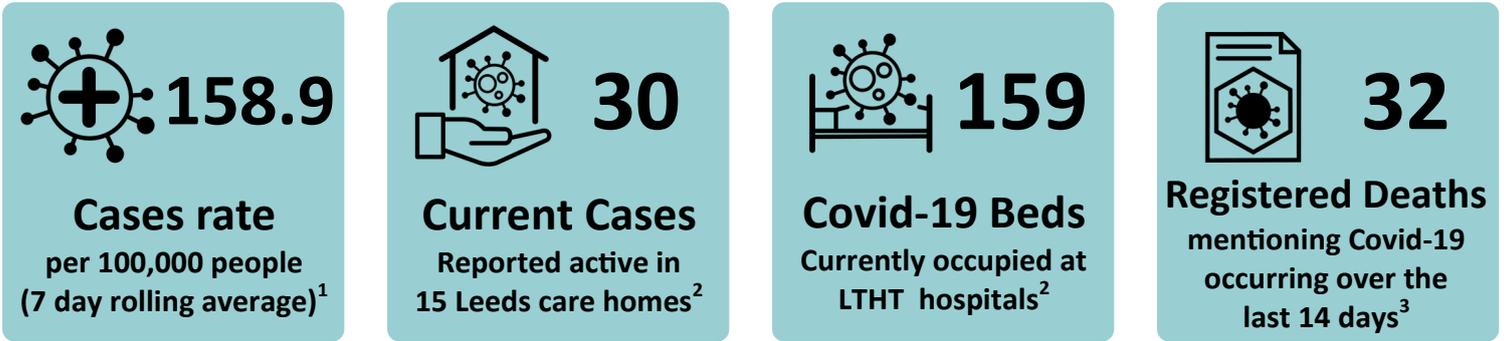


35.9 µg/m³
Nitrogen Dioxide levels.
Below UK target of 40µg/m³

Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 1 March 2021

Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery



Health Summary

Infection Rates¹

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 158.9 per 100,000 (163.8 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ standing at 158.9. (a reduction of 3% over 7 days) The latest regional average is 141.9 (151.3 a week before).

The latest available 7 day positivity for Leeds is 7.4% (Slightly down from 7.7% on Saturday/Sunday).

Vaccinations²

As of the 23rd February 2021 a total of 201,400 GP registered patients in Leeds have been vaccinated, this is an increase of over 55,000 since the 9th February.

Covid-19 Cases²

As of the 1st March, The number of patients in COVID occupied beds at LHHT is 159 COVID positive patients, down from 183 at this time last week. LYPFT has 17 COVID positive patients recorded in a bed on the 1st.

This week has seen 107 positive COVID tests carried out within hospitals (Down from 110 last week); 86 attributed to inpatients and 21 attributed to new admissions. Of which LYPFT had only 3 positive COVID tests in the last 7 days

There are currently 26 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LHHT

Care Homes²

In total there are 30 active COVID-19 cases declared in 15 Care Homes in Leeds. These figures have shown a substantial decrease in the last 2 weeks which may be due to the administration of vaccinations

Registered Deaths in Leeds³

As of 26 February 2021, a total of 1491 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office.

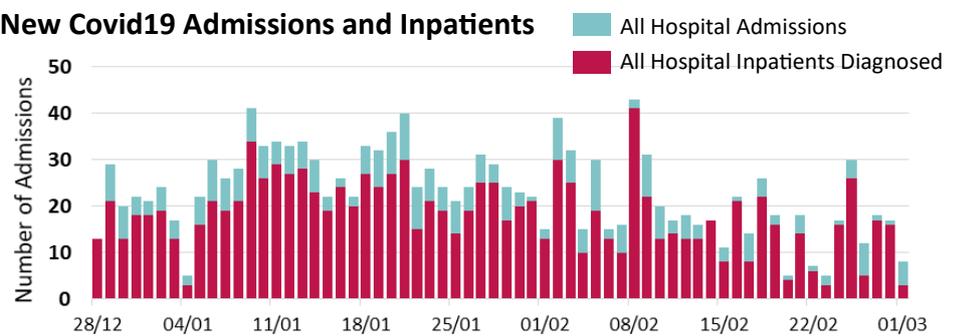
Capacity⁴

Current capacity in LHHT and MYHT hospital based mortuaries is at 59%. This has reduced since the last gold report on the 15th February when it was recorded at 66%.

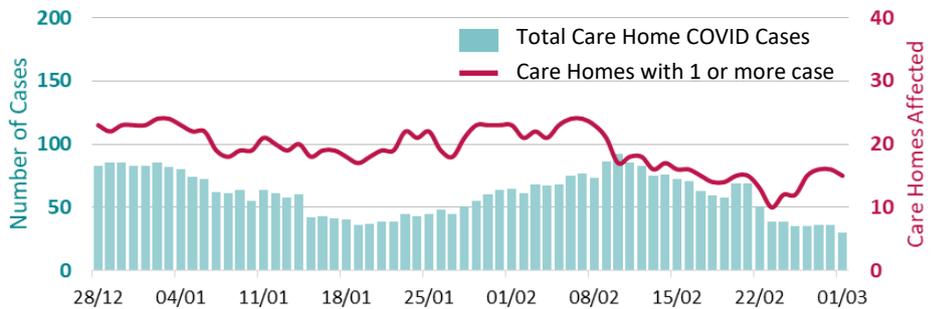
Sources:

- Public Health Intelligence - 01/03/21
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Group - 01/03/21
- Leeds Registrars Office - 26/02/21
- LCC Resilience & Emergencies Team - 01/03/21

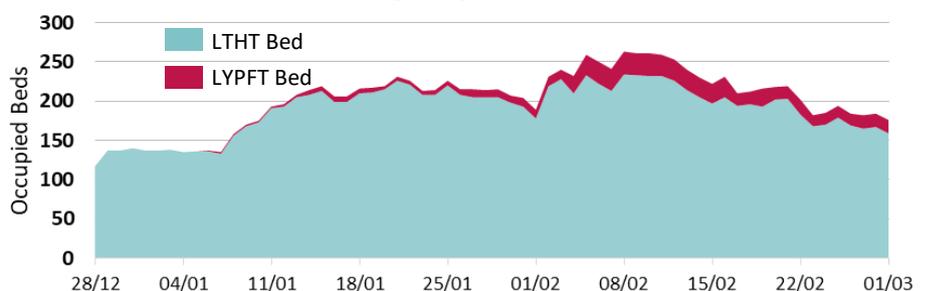
New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients



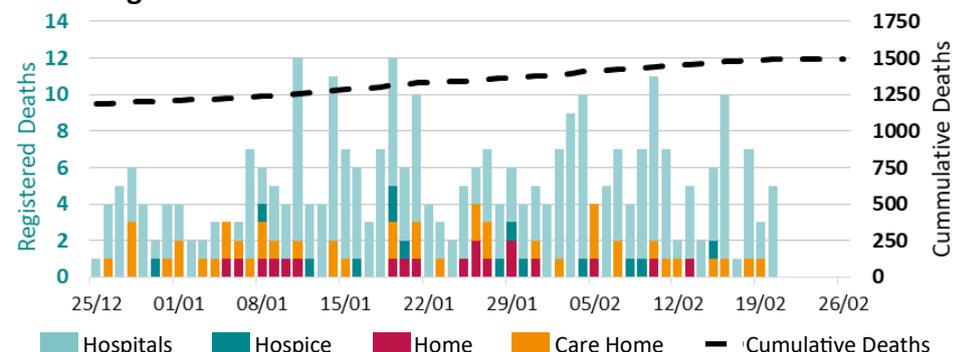
Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



Citizens & Community



482

Covid-19
Related incidents recorded over last 7 days¹



437

Domestic
Incidents recorded over last 7 days¹



587

Phone Calls
To the LWSS helpline⁴



2219

Self-Isolation
Support payments paid to successful applicants³

Citizens & Community Summary

Incidents and Crimes Overview¹

Total crime levels are expected to be depressed during the lockdown period due to restrictions on peoples movement

Children & Education²

In the week following half-term, average attendance for all pupils increased from 16% to 19%.

Attendance increased for all vulnerable groups, with an average of 45% of children with an EHCP attending (5% higher than before half term) and 52 percent of children with a social worker (7% higher than before half term).

In week starting 22 February, total reported child absence due to COVID-19 exposure decreased to a daily average of 335, compared to 689 in the week prior to half term.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Persons³

In the latest list of CEV, published on 26th February, there were 54,898 persons in Leeds who are considered as "high risk" of contracting more severe symptoms from COVID-19. of these 43.5% live in areas that fall into the most deprived 20% in the city.

Self Isolation Payments⁴

The latest position as at 01/03/21. LCC received 220 applications over the last 7 days, averaging 44 per working day – To date we have paid £1,109,500 to Leeds residents who are self-isolating and losing income as a result.

Welfare Support⁵

In the week (15-21 Feb 2021) there were 587 calls recorded to the Local Welfare Support Service's (LWSS) Helpline, with a 100% answer rate. Further information on the type of support provided will appear in future reports.

Waste Management & Recycling⁶

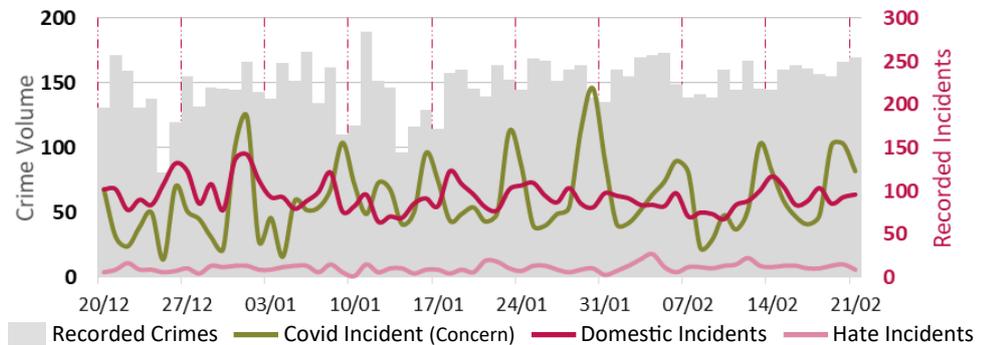
Tonnage of waste and recycling collected at the kerbside throughout this period continues to be higher than normal. To maintain operational bubbles garden crews are being deployed as support. Crews continue to be stood down where a staff member becomes symptomatic.

There are currently 22 frontline colleagues not in work as a result of Covid-19.

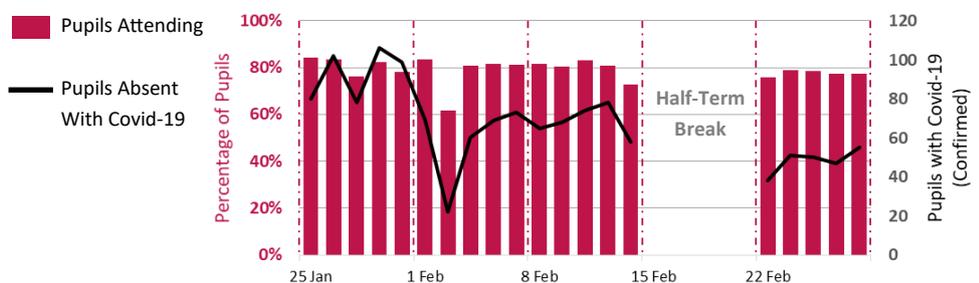
Sources:

1. Safer Leeds - 01/03/21
2. Children's Services Leeds - 01/03/21
3. Public Health Intelligence 28/02/21
4. Leeds City Council Welfare & Benefits Service 01/03/21
5. Leeds City Council Financial inclusion Team 22/02/21
6. Leeds City Council Environment Team - 01/03/21

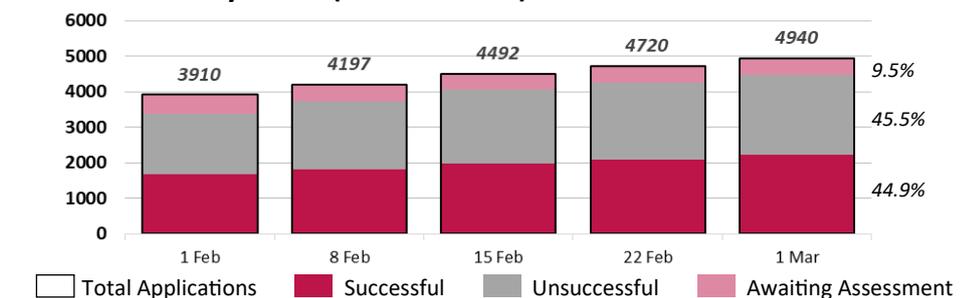
Crimes and Incidents



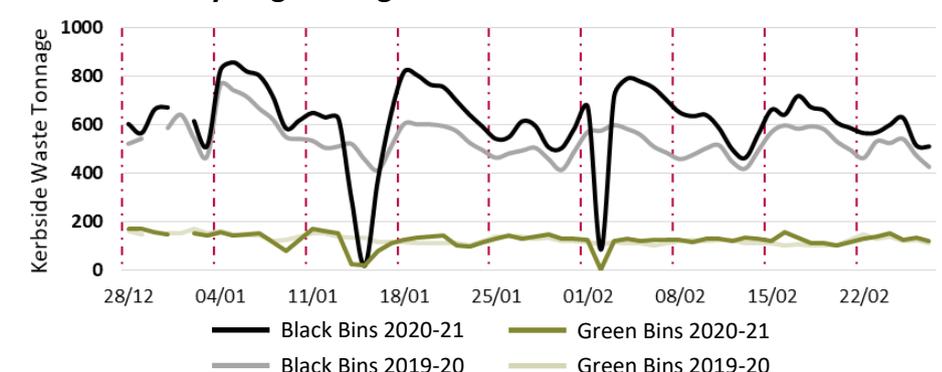
Percentage of pupils on roll attending lessons



Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



Waste and Recycling Tonnage



Infrastructure & Supplies



Traffic Flow
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019/20¹



Average Footfall
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2020¹



Nitrogen Dioxide
Levels, lower than UK target of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



Thousand
Units of PPE issued over the last 7 days²

Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

Traffic & Pedestrian Flow¹

The lockdown restrictions have seen a continued reduction in footfall. With the average footfall over last week at only 27% of the same week in 2020.

Traffic flow has also seen a reduction since the start of the current nationwide lockdown with numbers falling to approximately 67% of what would be expected at this time of year.

MCard data showed a reduction during the winter period. However this has shown signs of increased purchases in the last few weeks.

NOTE : The footfall figures for Wednesday 30th December are high compared to last year's figures because New Year's Day 2019/20 fell on the comparable Wednesday of week 53.

Leeds Air Quality (December 2020)²

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

The effect of the lockdown earlier in the year shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area, since easing of measures began in May, levels of NO₂ have begun to rise slightly to an average of $35.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in December. Throughout April to December 2020 NO₂ levels in Leeds were recorded, on average, at 25% lower than the same period in 2019.

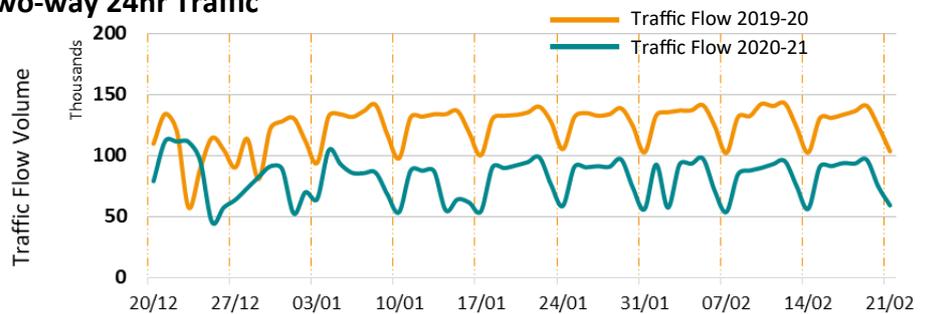
PPE Supplies²

All PPE Stock levels are good and continue to be monitored.

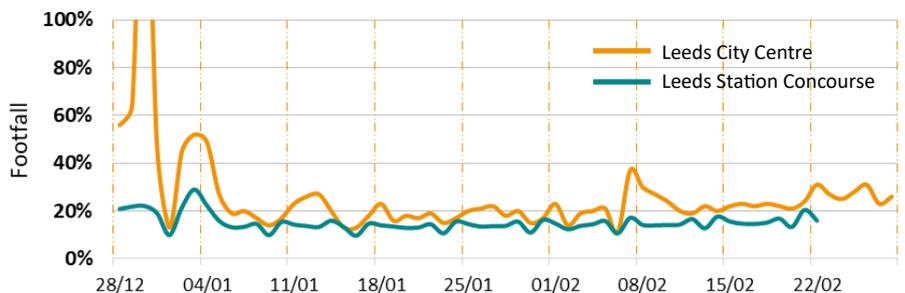
The PPE hub are supporting the enhanced testing in Harehills and the reinstating of testing facilities at Gipton Fire Station.

Last week over 168,900 units of PPE were issued across Leeds services.

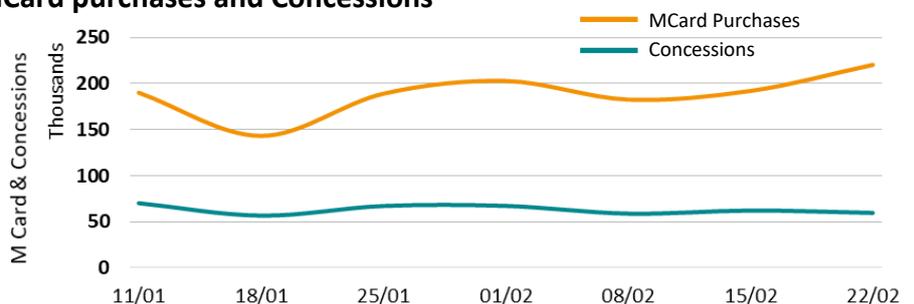
Two-way 24hr Traffic



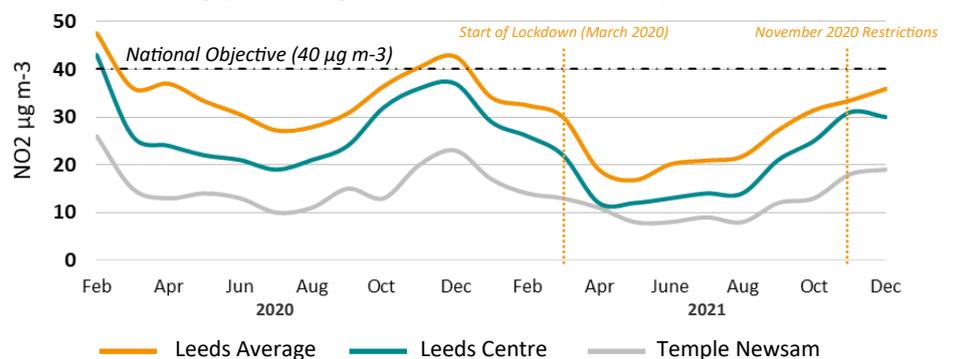
Percentage of Expected Footfall



MCard purchases and Concessions



Leeds Air Quality (February 2019 - December 2020)



Sources:

1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 01/03/21
2. Leeds City Council - 01/03/21

Economy and Business



**Out of Work
Benefits Claimant
Count²**



**Allocated to Leeds by the
Government to fight
misinformation around
coronavirus vaccines.**

Economy and Business¹

Regional economic analysis of the first stages of the Covid-19 crisis have now been published by the ONS. In the second quarter of 2020 (Apr-Jun), Yorkshire and the Humber's economic output contracted by 18.7%, very much in line with national trends. Accommodation and Food Services were by far the hardest hit, followed by construction. Although, there is a lag in this data, it does illustrate the scale of the impact on the region's economy.

According to data collated by WYCA, there were some signs of increased economic activity in West Yorkshire's economy in the second half of January into early February, with urban centres seeing small increases in activity, although Leeds and Wakefield were the exceptions, with activity stable; the data suggests that in Leeds city centre activity was at 10% of pre-pandemic baseline levels in the first week in February. These trends are reflected in footfall. City centre footfall continues to be significantly subdued, down to 27% on the same day last year on 28 February. These trends are also having an effect on the commercial property market. The city centre vacancy rate was 10% in February 2020, and it has now risen to 14%, as of December 2020, the vacancy rate for shopping arcades has risen from 12% to 19% in the same time period.

Overall commuting and traffic patterns have also settled into a reduced level, with train and bus use running at between 60-70% down on the pre-Covid levels of early March 2020, although motor vehicle usage is closer to pre-Covid patterns.

Employment

There has been a very slight decline in Out of Work Benefit claimants in the January figures, with 35,290 people claiming Out of Work Benefits (6.8%), slightly above regional (6.4%) and national rates (6.2%).

Budget 2021 – 3rd March

The Chancellor has indicated that the March Budget will see a range of emergency coronavirus support measures extended, with the furlough scheme, bounce back loans, targeted VAT cuts and stamp duty reductions set to remain in place until June. It is expected that further Business Rates reliefs will be announced – the current COVID-related reliefs are for one year only.

LCC's financial position¹

After taking additional Government funding of £20.6m announced in October into consideration, which reduced the estimated funding gap to £30.5m, the Council identified one off resources to manage the financial position in 2020/21 and deliver a balanced budget position. This remains the position in the latest Financial Health report which was received at Cabinet on Friday 26th February and will be submitted to Executive Board on 17th March. This position estimates that the Council will receive £26.9m of Government compensation in 2020/21 to mitigate sales, fees and charges income losses, but the actual figure will not be known until the financial year end. This is an increased grant assumption which mitigates additional costs and income losses now assumed regarding the current national lockdown.

The projected overspend for 2021/22 as reported to September's Executive Board in the Medium Term Financial Strategy was £118.8m, as a consequence of which Executive Board agreed that consultation should commence on a range of Budget Savings Proposals. The Government Spending Review 2020 included a range of measures relating to local government, with detailed allocations then provided at the Provisional Local Government Settlement in December. The final Budget Report, received at February's Executive Board, recognises an overall improvement of around £31.2m as a consequence of these announcements, which were conformed in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement announcement in 4th February. Directorate savings proposals of £56.1m have been incorporated into the final Budget and the remaining £31.4m will be delivered through a range of measures to ensure that assumed increases in funding are realised and to deliver budgeted reductions in costs.

On 19th February HM Treasury announced that the final report of the Government's fundamental review of business rates will now be published in the Autumn, when there is more economic certainty. The review was announced by the Chancellor at last year's Budget and a call for evidence closed late last year. An interim report, which will include a summary of consultation responses, will be published on 23rd March alongside a range of tax consultations and calls for evidence.

Following the publication of the roadmap out of lockdown for England on Monday 21st February, (available on www.gov.uk), announcements included:

The extension of the Community Testing Programme until at least the end of June.

Additional £400m funding for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) for the next financial year, to cover further public health activities from 1 April 2021. Further information about this funding, including allocations, is to be announced along with an updated COMF framework for local areas in March, which will set out how national and local partners will continue to work with the public to keep safe.

Expanded support for those self-isolating. The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme will continue into the summer and will be expanded to cover parents who are unable to work because they are caring for a child who is self-isolating. The funding made available for local authorities as part of this to make discretionary support payments will be increased to £20 million per month. A further £39.7m has subsequently been allocated to the Scheme, and any underspend may be carried into the next financial year. The Leeds share of this new allocation is £350k.

Extension of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme until the end of the Easter holidays.

In response to the planned reopening of schools on 8th March, the Education Secretary announced further elements of the recovery support package to help children and young people catch up on missed learning and development. This will be supported with a £700 million package for England, of which £400m is new funding, and includes a new one-off £302m recovery premium for state primary and secondary schools. £200m will fund an £83m expansion of the national tutoring programme for primary and secondary schools, a £102m extension of the 16-19 Tuition Fund for a further year and £18m funding to support language development in early years. £200m will be available to secondary schools to deliver face-to-face summer schools.

Sources:

1. Leeds City Council - 15/02/21
2. Department for Work and Pensions - January 2021

Policy Announcements

16 February 2021

Up to 1.7 million further people identified as being at high risk from Covid-19 and added to the shielded patients list, through a new Covid-19 risk prediction model, which found that a combination of factors such as age, ethnicity and BMI increase the risk posed by Covid-19. Over 800,000 adults will now be prioritised to receive a vaccine as part of the current vaccination cohorts.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

18 February 2021

Surge testing deployed in areas around LS8 in Leeds in response to cases of the South African variant being detected.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

22 February 2021

The Government set out its roadmap plan for the gradual lifting of restrictions over four months between March and June, with at least five weeks between four key stages, beginning with the return of all pupils to schools and colleges from 8 March.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Self-isolation support will be expanded to cover parents who are unable to work because they are caring for a child who is self-isolating, as set out in the Government's Spring Covid-19 Response document. Local authority self-isolation discretionary support funding will increase to £20 million per month, and further funding will ensure people self-isolating have access to practical support, medicines delivery, and wellbeing support.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

23 February 2021

Individuals who need to self-isolate because of coronavirus will still be able to vote in the local elections through new emergency proxy voting measures.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

24 February 2021

£700 million plan laid out to help young people in England catch up on lost learning due to the pandemic. A Recovery Premium will provide around £6000 per state primary school and £22,000 per state secondary school.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

At least 150,000 more people with learning disabilities will now be offered the vaccine more quickly, following JCVI advice to invite anyone on the GP Learning Disability Register – as well as adults with other related conditions, including cerebral palsy – for vaccination as part of priority group 6. Updated analysis has confirmed a higher risk of mortality and morbidity in those on the GP register with learning disabilities.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

25 February 2021

The Education Secretary confirmed that pupils will receive teacher-assessed grades this summer, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The UK Chief Medical Officers advised that the Covid-19 alert level move down from level 5 to level 4 as the risk of health services being imminently overwhelmed has receded.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

26 February 2021

The JCVI published its advice on prioritisation for the next phase of vaccination rollout, for the under 50s. The committee advises that prioritisation continues to be based on age, rather than other characteristics like occupational groups, as this is the quickest and least complex way to deliver vaccination to the whole population. Prioritisation for the under 50s is therefore advised to be: all those aged 40 to 49 years; all those aged 30 to 39 years; all those aged 18 to 29 years.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Individual activists will be able to campaign outdoors, such as leafleting and canvassing, in a Covid-secure way from 8 March, ahead of the May local elections.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

28 February 2021

In addition to testing for secondary school and college students, the Government announced that whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Up to 6 cases of the Covid-19 variant first identified in Brazil have been detected in the UK. PHE has identified 3 of these cases in England, two of which are linked to a household in South Gloucestershire with a history of travel to Brazil, and a third, currently unlinked case.

[Source: www.gov.uk \(webpage\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Communications Update

Website Visits:

Around 14K visited the COVID information web pages last week, of which 11K were unique users, consistent with recent weeks.

The GovDelivery Covid email bulletin, which is sent out to 113K residents, had an open rate of 26% (consistent with previous weeks). Most popular features included: Leeds Conversation survey, the government roadmap, and the NHS Better Health page.

Communications Update:

We're starting to plan ahead with a structured approach to how we support the four phases of lockdown exit and we'll continue to review and adapt our campaign messaging as we track the trends.

There's been an enormous amount of work done on promoting vaccine take-up, tackling any issues positively through a combination of everything from Facebook Live Q&A events and use of community champions.

That will continue apace as the work has broadened into the Vaccine Inequalities Plan, which aims to really focus in on the barriers that may be preventing take-up and providing practical solutions to that.

Some specific work under way includes:

Council:

Supporting the testing programme triggered by the borderline case of the South African variant.

An animation is being developed to thank people in Leeds for everything they've done so far and for continuing to be careful and helping to stop the spread.

This is being supported by outdoor advertising and social media aimed at targeting safety messages more intensively in hotspots where rates are higher.

The Leeds Contact Tracing service begins – media op planned for next week to allow it to bed in.

Lateral flow testing starting for employees; comms packs going out to businesses that have signed up for it; media also planned later on.

New vaccine resources to encourage support and update particularly BAME focused and multi-language.

Reassurance messages to schools and parents in advance of school return (plus testing for secondary school pupils).

NHS:

Providing confidence about the vaccine for children and young people – behavioural insight being used to develop a campaign with public health colleagues and the third sector.

To increase the take up of the vaccine amongst BAME communities the CCG is commissioning a short sentimental piece in the style of an Asian family drama.

Lamppost banners for neighbourhoods (Chapelton, Harehills, and Roundhay Road, Bramley, Seacroft) to increase the confidence in the vaccine, featuring images of local people i.e. Arthur France and Dr Amal Paul.

COVID-19 vaccination information hub includes: section for communities with info for faith groups, information for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people, fertility, BSL video.

Social media continuing to promote vaccine confidence including people from our communities like Arthur France, Imam Qari Asim and videos from healthcare professionals.

Council tax insert – working with LCC colleagues to include information about the vaccine in council tax letters, including QR codes linking to vaccine videos in different languages.

Facebook Live session on vaccination during Ramadan.

Continuing to promote system resilience about broader health-related issues and ensuring people get checked out where appropriate and look after their mental wellbeing – outdoor advertising and video messages from locally-relevant influencers.

Social media listening:

What conversations, topics and questions are we seeing being discussed that are outside of the general national conversation?

- Concerns about people gathering in parks in the sunshine and that this could push back the dates restrictions can ease.
- Increased discussion about whether local events will be able to go ahead. (e.g. Leeds Festival and West Indian Carnival).
- Mass testing in LS8 now finished.

What conversations, topics and questions are we seeing being shared and discussed regularly?

- Health officials searching for a person infected with the Brazilian Covid variant found in the UK - some concerns about the new variant and how effective the vaccine will be against it.
- Continued discussion about the roadmap, with a lot of focus on how things will be on June 21st (potential final stage).

What conversations, topics and questions are we starting to see an increase in?

- Warmer weather related messages – reminders to still stick to the current restrictions. Don't have picnics in the park.

What are the overriding feelings, behaviours and beliefs from people regarding the key and emerging themes?

- Excitement following the roadmap announcement, with a lot of focus on the final stage in (at earliest) June and the rest of the summer.
- Concern about new variant and what that will mean for easing restrictions.