

OCTOBER 2021

### **DOUBLE WHITE LINES ON FOUR ELMS HILL**

Despite having made requests for an update on the double lining I have not been provided with any information, which is disappointing. I have therefore requested an agenda item on the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the HATOC committee were clearly frustrated at the July meeting about the lines which had not been painted in accordance with members expectations and were quite clear that urgent action was needed.

### **DAMAGE TO BRIDGE AT WOODLEYS**

I have contacted officers to raise my concerns about the repeated damage to the bridge at Woodleys and to seek officer views on introducing a priority system. As this is a recurrent problem then it does seem sensible to resolve the matter rather than simply waiting for there to be a further incident.

### **20 MPH – NO PROGRESS AT DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

To the frustration of Lib Dems, Independent and Green members at DCC, the Conservative majority continue to resist any communities rolling out 20mph zones until the Newton Abbot trial has been completed. At the full council meeting this month, the Conservative majority voted against the motion:

“In response to the growing demand for safer vehicle speeds in town and village centres and along residential roads, this Council will now consider further applications for 20mph pilot schemes that can be implemented in parallel with the Newton Abbot pilot scheme to ensure a more timely response to supporting Active Travel measures that need reduced vehicular speeds to be implemented and effective”

My Green and Independent colleagues called for a recorded vote on the motion so that residents could be clear how their elected members had voted. The Conservative majority voted against this. As a member of EDDC I have never known a poll on a recorded vote to be lost so I found this rather surprising.

There is increasing frustration across the county with the unwillingness on the part of Conservative led Devon County Council to reduce the speed limits and I have been discussing with other councillors a Devon wide campaign, which then parish councils could support. I believe that, like Wales, Devon should be looking at a default 20mph on restricted roads. <https://gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits>.

### **COVID IN DEVON**

The Covid Local Outbreak Engagement Board met last Thursday (virtually) and I participated in order to ask questions. The meeting was live streamed and can be viewed here [Home - Devon County Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

I am very concerned about covid rates in Devon amongst school aged children, in particular amongst secondary school aged children. The figures provided as part of the answers show extremely high covid cases amongst secondary school children in Devon which have increased significantly since the start of term. For the week ending 16<sup>th</sup> October the rate was 2686.7 per 100,000.

Below are the questions that I asked prior to the meeting and the written answers that I received.

Despite the written response to question 1, I was not given a verbal answer (how many 12-15 year olds had been vaccinated since the start of term), but was told that I would have an answer by the end of the week. I have not yet received one, so I have chased again. I am pleased that 12-15s can now access vaccines through vaccination centres but it is very disappointing that so many children will have been infected with covid

before having the opportunity to be vaccinated first. I believe it was a significant error on the part of the government to restrict the vaccinations to being delivered via the School Age Immunisation Service rather than allowing 12-15s to be vaccinated at vaccination centres as well. Nationally I believe the vaccination figures for this cohort is very low – at around 17%.

The verbal answer that I received in relation to question 4 (booster vaccine): “The Booster Vaccination take-up had not been as high as hoped. There were plenty of empty slots and enough capacity to give boosters, however there had not been the numbers of people coming forward to receive them. 42% of those eligible had received their booster vaccination, appointments were still available for those 58% who had yet to receive it. Devon County Council and the NHS were working on communications to the community to encourage”.

The pressures on the NHS were portrayed in bleak terms.

“The South West had seen an increase rate in Covid admissions into hospitals, which had been steadily increasing since September, with high predicted rates for the winter season. The Chair of the Devon CCG advised that hospitals could just about cope with 150 Covid beds if other services were cancelled; however projections showed that increasing to 200 covid beds would be more than hospitals could cope with under current resources. All other non-Covid services were experiencing extreme pressures and facing an increase in demand. The NHS was under more pressure now in comparison to last year and previous lockdowns, with the combination of the flu season and Covid cases putting extreme pressure on NHS workers and resources. It was also noted that the number of people waiting for routine operations had also risen significantly, with an extra 2,000 patients now having waited longer than a year for their appointments”.

The next Outbreak Engagement Board will take place at 10 am on 18<sup>th</sup> November and will be livestreamed too. I would urge anyone who would like to submit a question to contact Devon County Council democratic services a few days in advance with the questions:

[karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk](mailto:karen.strahan@devon.gov.uk) / [stephanie.lewis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.lewis@devon.gov.uk).

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## **1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

### **Re: 12 – 15 Cohort and Vaccinations**

Please advise the number and percentage of children in the 12-15 year old cohort that have been vaccinated each week against Covid by the School Age Immunisation Service Virgincare in Devon since the vaccine was approved on 13th September.

### **REPLY BY THE CCG**

The CCG will reply verbally

## **2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

### **Re: Covid Infection in Primary and Secondary Aged Children**

Please advise the weekly number of primary and secondary school aged children who have tested positive for covid in Devon since 1st August 2021 and please provide the infection rates per 100,000 from this date. (Simon Chant are you able to provide this information)

### **REPLY BY DCC**

This covers those with a specimen date after the 1st of August reported up to today (which will align with the national Coronavirus tracker when it updates tonight) – it is based on school ages for the 2021/22 academic year (primary school = DOBs from 31st August 2017 to 1st of September 2010; secondary school = DOBs from 31st August 2010 to 1st September 2005).

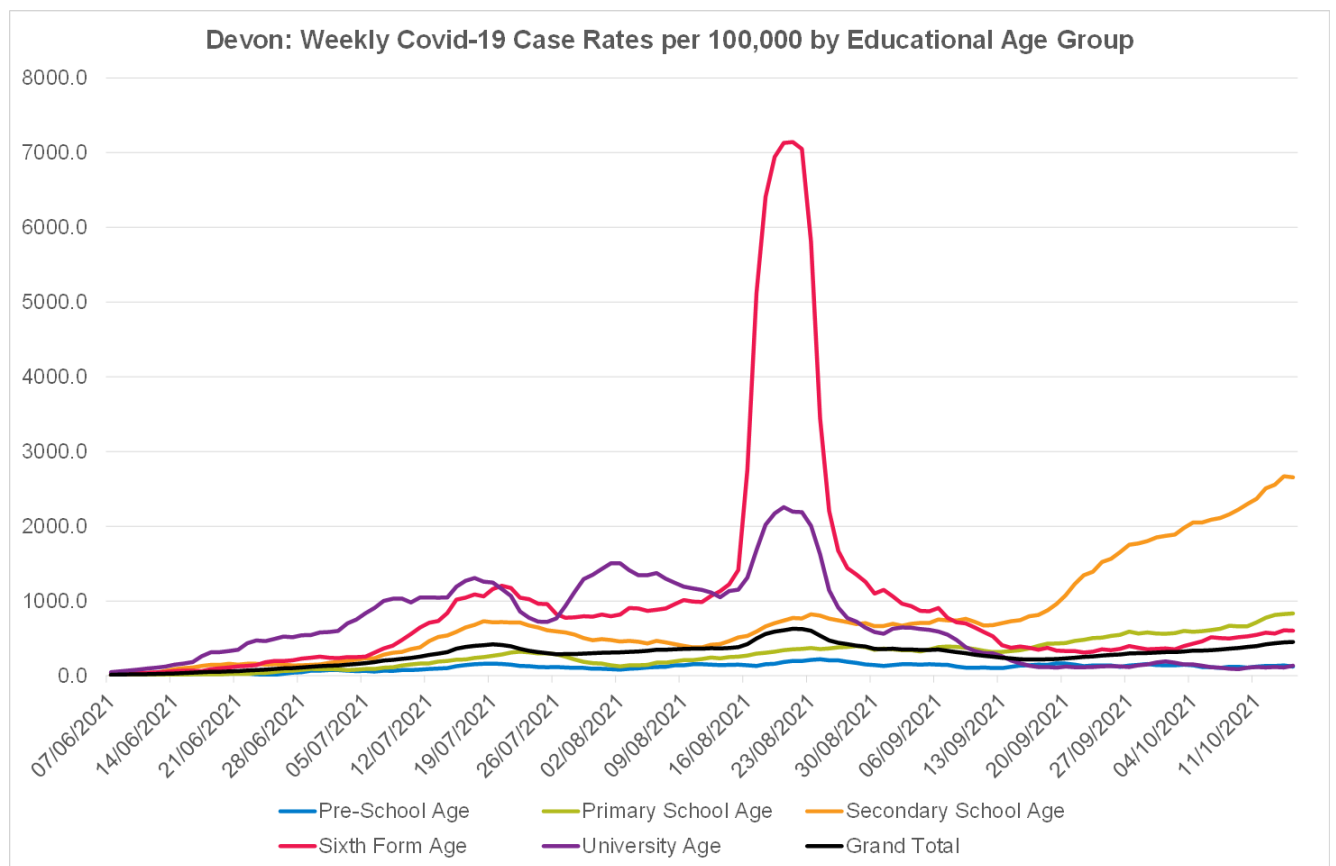
Weekly Tables (1st August onwards)

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>Primary School Age</b>	<b>Secondary School Age</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
7th August 2021	106 (173.7)	191 (445.8)	2,822 (348.1)
14th August 2021	153 (250.7)	198 (462.2)	3,002 (370.3)
21st August 2021	215 (352.3)	331 (772.6)	5,088 (627.6)
28th August 2021	242 (396.5)	296 (690.9)	3,265 (402.7)
4th September 2021	198 (324.4)	302 (704.9)	2,800 (345.4)
11th September 2021	203 (332.6)	288 (672.3)	2,160 (266.4)

18th September 2021	262 (429.3)	375 (875.4)	1,794 (221.3)
25th September 2021	326 (534.2)	670 (1564.0)	2,250 (277.5)
2nd October 2021	348 (570.2)	809 (1888.4)	2,562 (316.0)
9th October 2021	403 (660.4)	953 (2224.6)	3,010 (371.3)
16th October 2021	540 (884.9)	1,151 (2686.7)	3,778 (466.0)

**Overall Totals (including cases with a specimen date after the 16th of October)**

Primary School Age = 3,204 cases (5,250 per 100,000 population) Secondary School Age = 6,004 cases (14,015 per 100,000 population) All Ages (for reference) = 33,952 cases (4,188 per 100,000 population)



**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY**

How many Devon schools have received CO2 monitors from the Government and what percentage of Devon schools does this represent?

**REPLY BY DCC**

The Council doesn't have this data as it is managed between schools and the supplier.

However, the DfE confirmed last week that since the start of October, a regular supply of CO2 monitors has been established. These will be dispatched to eligible settings over the remainder of the autumn term and this is being managed directly between the supplier and individual establishments.

Currently there are no official figures on what has been distributed however conversations with schools have confirmed that there have been deliveries to the bulk of Special School and Alternative Provision schools and deliveries have started to the mainstream sector.

**4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY****Re: Vaccine Immunity**

In relation to the waning of vaccine immunity, is there a backlog of Devon residents who are entitled to a booster but have not yet received it? If so what is the level of backlog? What is the weekly rate of Devon residents becoming eligible for the booster in comparison with the weekly rate at which Devon residents are receiving their booster vaccine?

**REPLY BY THE CCG**

The CCG will reply verbally



