

**MINUTES OF THE COVID-19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP  
HELD ON**

15 February 2022

6.30 - 7.07 pm

**PRESENT**

**Committee Members**

Councillor Joel Charles (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Councillor Simon Carter

Councillor Tony Durcan

Councillor Tony Edwards

Councillor Maggie Hulcoop

Councillor Matthew Siggers

**Officers**

Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration

Simon Freeman, Deputy to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Adam Rees, Senior Governance Support Officer

17. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Hardware and Russell Perrin.

18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

19. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

20. **MATTERS ARISING**

In response to questions by Councillor Tony Edwards, Councillor Charles said that funding had been allocated for research into the economic and wider impacts of Covid. The West Essex CCG had been working proactively to contact harder to reach groups. This had included getting those who are homeless to get vaccinated and through targeted letters to those who don't have access to the internet.

21. **UPDATE ON COVID-19 POSITION**

Andrew Bramidge, Director of Regeneration and Strategic Growth, gave a presentation on the current Covid-19 position. Case rates and hospitalisations in Harlow were down. This followed the national and regional picture.

Vaccination rates had fallen far behind the national average. This could be due issues with school children getting Covid and not being able to get vaccinated for a 12 week period.

22. **BUSINESS RECOVERY UPDATE**

Simon Freeman, Director of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive, gave an update on two grant payment streams which had been introduced because of the Omicron variant. The first was aimed at the hospitality sector. The Council had been allocated £520,000 and had paid out £253,000.

The Council had also been given extra ARG grant funding for businesses that didn't meet the criteria for the hospitality funding.

The process of distribution both grant streams had been going well, although it was not expected that the Council would pay out all of its allocation.

23. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Charles said that given the Government's announcement that all restrictions would be lifted at the end of February and the falling Covid infection rates, the Working Group would be passed for the time being.

# **Covid-19 Recovery Working Group**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

# CASES

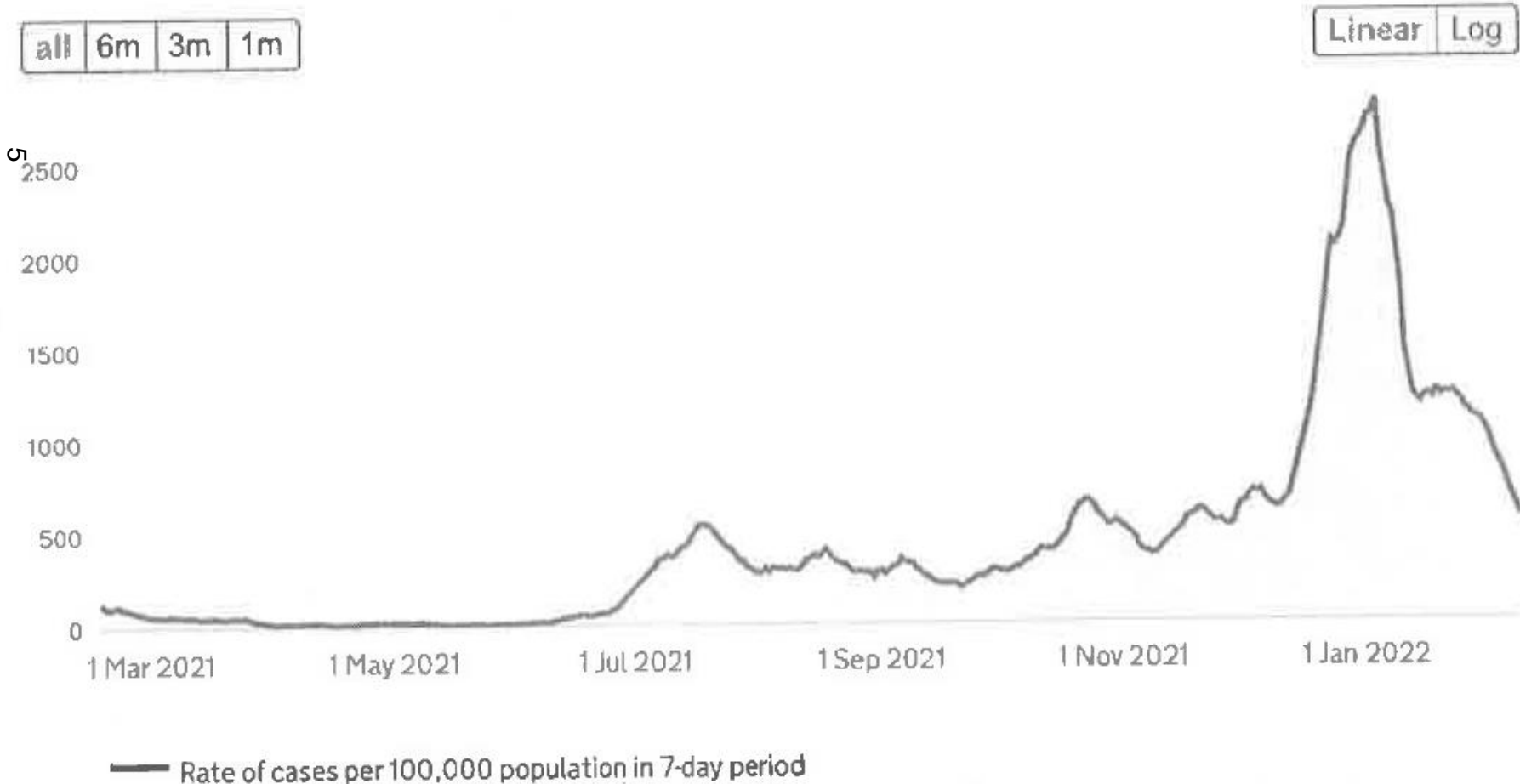
- Case rate in England – 625.5 (665.3 yesterday)
- East of England – 701 (745.8)
- Essex – 563.6 (595.6)
- 4 • Harlow – 524.7 (556.8)
- Cambridge and Peterborough are the hotspots in East of England

N.B. Figures correct as of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

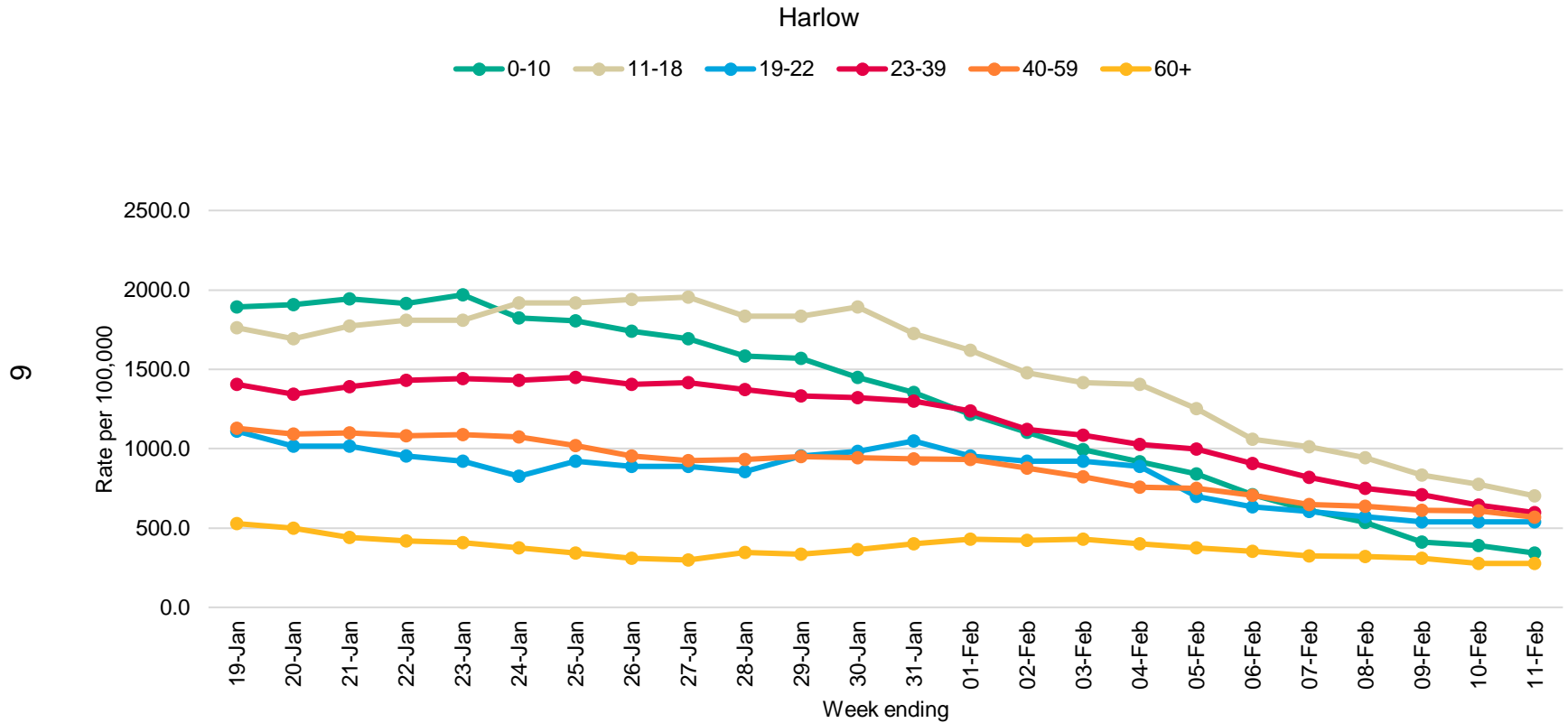
## 7-day case rates by specimen date

Rate of cases per 100,000 people in the rolling 7-day period ending on the dates shown.

7-day periods Data About



# Case Rates by age group



# VACCINATIONS

- 167,177 doses administered in Harlow (to 6<sup>th</sup> February)
- 7 - 64,546 first doses (78% of over 12s; national 91%)
- 59,785 second doses (72%; national 85%)
- 42,846 booster doses (52%; national 66%)

# HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

- Nationally these have fallen 13% in the last week
- Essex – patient numbers falling
- ∞ • PAH – patient numbers had risen to 74 in late January; now down to 60
- Only 2 PAH patients in intensive care