

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR

Adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

Monday 21 September 2020

2.30 pm

Online meeting only

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Item purpose: To receive any written questions from councillors.

Supplement contents: The attached document includes a question received and the response.

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Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

21 September 2020

Questions from councillors

Question

From: Councillor Kevin Tillett

Is the Covid19 testing facility at Merton Meadow in Hereford working to full capacity?

Response

From: Sarah Smith, Consultant in Public Health

The Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) has been deployed every day at Merton Meadow since 14 August, which is an improvement over the previous rota which amounted to four days on and then one day off. Recent reports via the DHSC, suggest that the MTU is operating at 100% capacity daily which means that once this reached, bookings for the site will temporarily closed (although slots for bookings may reopen throughout the day). There is some evidence to suggest that on a daily basis, the testing capacity allocated to the Hereford MTU is not the maximum it is capable of delivering, and this would be in line with the current strategy of diverting testing capacity to the areas that are experiencing significant increases in community transmission. This strategy also includes prioritising care home testing (which uses the same type of laboratory capacity as the MTU) and we are starting to see some improvement in the timeliness of reporting for the care home testing regime.

