

# Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 7 19 February 2021

## Local Area Data

In the virtual briefing led by Executive Chief Officer Carron McDiarmid, there is statistical information provided about the local picture in Highland and highlighting where there are higher numbers of covid cases. This information can be accessed at the following link:

[https://public.tableau.com/profile/phs.covid.19#!/vizhome/COVID-19DailyDashboard\\_15960160643010/Overview](https://public.tableau.com/profile/phs.covid.19#!/vizhome/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

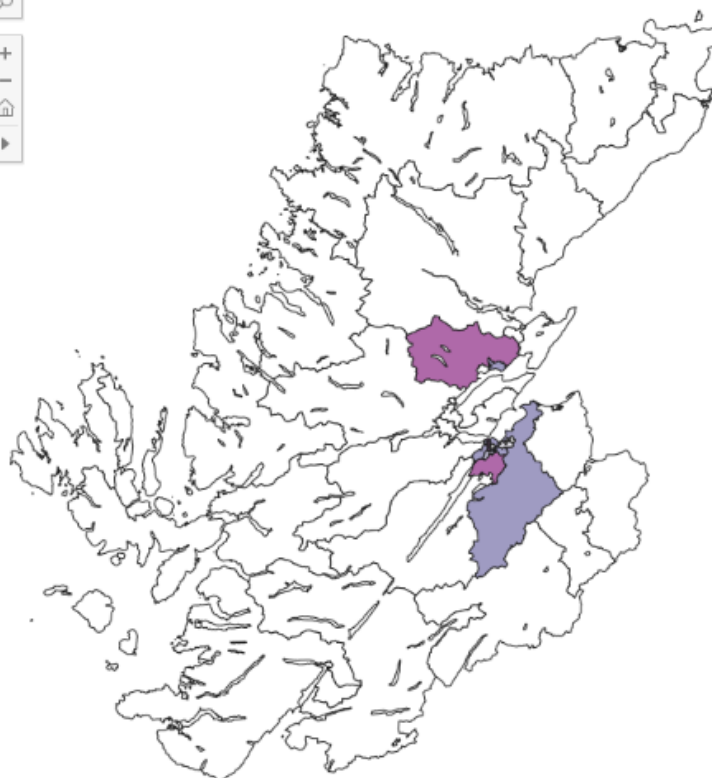
To access local community information:

- Please select: **Cases by Neighbourhood**
- Select **Highland** on the Local Authority drop down menu
- That will allow you to select individual areas of Highland

### 7 day positive rate per 100,000 population

Suppressed\* | 1 to 49 | 50 to 99 | 100 to 199 | 200 to 399 | 400+

\* For neighbourhoods with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show a 7 day rate to protect patient confidentiality.



### Neighbourhoods in Highland

Ross and Cromarty East	■
Inverness Merkinch	■
Inverness Slackbuie	■
Inverness Muirtown	■
Inverness Ballifeary and Dalneigh	■
Invergordon	■
Inverness Central, Raigmore and Longman	■
Inverness Inshes	■
Inverness Drakies	■
Inverness East Rural	■
Inverness Kinmylies and South West	■
Inverness Drummond	■
Inverness Hilton	■
Inverness Scorgule	■
Inverness Lochardil and Holm Mains	■
Inverness Westhill	■
Wick South	■
Wick North	■
Thurso West	■
Thurso East	■
Tain	■
Sutherland South	■
Sutherland North and West	■

## Pension Credit Claims

Many people may be entitled to pension credit but are not currently claiming it. About 40% of pensioners who are entitled to pension credit do not currently claim it for a number of reasons but often because they do not know it is available. Once someone has claimed pension credit, they are also eligible for a number of other benefits, shown on the left hand table below.

Eligibility is based on income and not whether someone has a pension.

People can be supported to apply by the Council's Welfare Support Team or by the local Citizens Advice Bureau.

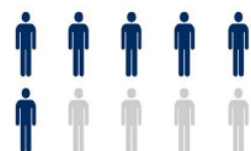
Please contact the Welfare Support Team:

Tel: 0800 090 1004

Email: [welfare.support@highland.gov.uk](mailto:welfare.support@highland.gov.uk)

Pension Credit Gateway	
Warm Home Discount	£140
Cold Weather Payment (each 7 day period below zero)	£25
TV Licence	£157.50
Carer Addition	£38.75 weekly
Council Tax Reduction & Housing Costs	
Health costs (Eg Hospital Travel/Glasses)	
<b>9/10 claims are successful</b>	

Overall Pension Credit caseload and expenditure figures for financial year ending 2019



## Best Start Grant School Age Payment

Just a further reminder that the deadline for this grant fund is next week and if you could please share across your networks and any families you are working with.

Eligible families across Scotland are being encouraged to apply for the Best Start Grant School Age Payment before applications close on **28 February 2021**.

The one-off £250 payment can be used to buy anything from a warm coat to books and toys. Applications are open to families that have a child that was born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016.

Parents who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2020 to August 2021, or those who are home schooling, may still be eligible for this payment and should still apply before the closing date.

The payment is part of the Best Start Grant, a package of three payments to support

families who get tax credits or certain benefits – including Universal Credit, Income Support and Housing Benefit. Full details can be found:

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/>

## **Vaccination Update**

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link:

[www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)

A stakeholder briefing from NHS Highland is also attached to this briefing

## **Food Support for Groups**

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## **Resilience Network Contacts**

The first meetings of all of the new resilience networks have now taken place. The next meetings are in the process of being scheduled depending upon what was agreed at the initial meeting and dates will be circulated to all within an area.

Where networks are already in place, should any group not already be involved with this network, the contact details for each is below.

- Caithness – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Alan Tait at Caithness Voluntary Groups [allan@cvg.org.uk](mailto:allan@cvg.org.uk)
- Sutherland – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karina Ross at Highland and Islands Enterprise [karina.ross@hient.co.uk](mailto:karina.ross@hient.co.uk)
- East Ross – Helen Ross, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Black Isle - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Asia Cielecka at [communities@black-isle.info](mailto:communities@black-isle.info)
- Wester Ross and Dingwall – Dot Ferguson, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

- Skye and Raasay - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Fiona Thomson at Skye Community Response Development Team [fiona@portreeandbraes.org](mailto:fiona@portreeandbraes.org)
- Lochaber – Emma Tayler, Assistant Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- B&S –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karen Derrick [enquires@vabs.org.uk](mailto:enquires@vabs.org.uk)
- Inverness City – David Haas, City Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Inverness Rural – Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Nairn – Willie Munro, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## Helpful Links

Welfare Support Team -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)

Self Isolation Support Grant - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation\\_support\\_grant](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant)

Fuel Support Fund

[www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund)

Energy Advice

[energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet

Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Business Support Grants -

[www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic\\_framework\\_business\\_fund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic_framework_business_fund)

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1422811/supporting\\_community\\_resilience/category/155/grants\\_for\\_community\\_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

HTSI Community Group Helpline

Telephone Number 01349 808022

Winter Conditioning reports -

[www.highland.gov.uk/news](http://www.highland.gov.uk/news)