

## **Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

**20 October 2020**

### **Local Outbreak Management Plan and Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic in Schools and Care Homes**

#### **1. Purpose**

This report details the work done by the public health team to support schools and care homes as part of the Coronavirus Outbreak Plan.

A performance report of the Local Outbreak Management Plan is included at Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That, subject to any comments Board Members may wish to make, the support to schools and care homes be noted.

#### **3. Report detail**

##### *1.1 Schools, Early Years and other education settings*

Proactive work with schools commenced in May to prepare for both the limited June opening and the full September restart.

An on call support team has been in place since April 21<sup>st</sup> for schools and early years providers with the school nurses offering the first point of contact during office hours for education providers with support from the Walsall Public Health infection control team out of office hours 8-8 weekends and weekdays.

In addition, the Walsall Public Health Test and Trace team supports contact tracing in all venues in Walsall including schools.

Walsall Public Health have also commissioned the School Nursing team to support the COVID response.

Public Health are also working with the DHSC and Deloitte to organise access to testing across Walsall.

Interactive training offered to school and early years and related services:

Infection control support has been offered to schools through an infection control email alert system.

Updates and interactive sessions are offered to head teachers at webinars which are held weekly.

Special webinars have been specifically held for early years providers, detailing infection control measures including how to access appropriate PPE and COVID secure measures. Additionally, webinars have also been offered to

- Children's Residential Homes
- Foster carers
- School Improvement team
- Cleaning services
- Transport services
- Summer activities provider team

#### *Guidance sent to schools:*

Walsall Borough Council provide information to schools on a variety of issues including staff and student emotional health and wellbeing as well as specific information about Covid-19 on the schools website which is added to as more information is developed

Guidance from Public Health England for schools has been localised for Walsall including parent template letters and useful FAQs.

The following guidance has been provided to schools. The links to these documents are available on the schools website, and includes the following

**Section 1** - Keeping you safe in your setting: Do not come into the building in these scenarios Including information for parents and carers)

**Section 2** - What to do if you or someone in your setting develops symptoms

**Section 3** - Management of a single confirmed case

**Section 4** - Further confirmed case/s Arrangements for management of a possible outbreak

**Section 5** - Information on COVID-19 Testing (Including how to access local testing sites, school testing kits and re-ordering kits)

**Section 6** - Who might need to self-isolate? (Including definitions of a close contact, scenarios, diagrams explaining self-isolation)

**Section 7** - NHS COVID-19 App and QR Codes for education settings

**Section 8** - Frequently Asked Questions

**Section 9** - Translated information in community languages

**Section 10** - Key Contact Numbers

#### *Support offered to Walsall College*

As a facility for over 8000 students coming from outside of Walsall as well as from across the Borough and also a large employer, particular support has been given to Walsall College. Key leads attend the regular weekly Heads briefing but bespoke discussions with Public Health have also taken place to review infection control measures and actions in place and offer challenge to the College. Key leads within the College also make use of the Walsall Public Health infection control team support line when particular support is required and to notify the team of any positive cases

#### *Support offered to Wolverhampton University, Walsall Campus*

Wolverhampton University has campuses in Telford and Walsall as well as Wolverhampton. Work has been undertaken through a strategic group made up of Public Health from all 3 Public Health teams and University staff to ensure that the information given to students and staff, whether about infection control or mental

health, is consistent as well as review the issues individual to each campus. This strategic group is also looking to ensure students are able to return home for their full Christmas break

Work is being taken forward to investigate a student health champion role following several students expressing an interest in being involved in the work to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. This could be used as a mechanism by which PH messages could be disseminated to other students and feedback could be fashioned from students to UoW and LAs on student experience of life on campus.

Support is being given to students who have placements in care homes or social care facilities as part of their courses to access testing in line with testing expectations.

In addition, Wolverhampton University have worked with Wolverhampton, Telford and Walsall Public Health to set up testing sites on campus which will benefit local residents as well as students and staff at the University

### *Public Health Helpline Support for schools, early years and other educational settings*

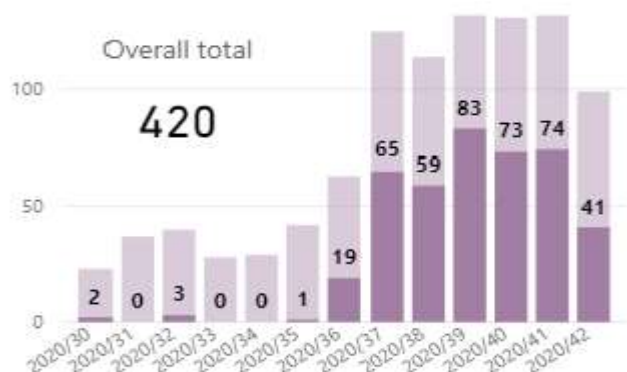
Public Health support is offered from 8 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week through a phone line/email support. The key elements of the offer include:

- Offer advice on outbreak management and public health issues to schools and other educational settings
- Offer advice on PPE in line with national guidance
- Offer advice and support to parents on COVID related issues
- Function as a single point of contact for PHE
- Escalation of outbreaks to PHE where the outbreak has not already been notified to PHE
- Organisation of Incident Management team meeting in collaboration with PHE where appropriate
- Undertake follow up support to schools and educational settings experiencing outbreaks in order to
  - Assess ongoing risks
  - Escalate to PHE if appropriate
- Organise swabbing in the educational settings if necessary
- Follow up on test results and communicate these if that has not happened already through the NHS test and trace.

### *The story so far*

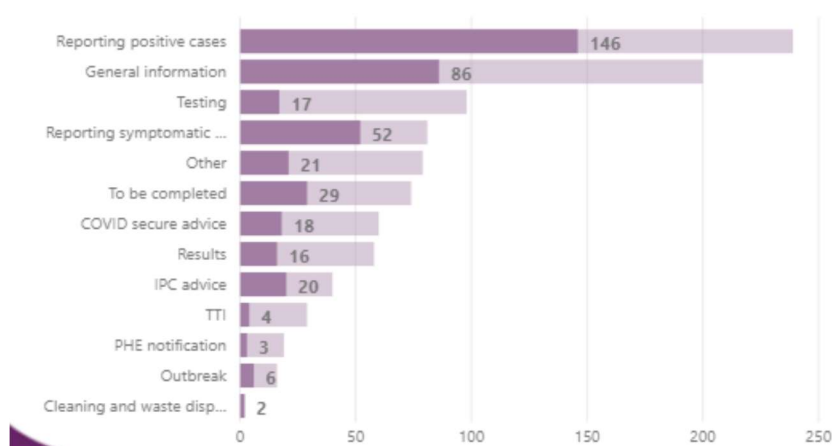
Given below are the weekly calls to the Health Protection on call team from schools and educational settings over the past 3 months.

## Total calls per week



Given below is a breakdown of the types of queries received from schools and educational settings over the past 3 months.

### Type of query



## Feedback from schools and early years

The support offered by public health has been greatly recognised and appreciated by all the educational settings in Walsall. In particular, the on call helpline has been very valued, and the time and effort spent to resolve each individual case/outbreak has been welcomed.

## Care Homes

Walsall Public Health provide an enhanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) service to Care Homes in Walsall which includes outbreak management, education and support and onsite training covering IPC and PPE fit testing.

The public health team provide on-call support to homes (8am-8pm) 7 days a week. The Team also work in close liaison with PHE with weekly catch-up meetings to develop and deliver accessible guidance and FAQs on the latest testing announcements, how best national developments can support already successful local arrangements, who to contact at a local level for support, and ensuring rapid resolution of escalated concerns.

### IPC support offered to care homes to date – Enhanced Support Offer

Since declaration of the Pandemic and lockdown late march 2020, care homes have been visited on a prioritised basis on the basis of local intelligence. An enhanced support team had been put in place over the first wave and stepped down over the summer. This team has now been reinstated.

### *Education and training*

COVID education given in the form of slides provided by PHE and Royal orthopaedic hospital has been sent out to all homes. This support has been provided jointly from WHT, CCG and Infection prevention Training has been provided on the following:-

- Hand Hygiene
- Respiratory Hygiene,
- Decontamination,
- Safe handling of waste,
- Safe handling of linen
- Correct use of PPE including demonstration of donning and doffing.

### *Testing*

Whole home swabbing has taken place under a local initiative made up of staff drawn from areas less affected by COVID. This has provided both surveillance and assistance with management of homes with positive COVID residents. It has also assisted accurate certification of death in those sad circumstances.

Reactive IPC support to care home during office hours:

- Continue to respond to contract management and safeguard demands
- Continue to respond to outbreaks
- Continue to respond to alert organism process

### *COVID support offer to care homes*

#### **Scope of Offer**

The PH out of hours has been offered from 8 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week since the 21<sup>ST</sup> of April through a support phone line and email. The key elements of the offer include:

- Reviewing information that has been collected to identify outbreaks (capacity tracker/COVID management service/other) to inform priorities of Enhanced Care Support Team.
- Escalation of outbreaks to PHE where the outbreak has not already been notified to PHE
- Organisation of Incident Management team meeting in collaboration with PHE where appropriate
- Undertake follow up support to care homes experiencing outbreaks in order to
  - Assess ongoing risks
  - Escalate to PHE if appropriate
- Liaise with Enhanced Care Support team to organise swabbing in the care home
- Follow up on test results and communicate these to care homes where PHE has not do so already
- Offer advice on outbreak management and public health issues to care homes
- Offer advice on PPE in line with national guidance
- Function as a single point of contact for PHE

### *Medium term proactive IPC support to care homes (preparation for second wave)*

1. The first element of plan for proactive IPC support to care homes involves visiting all of the homes once more with introduction of a “daily COVID checklist” put together by the health protection team with the aim of sustaining IPC standards during the “quieter times” and embedding permanent changes/ highlighting weak areas, etc in preparation for another peak should one arise.

Each home is visited to walk around with the manager/link carer to introduce the tool and then encourage them to do this on a daily basis and address any issues identified.

The homes have been asked to report any concerns around compliance to Walsall Health Protection Cell, although assurance visits from additional support eg the CCG /council quality. This process has been rolled out in 12 homes so far.

2. A second element offers homes a second layer of COVID education put together by Infection prevention society which also has a “sound over” provision enabling homes to access this when the time is convenient to them encouraging a wider reach.
3. An additional but most essential element will be to assist homes to look at future planning. Using the available knowledge gained from swab results, risk assessments and clear labelling of rooms will help to prevent spread around the home reducing the risk of a future uncontrolled outbreak.

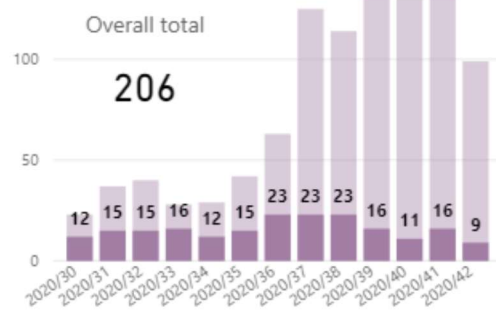
### *Long term proactive support to care homes*

- All homes being visited by IPC team at least quarterly, as opposed to current annual visits
- Annual audit (as current)
- Monitoring of checklist (wider team)
- Quarterly link worker meetings to continue
- Attendance and input to care home MDT forums to continue
- Further development of the PH website
- Extend service to Domiciliary Care
- Extend service to supported living
- Explore education/training to agency staff in care homes
- Explore IPC education/ training to Clinical Intervention Team etc
- Continue service to GP's (annual audit/education/attendance at regular meetings)

### *Story So Far*

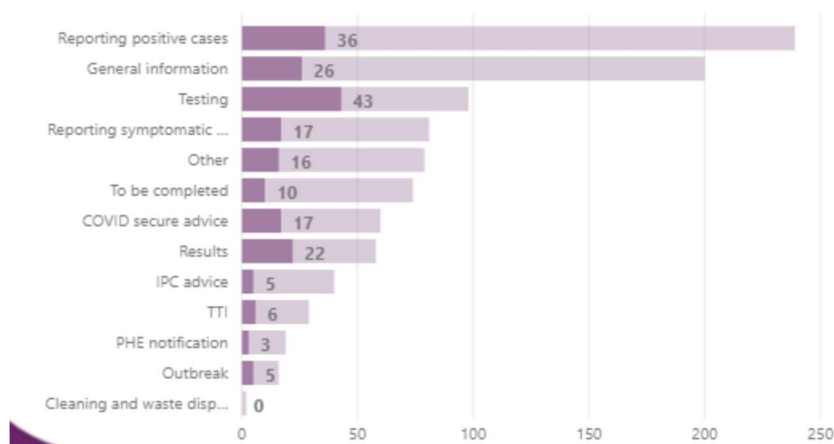
Given below are the weekly calls to the Health Protection on call team from care homes and residential settings over the past 3 months.

### Total calls per week



Given below is a breakdown of the types of queries received from care homes and residential settings over the past 3 months.

### Type of query



### Background papers





None

### Author

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## Outbreak Management Plan Monitoring - Appendix 1

Throughout our activities, we will strive to include Inequalities Reduction learning into our approaches. Decisions will be recorded on Action Log, include data, evidence base, community engagement and learning from national sources. **Key**

Complete	
On track	
Delayed with mitigations	
Not started	

### 1. Prevent Outbreaks and Respond Proactively

	BRAG Status	Completion Date
<b>Schools</b>		
Guidance developed and disseminated	100%	Complete
Engagement Activities, webinars and Heads meetings carried out – primary, secondary, nurseries and childminders, school cleaning teams, school transport. - Children's Services Summer Activities and children's residential homes	Ongoing	Live
Modelling PPE requirements for LA maintained schools	100%	Complete
Developing checklists for responding to incidents	100%	Complete
Responding to outbreaks and incidents	Ongoing	Live
Schools: Support to school dedicated transport team in advance of Autumn Term	100%	Complete
Provision for further guidance to support school reopening in September	100%	Complete
<b>Care Homes</b>		
Guidance developed and disseminated	100%	Complete
Engagement Activities, webinars and Domiciliary Care providers carried out	100%	Complete
Face to face IPC training for Nursing and Care Home providers – e.g. PPE wearing	100%	Complete
Developing checklists for responding to incidents	100%	Complete
Escalation plans: We have developed and distributed a checklist for care homes. This is supported by staff follow up to ensure the checklist is operating and that sites are Covid-secure ready for a second wave, with an escalation for symptomatic staff and residents (reactive swabbing). Still need access to a room (at WHT), for the label printer and computer to print request forms. Admin person in place and trained. Escalation plan to be placed into the Outbreak Management Plan folder by Uma/ Kulvinder	100%	Complete
Enhanced IPC support as part of overall delivery model for Care Homes, through Walsall Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree model</li> <li>- Recruit additional IPC Nurse</li> </ul>	80%	1.6 Band 7 staff recruited (start 01/11). Band 8 Nurse still required. Core delivery model in place.
Improve health and wellbeing for people with long term conditions including flu and pneumococcal vaccines	Ongoing	Black Country Final Flu Plan has been signed off. Arrangements have been made for



		vaccination of council staff. Comms have been given to staff.
<b>High Risk &amp; Complex Settings</b>		
High risk and complex setting have been mapped and key contacts have been identified	100%	Complete
Summary guidance developed	100%	Complete
Dissemination of specific communications, guidance and proactive engagement with the settings has begun. Settings already covered are:- - Meat packing industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Licenced premises</li> <li>- Hair dressers</li> <li>- Retail</li> <li>- VCS</li> <li>- Faith settings</li> </ul> Ongoing engagement with the remaining settings based on the risk assessment being carried out.	Ongoing	Live  Targeted work being done with identified premises through Environmental Health and Community / Civic silver group  This will be a live process dependent on emerging evidence around risk.
Developing checklists for responding to incidents	100%	Place based IMT Terms of Reference have been signed off
Responding to outbreaks and incidents	Ongoing	Live

## 2. Testing and Contact Tracing

Guidance completed and SOP developed	100%	Complete
Recruited Swabbing team	85%	The model to recruit stand up / stand down has proven to be challenging due to recovery and restoration of services. We will now recruit rather than draw upon secondment and availability which is more robust.
Training for swabbing team	75%	See above
Explore laboratory capacity for Pillar 1 Testing with Black Country Pathology Service (BCPS) plus relevant partners for future proofing discussions around capacity		Estimated capacity of 500 tests / week
Recruited contact tracers	70%	We have 5 contact tracers assured. 2-3 more are sought.

IG approval, DBS approval, Safeguarding Training, Home Working Assessment added to training lists. 3 of 5 contact tracers are trained. 2 are submitting certificates.	80%	All 5 will be complete by 15/10/20.
Tracers have the ability to be given access to secure folder on Teams	100%	Complete
Use any modelling of current and potential demand using data points to compare with line list data and get an indication of possible contact patterns (per 100,000 population): Scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Curve Mitigation in Walsall</li> <li>Local Lockdown: (a) Tier 1 Just Houses (b) Tier 2 a+ wider – based on learning from other local lockdowns across England</li> <li>Tier 3 - National Lockdown – based on modelling of the last national lockdown</li> </ul>	70%	DPH now receiving more detailed, daily information on postcodes from PHE System PHIT team looking at additional ways to show this data
Recruiting 2 x Admin to support Test and Trace	100%	Complete
Calculation of the number of test and trace staff needed at any future point	Ongoing	Live
Schedule of weekly updates and training sessions to be cascaded to all contact tracing colleagues	Ongoing	Live
Enhanced Contact Tracing	100%	Complete – started 10/09/2020

### 3 Surveillance, Intelligence and Data

KPI Dashboard created (the “how we are doing”)	100%	Complete
IG involvement with Privacy Policy and assurance	100%	Complete
Early Signals Insight methodology agreed to drive escalation of our response	100%	Complete
Technology for Contact Tracers ordered – to be delivered	100%	Complete
Software for Contact Tracing – currently in Procurement and needs to be adapted for Walsall's needs	100%	PwC tool now delivered. Until training complete, ongoing mitigation – Using Teams/ Sharepoint tool as interim.
Software for Contact Tracing – training – to be confirmed	80%	Due to above delay – complete by 16/10/2020  Mitigation – training on Teams/ Sharepoint tool.

### 4 Engaging Partners and Communities:

Overarching communications plan developed to support vulnerable people and is in operation	100%	Complete
Pathway developed to support vulnerable people and is in operation	100%	Complete
Member engagement on Test and Trace initiated	100%	Complete
Engage with partners to engage with and sign off initial outbreak plan	100%	Complete

Engage with partners to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stress test outbreak plan and initiate plans for winter surge</li> <li>- develop joint plans for second potential local lockdown</li> </ul> Lessons Learned Log has been written using previous exercises.	90%	2 <sup>nd</sup> stress test undertaken w/c 10/08/2020. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Walsall wide stress test planned. Place based IMT happening on a weekly basis
Reactive communications in case of outbreak	Ongoing	Live
Member engagement	Ongoing	Live

#### 5. Governance and Programme Co-ordination

Develop coronavirus outbreak plan – high level outline	100%	Complete
Term of Reference for Governance Group created	100%	Complete
Sign off coronavirus action plan by HPF	100%	Complete
Present Coronavirus Action Plan to the HWBB Outbreak Engagement Group	100%	Complete
Sign off coronavirus action plan by Gold Command	100%	Complete
Ongoing engagement and reporting through DPH	Ongoing	Live
Ongoing risk management	Ongoing	Live
Ongoing management of the programme	Ongoing	Live
Further updates to the Live Outbreak Plan	Ongoing	Live