

## **Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

**16 November 2020**

### **Local Outbreak Management Plan Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

This report is the performance report of the Local Outbreak Management Plan.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That, subject to any comments Board Members may wish to make, the performance report of the Local Outbreak Management Plan be noted.

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

- 3.1 The Coronavirus Outbreak Management Plan continues to be delivered to schedule. The details are available in Appendix A.

The key developments have been summarised below against the themes within the plan.

##### **Preventing Outbreaks and responding proactively**

- The public health on call team continues to respond to an extremely high number of enquiries; we have seen a 5 fold increase in enquiries since the summer. The complexity of the enquiries has also increased since the summer.
- The capacity of the public health on call team continues to be increased to meet demand; the Walsall school nursing team is also supporting the on call response.
- We are continuing to engage with schools proactively; we also respond to about 120 requests for help from schools every week. We have recently engaged proactively with teachers.

##### **Testing and contact tracing**

- The contact tracing team continues to work with COVID positive clients who have escalated to Walsall Public Health from the National Test and Trace system; they have identified and prevented several outbreaks as a result.
- The capacity of the contact tracing team is being increased to meet demand; we are initiating welfare checks for COVID positive cases to support them to self-isolate.
- Plans are being developed to roll out mass testing in the near future.
- Plans are also being developed for a coronavirus vaccination programme.

## **Surveillance and data**

- The public health intelligence team reviews data at the neighbourhood level on a daily basis.
- We are working with Walsall Healthcare Trust to review data on COVID positive admissions.

## **Engaging Partners and communities**

- Compliance with self-isolation advice appears to have dropped; we are stepping up engagement with communities to combat this through the newly appointed COVID champions and are recruiting voluntary sector partners to support this initiative.
- The council continues to support local businesses to understand and comply with COVID guidelines

## **Governance and Programme Co-ordination**

- Walsall continues to hold place based Incident Management Team meetings to engage with partners across the borough. Two sub cells have been set up to address
  - Mental wellbeing
  - Communications

## **Background papers**

None

## **Author**

Dr Uma Viswanathan  
Consultant in Public Health  
[uma.viswanathan@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:uma.viswanathan@walsall.gov.uk)

## Appendix A

### Test, Trace and Isolate Action Plan Update

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
Engagement with teaching staff	Ongoing	
Engagement with parents	Ongoing	
<b>Care Homes</b>		
Guidance developed and disseminated on PPE, Infection prevention and control, swabbing, safe visiting	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 Nurses</li> </ul>	Ongoing	1.6 Band 7 staff recruited (start 01/11). Core delivery model in place.

Several visits have been undertaken to access infection prevention and control in care homes, concerns identified have been addressed/ escalated to commissioning team		
Improve health and wellbeing for people with long term conditions including flu and pneumococcal vaccines. Flu vaccine uptake is high amongst residents in care homes; uptake of flu vaccine in care home staff needs to be addressed.	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:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meat packing industries</li> <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.  Work being undertaken to work with the newly appointed Community Champions and Wardens. Training is being offered to these teams	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	100%	Swabbing team supported by Community nursing and Adult social care
Training for swabbing team	100%	See above
Explore laboratory capacity for Pillar 1 Testing with Black Country Pathology Service (BCPS) plus relevant partners for future proofing discussions around capacity	100%	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 found to have issues that need to be addressed. Final version made available on 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Until training complete, ongoing mitigation – Using Teams/ Sharepoint tool as interim.
Software for Contact Tracing – training – to be confirmed	80%	Due to above delay – training will now be rolled out to contact tracing team  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