

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To
Health & Wellbeing Board

on
10th June 2020

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Health Medicine

For information only		For discussion	X	Approval required	
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Local Outbreak Control Plan

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

Purpose

This is to provide an update on the Local Outbreak Control Plan which is a key part of the national Test, Trace & Isolate (TTI) programme.

Background

The Test, Trace and Isolate (TTI) programme is a central part of UK government's Covid-19 recovery strategy. The primary objectives are to control the Covid-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives, and in doing so help return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy.

Achieving these objectives will require a coordinated effort from local and national government, the NHS, General Practice, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and the general public.

Local Outbreak Control Plans

Local planning and response will be essential. Local Government, NHS, the Local Resilience Forum and other relevant local organisations will be at the heart of the programme as upper tier local authorities develop Local Outbreak Control Plans. Response may include appropriate local containment strategies, the implementation of which is expected to be achieved within the existing legal framework and by appealing to the public's sense of civic duty and working with local community leaders.

Themes

The Local Outbreak Control Plan will be centred around seven themes:

1. Care home and schools (MOU agreement in place or in development with PHE)
2. High risk places, locations and communities of interest, e.g. sheltered housing, rough sleepers
3. Mobilise local testing arrangements and fast track of results
4. Contact tracing and infection control in complex settings
5. Integrating national and local data and scenario planning with the Joint Biosecurity Centre
6. Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.
7. Governance arrangements and support.

Resources

The amount of £300m in national government funding is being provided to authorities in England to develop their local plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area.

The local system will build on existing health protection arrangements, including but not limited to those delivered by local authorities, to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks, and protect the public's health. A detailed resource plan is being developed in collaboration with finance colleagues.

Governance and Local Boards

The governance structures and support arrangements are as follows:

- A Covid-19 Health Protection Board (to be created) will be responsible for defining these measures and producing the plans. It will be supported by and work in collaboration with the local emergency planning forums.
- A public-facing Board led by Council Members to communicate with the public.
- Cross-party and cross-sector working is strongly encouraged with a joint endeavour to contain the virus.
- The UK government will establish a National Outbreak Control Plans Advisory Board to draw on expertise from across local government. This is to ensure that the national TTI programme builds on local capability, and to share best practice.

Timescales

The Local Outbreak Control Plan is now in development, ahead of further phases of the national infection control framework but will need to align to our local TTI strategy. This plan will need to be agreed by the end of June

Communications

To support the development of the Local Outbreak Control Plan, the Council is participating in regular engagement and best-practice sharing sessions, including webinars and regular videocalls.

Local government leadership is central to the national programme, and at national level there is a local authority Chief Executive jointly leading on this strand of the TTI programme. This gives some assurance that the perspective and voice of local government is communicated authentically at national level.

Actions/Next steps

1. Develop a Southend Local Outbreak Control Plan in partnership with Essex County Council and neighbouring authorities.
2. Establish a public-facing Outbreak Control Oversight Board led by Council Members, as a sub-group of the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board, which will be advised by senior Council and Health officers, from which to communicate with the public.
3. That the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board delegates the responsibility for the production and implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan to a sub-group, the Local Health Protection Board. This latter will report into the Outbreak Control Oversight Board.