

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To
Health & Wellbeing Board

on
8th September 2020

Report prepared by: Krishna Ramkhelawon, Director of
Public Health

For information only		For discussion	X	Approval required	
----------------------	--	----------------	---	-------------------	--

Coronavirus Pandemic Management Updates from the Health Protection Board and the Oversight and Engagement Board

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

Purpose

This is to provide an update on the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan implementation of the national Test, Trace, Contain and Enable (TTCE) programme.

Background

The TTCE 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 Plan (LOCP)

Local planning and response will be essential. Local Government, NHS, the Local Resilience Forum (Essex Resilience Forum - ERF) and other relevant local organisations will be at the heart of the programme. 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.

The [seventh version](#) (click this link for access to the document) of the Southend LOCP was updated on the 25th August with new guidance and will remain a dynamic document.

Resources

A dedicated £889,000 has been allocated to Southend for implementing this programme in 2020-21. 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.

Actions by Local Boards

The governance structure and support arrangements are as follows:

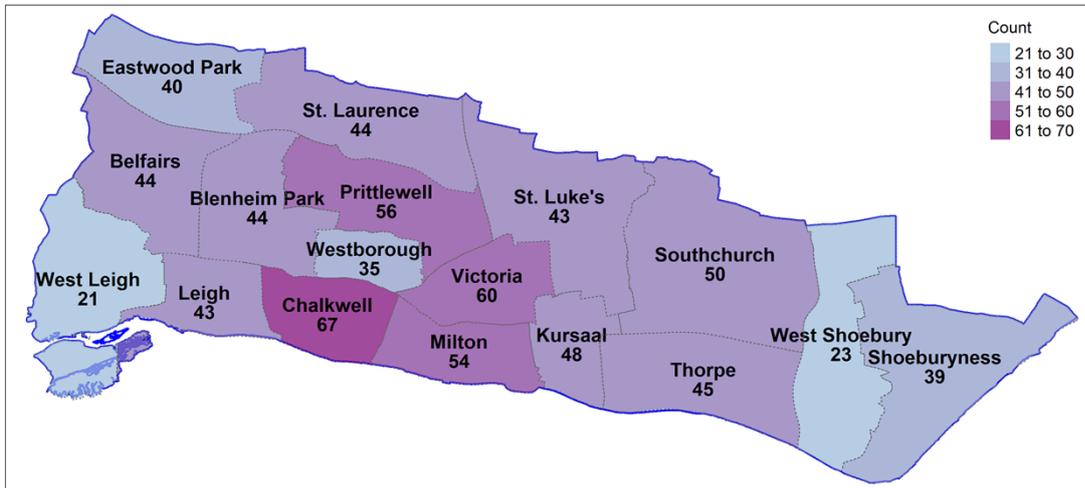
- A COVID-19 Health Protection Board (**HPB**) responsible for defining these measures and producing the plans. It will be supported by and work in collaboration with the local emergency planning forums.
- The Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board (**O&E Board** – Chair, Cllr Harp) led by Council Members, with support for the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioner, to communicate with the public.

The HPB meets weekly and receives the local Surveillance Report monitoring our testing capabilities, infection rate, mortality rate, positivity rate, level of contact tracing and any report and case reviews of local outbreaks. There has been no outbreak in Southend in the past 9 weeks (@ 1st Sept 2020).

Our joint Essex and Southend Contact Tracing service is up and running and we await further alignment with the national centre, following the restructure of Public Health England (**PHE**). The NHS Test and Trace service, the Joint Biosecurity Centre and the health protection function of PHE have merged to form the National Institute for Health Protection (**NIHP**). There has been no change in how Southend engages with our regional team.

We now have three days of operation from the Mobile Testing Unit (**MTU**) at Southend Airport and NHS England is considering an additional MTU to be based either in Benfleet or on Canvey Island. The Department of Health and Social Care has also provided Southend with a Walk-through facility in central Southend (Short Street Car Park). This is operational 12 hours/day and 7 days a week. We have seen a significant increase in daily testing numbers averaging around 110/day at the beginning of August to over 450/day at the end of August. Our positivity rate remains low although we have seen a marginal increase in infection, which is expected with increasing testing.

A total of 756 positive tests have been recorded across Southend since the start of the pandemic. This is fairly evenly spread across the borough as highlighted in the map below.



Two table-top exercises took place in July (led by the ERF) and August (led by the Southend HPB) to test the robustness of our plans. Some of the learning from the second exercise will be incorporated into the next revision of our LOCP. All the 11 Cell Leads (multi-agency) were engaged in the local exercise.

The O&E Board continue to lead on a large number of communication and engagement activities, including refreshing our messaging to the public and local businesses. We continue to hold regular webinars with schools and businesses and we are actively engaged with a multi-media social marketing campaign. This will soon see the use of social influencers to target key groups, such as younger people (<30 years), in promoting our key messages of maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and using face covering in the appropriate settings.

All our actions and local interventions are reviewed and shared with the Regional Test and Trace Support and Assurance Team.

Recommendation

1. For the HWB Board to note progress and ongoing implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan by the Local Health Protection Board and the Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board.