

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 June 2020

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Lancashire Outbreak Control Plan

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

In order for Lancashire to move towards resuming normal life as safely as possible it is necessary to reduce the spread of Covid-19 infection, thereby saving lives, protecting health and care systems and re-booting the local economy. Local government will play a crucial role in leading this, alongside its Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) partners. A key foundation is the development of a robust and effective Outbreak Control Plan.

This report sets out the scope of an Outbreak Control Plan, how it will be developed with the involvement of partners and stakeholders, and the structures which must be in place to ensure its effectiveness.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- i. Approve the principles set out in the report for the development of the Lancashire Outbreak Control Plan;
- ii. Approve that the Director of Public Health be authorised to approve the final plan, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing;
- iii. Approve that expenditure required under the plan be approved by the relevant officers in accordance with the delegation provided by the Leader of the Council in relation to urgent Covid-19 related matters, following consultation with the Leader of the Council; and
- iv. Note the requirement for a Local Outbreak Engagement Board, and support the proposal that the Health and Wellbeing Board be empowered to make the necessary arrangements.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purpose of Standing Order C29 as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the County Council's responsibilities. The reason for this is that the plan must be in place as soon as possible to ensure Lancashire is well positioned to continue to tackle Covid-19.

Background and Advice

The Director of Public Health has a statutory role, in partnership with Public Health England, to identify and contain outbreaks of disease and to protect the health of the public.

As each area faces slightly different issues in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak, the onus is on each Director of Public Health to define what measures are necessary within his or her jurisdiction, including within specific localities. In an area as large, complex and diverse as the Lancashire County Council area, this will undoubtedly require the Outbreak Control Plan to address issues at both a county wide and district level.

The Outbreak Control Plan

All Upper Tier Local Authorities are now required to develop a Local Outbreak Control Plan, centred on seven themes (see Appendix A).

- **Care homes and schools**
Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response).
- **High risk places, locations and communities**
Identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities of interest (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies).
- **Local testing capacity**
Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage testing capacity such as NHS and pop-up testing etc).
- **Contact tracing in complex settings**
Assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities, developing assumptions to estimate demand and options to scale capacity).
- **Data integration**
Integrating national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre (e.g., data management planning, including data security and NHS data linkages)

- **Vulnerable people**

Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups etc.) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.

- **Local Boards**

Establishing governance structures, including establishment of a new Member-led Board to communicate with the general public.

All Upper Tier Local Authorities are required to develop and submit their Local Outbreak Control Plan to government by the end of June 2020. Lancashire County Council is proposing to learn from best practice, working with the eleven areas in the UK which are receiving supplementary support.

Lancashire Resilience Forum has produced guidance to assist the development of the plans across Lancashire, focusing on:

- a. Prevention of outbreaks
- b. Reduction of suffering
- c. Structures that will support rebuilding the economy
- d. Provision of reassurance to the public

The Lancashire Resilience Forum will continue to play an important role in the test and trace process and will provide a point of contact for regional and national liaison, including with government. However, the delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan will be led by the Director of Public Health alongside NHS and district council partners.

The Outbreak Control Plan will address:

PREVENTION - with appropriate prioritisation on key groups and settings such as care homes and schools and ensuring monitoring arrangements are in place.

PROTECTION - focussing on pro-active infection prevention control measures and ensuring that this work goes hand in hand with a robust information campaign. An effective case-finding strategy is also crucial to establish appropriate data flow between partner agencies.

RESPONSE - the practical work, utilising a risk based approach following positive test results, must necessarily be done at a local level so that multi-agency teams can be deployed to manage local outbreaks. These teams will include professionals from public health, social care, the NHS and district councils and will include a range of professionals plus administrative support.

It is clear that significant additional resources will be required to ensure the sustainability of the system, including workforce and investment in ITC systems to enable different partners to work effectively together. However it is currently too early to give a realistic estimate of the likely extent of the additional resources required and therefore how they compare to the funding that has been made available to the council for the purposes outlined within the report.

Local Outbreak Engagement Board

The government guidance requires the establishment of a Local Outbreak Engagement Board to "provide political ownership and public facing engagement and communication for outbreak response". Aside from this, there is very limited guidance available on the arrangements that are expected for these bodies.

It is proposed that responsibility for these arrangements be given to the Health and Wellbeing Board, for the board to develop the structures and objectives in line with any further guidance.

As the Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Full Council, Cabinet are asked to support the proposal, although approval will be done through a separate report through the appropriate Full Council urgent decision-making arrangements.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

As set out in the main body of the report.

Finance

Expenditure incurred in implementing the plan will be captured to meet any national reporting requirements and reported to future cabinet meetings during the year as part of the quarterly money matters updates.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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