

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Friday, 3 July 2020

Covid 19 - Lancashire Outbreak Engagement Board (COVID-19)

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information: Josh Mynott, Democratic and Member Services Manager, Lancashire County Council, Tel: (01772) 534580, josh.mynott@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

As part of the Local Outbreak Control Plan, Local Authorities are required to establish an Outbreak Engagement Board to provide political ownership and public facing engagement and communication for an outbreak response. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Lancashire Board are attached (Appendix A) for consideration.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to approve the Terms of Reference for the Lancashire Outbreak Engagement Board as set out at Appendix A.

Background

All Upper Tier Local Authorities are now required to have a Local Outbreak Control Plan. As part of the arrangements, there is also a requirement for authorities to establish an Outbreak Engagement Board. The purpose of the board is to provide political ownership and public facing engagement and communication for an outbreak response.

Note that the Board is not expected to take the operational lead on outbreak response, but to be a conduit for engagement and communication between the authorities and the public.

In Lancashire, it has been agreed that the Engagement Board should fall under the Health and Wellbeing Board, as a well-established body with the relevant knowledge and experience. However, the Engagement Board itself is expected to be member-led. It is therefore proposed that the Engagement Board consist of the 7 elected members currently on the Health and Wellbeing Board, plus a representative of the main opposition group on Lancashire County Council.

Engagement with local elected representatives at all levels, including district and county councilors and MPs, is critical in ensuring that information, intelligence and advice flows freely to and from the communities affected by outbreaks. Initially, the proposal is to establish a county-wide board, but the Engagement Board will have the remit of agreeing arrangements to ensure truly local engagement, including considering whether area based sub-groups would be appropriate. The Engagement Board will also be asked to develop an effective communications protocol for local elected representatives at all levels.

The Engagement Board will meet monthly, although in an obviously fast-moving environment, may be required to meet more often as required.

The full draft terms of reference are presented at Appendix A.

List of background papers

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A