

## Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### NHS Test & Trace and Mass Testing

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to update the Health Scrutiny Committee in relation to NHS Test and Trace, local enhanced contact tracing and community asymptomatic mass testing.

#### Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update report on national NHS Test & Trace enhancements, progress with local enhanced contact tracing (positive case completion) and community mass asymptomatic testing.

#### Background and Advice

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 the Government published the COVID Winter Plan - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan> that provides a route map out of the COVID pandemic within a 3-6 months' timeframe. The increase in testing capacity has been supplemented by work to improve contact tracing. In the last week of reported figures (19 to 25 November) 116,324 people were transferred to the contact tracing system, 84.9% of those were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts and 72.5% of those contacts whose details were provided responded to notifications asking them to self-isolate. The Lancashire data for NHS Test & Trace 28<sup>th</sup> May – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 shows performance is 86% of people transferred to contact tracing and 58% contacts identified who were not managed by local health protection teams.

The community testing programme will offer Local Authorities in tier 3 areas the opportunity to participate in a six week testing surge using Lateral Flow Tests. This will enable Local Authorities to offer tests to the general population as well as targeting high-risk workplaces and industries, hard-to-reach communities and schools in a coordinated effort to drive prevalence down.

A detailed report on NHS Test and Trace, local enhanced contact tracing and community (mass asymptomatic) testing is set out at appendix A.

## Consultations

N/A

## Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## Risk management

NHS Test and Trace has shown variable national and regional performance since operations commenced end May 2020. Recent national enhancements to Contact Tracing and Advice Service (CTAS) and digital journey improvements will lead to an improved customer experience for residents contacted including their household contacts. District led local enhanced contact tracing is generally well received by local residents to supplement the national system. Effective and regular communications are in place from the Lancashire Resilience Forum and district Communication leads to residents on the support that is available for NHS Test & Trace through self-isolation or discretionary payments and access to local community hub support.

Government funding will be available for community testing using lateral flow tests for the 6 week surge period and a pan Lancashire proposition has been submitted to Department for Health and Social Care including resource requirements.

## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A