

11 January 2021**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, as per the proposed funding plan, for which the Nottinghamshire County Council allocation is £6,625,792.
2. To seek approval to establish two fixed term staffing posts to support the delivery of the COVID-19 communication and engagement strategy, funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

Information

3. In June 2020, the Government confirmed that upper tier local authorities would be allocated a Local Authority Test and Trace Grant, to be utilised to support the mitigation and containment of local outbreaks of COVID-19. The funding was allocated to councils based on need, determined by the same formula used to allocate the Public Health Grant. Nottinghamshire County Council were allocated £3,802,915. A resource plan for the Test and Trace Grant was approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health (ASCPH) Committee on 14 September 2020.
4. As of 12 October 2020, local authorities were also eligible for a series of payments from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. This is a separate fund allocated to support proactive containment and intervention measures in relation to COVID-19 and can be utilised to supplement where outbreak control activity is required over and above the functions supported by the Test and Trace Grant.
5. The fund was originally allocated based on local COVID-19 alert levels, with local authority areas at the 'very high' alert level eligible for financial support at a rate of £8 per person. However, with the introduction of national restrictions as of 5 November 2020, all local authorities across the Country are now eligible for this level of support. The grant allocated to Nottinghamshire County Council is £6,625,792
6. Both funds have been allocated to local authorities to support the mitigation of the significant impact of the pandemic, through putting in place critical measures to minimise transmission, to manage outbreak situations, to support vulnerable residents and communities and to protect the health of the local population.

7. In Nottinghamshire, the local authority continues to pursue a multi-pronged approach to manage the transmission of COVID-19, working closely with Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partners. This approach continues to include:
 - a. Consistent communication to secure consent and compliance.
 - b. Engagement and enforcement to support people and businesses to adopt measures which limit transmission.
 - c. Outbreak control to manage incidents in particular settings.
 - d. Promoting access to and uptake of testing for anyone that is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, even if only mildly symptomatic, through NHS Test and Trace.
 - e. Securing results of tests and advice quickly and completing contact tracing, working with NHS Test and Trace.
 - f. Supporting people self-isolating and others made vulnerable through COVID-19.
8. The availability of new testing technologies, such as lateral flow tests, opens up the possibility of rapid testing in the wider community. Rapid testing deployed in a way that is targeted and safe has the potential to be a valuable addition to the local approach. However, evidence shows that improving the Test and Trace service so that people who are symptomatic are rapidly tested, supported to self-isolate and their contacts reached, should remain the primary focus in relation to testing.

Funding plan

9. The Test and Trace Grant is already being utilised to support and implement core outbreak control functions required across Nottinghamshire. Whilst there is some overlap with the areas of activity for both funds, such as testing and contact tracing, the Contain Outbreak Management Fund provides funding for further developments required to respond to very high infection rates, along with a range of other outbreak control activities.
10. The Contain Outbreak Management Fund will be allocated to implement the following measures and detailed activities:
 - a. **Local COVID-19 testing** - Delivered through the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) hosted testing service, funding is allocated to further expand the service and reach more people. This will include targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups and the introduction of a backpack testing model into communities.
 - b. **Local contact tracing** - Working collaboratively across County Council Public Health, District and Borough Councils and the Police, funding will allow additional activities to be undertaken to strengthen local contact tracing. This will include programme coordination, extension of the scope of the Customer Service Centre, development of a doorstep contact tracing model, and development of the local 'COVIZ' case management system.
 - c. **Enforcement and regulation** – Additional resource will be funded to provide backfill for District and Borough Council Environmental Health teams to allow COVID-19 enforcement activities to continue alongside other critical non-covid functions. A coordinated approach across the LRF will be developed, focusing on contact tracing, low level enforcement activities and community engagement. This will aim to improve resilience, streamline deployment of existing enforcement staff and volunteers and provide a longer-term sustainable solution to address capacity issues at district level.

- d. **Schools and education** – A coordinator for schools will be appointed to provide local advice on policy and actions required for outbreak management. Activities will include enhanced communication and engagement with students, supporting access to local testing and providing support to strengthen adherence to COVID-19 guidance and self-isolation.
 - e. **Humanitarian support** - Funding will ensure support is available for individuals and communities, including vulnerable groups and addressing mental wellbeing. Specific activities within this area which will be supported by the fund include:
 - i. Expansion of the community hub led through the Humanitarian Action Group (HAG). This will allow the service to reach more vulnerable people and will include support for food, essentials and basic support for those classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, other vulnerable groups and those in self-isolation.
 - ii. Development of further community-led activities to address social isolation, loneliness and mental wellbeing and address digital connectivity for vulnerable groups, where access to usual formal and informal support has been affected by COVID-19.
 - iii. Development of a county-wide homeless team to address current gaps in services to homeless and rough sleepers and provide community-based support for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
 - iv. Additional support for the care sector to overcome the challenges of providing care during a pandemic, including outbreak control support and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) response, training and supported swabbing extended until March 2021 and support to allow COVID-19 secure visits for all care home residents.
 - v. Supporting and strengthening integrated discharge teams, discharge processes and designated discharge settings through liaison coordinators to manage referrals e.g. to/from the community hub and streamlining discharge processes for housed and homeless individuals.
 - i. Extending the Adult Social Care safe and well checks and reviews to proactively contact people, starting with the most vulnerable, to ensure they receive the support they require.
 - f. **Communication and engagement** – Funding will support the extension of the joint County and City communication and engagement strategy, working with LRF partners to provide a flexible approach to messaging and using the right channels to reach a given audience in a timely manner. Key activities will be to develop and amplify messages, highlighting areas of concern. This will include identifying key influencers / trusted voices who can help to deliver and promote messages within their own communities/ areas of influence, identifying and exploring further areas of concern/ non-compliance with national guidance and exploring how communications can use findings from behavioural studies to address the specific issues identified. To deliver this activity, additional capacity is required. Therefore, it is proposed to recruit to two one-year fixed-term posts:
 - i. Senior Communications and Marketing Business Partner (Band C - £53,334), responsible for managing the communication and engagement strategy and communications with senior stakeholders
 - ii. Communications and Marketing Officer (Band A - £41,473), to support with all operational delivery.
11. The funding plan in **Appendix A** provides a full breakdown of the activities and outcomes that will be supported across both funds and outlines the delivery partner and spend associated

with each. Activities that will be supported solely by the Test and Trace Grant have also been included in this breakdown, such as the deployment of Infection Prevention Control Clinicians in healthcare settings and the recruitment of additional temporary Public Health capacity, to support outbreak management and critical Public Health services.

12. The funding plan in **Appendix A** has been developed with LRF partners and the proposed funding allocation to lower tier local authorities in Nottinghamshire has been agreed with District and Borough Council Chief Executives. Approximately £1.75 million will be allocated directly to District and Borough Councils as key delivery partners, primarily to support with enforcement, contact tracing and communication and engagement activity.
13. A contingency of £1,005,792 has been allocated from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, to ensure that funding reserves are available for future outbreak priorities as they emerge. This means a total contingency of £1,546,902 will be held by the County Council across the two funds. It is proposed that Local Authority and LRF partners will be able to draw down on this funding through an approved process.
14. Nottinghamshire County Council received notification on 01 December 2020 that further funding would be made available to upper tier local authorities facing higher restrictions upon exit from national lockdown in the form of regular payments, up until the end of the 2020/21 financial year (subject to review in January 2021). This has been allocated in recognition of the ongoing public health and outbreak management costs of responding to COVID-19.
15. This additional funding will be allocated at a rate of £4 per person for local authorities in tier 3 and a rate of £2 per person for those in tier 2, per 28 days spent in those restrictions. The further funding has been allocated on the condition that eligible local authorities provide information to Contain with regards to how funds have been allocated. This will provide valuable insight in to how the fund is supporting frontline activities in Nottinghamshire and will feed in to the review of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund in January 2021.
16. In addition to the funding that the local authority will receive for the period following exit from national lockdown, Nottinghamshire County Council was informed on 03 December 2020 that they would also be eligible to receive an additional top-up payment of £709,906, in recognition of the period of time spent in tier 3 restrictions ahead of national lockdown on 05 November 2020. This top up payment and the additional funding outlined in paragraphs 12-13 will be considered in the further development of the funding plan.
17. At the time of writing the paper, there is substantial work being planned to implement targeted testing at scale utilising new lateral flow devices to supplement the existing testing strategy. This will require significant resource and therefore will need to take priority on use of the available contingency. It is likely that the additional funding and top up payment allocated to Nottinghamshire County Council and outlined in paragraphs 12-14 will also contribute to supporting this activity
18. Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) approved spend of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund ahead of committee approval at the end of October 2020, including approval to recruit to necessary posts to ensure that any delay in progressing essential activity was minimised. A further report will be brought to committee to clarify the establishment of further posts within Nottinghamshire County Council, funded by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

Other Options Considered

19. No other options were considered as the Contain Outbreak Management Fund is ring-fenced to support proactive intervention and containment measures in relation to COVID-19.

Reasons for Recommendation

20. The Contain Outbreak Management Fund is ringfenced to support proactive containment and intervention measures in relation to COVID-19. The plan outlined in this report is paramount in ensuring a sufficient level of resourcing to deliver essential local outbreak control activities in Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

22. The financial implications of this report are contained in paragraphs 3-4 and 8-14. The staffing costs for the communication and engagement posts are £94,807, which will be met fully from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. As this fund is allocated to mitigate against the implications of COVID-19, the resource plan will cover the remainder of the 2020-21 financial year and also be used in 2021-22 to ensure the full impact of COVID-19, including recovery, is addressed.

Human Resources Implications

23. HR implications relating to the communication and engagement programme are included paragraph 8(f) of this report. As planning develops, a number of additional fixed-term posts will be required to support the delivery of this plan. A further report will be brought to committee to clarify the establishment of posts within Nottinghamshire County Council, funded by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. Early engagement with the existing services referenced will be undertaken prior to the formalisation of future staffing establishment requirements.

Data Protection and Information Governance

24. The development of the case management system 'COVIZ' and multi-agency contact tracing model requires Information Sharing Agreements and access agreements between organisations. This is being investigated through close working with the County Council's Information Governance Team.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) The Committee approves the use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, as per the proposed funding plan, for which Nottinghamshire County Council has been allocated £6,625,792.
- 2) The Committee approves the establishment of two fixed-term staffing posts to support the delivery of the COVID-19 communication and engagement strategy, funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (set out in paragraph 8(f)).

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Constitutional Comments (KK 17/12/20)

25. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

Financial Comments (DG 17/12/20)

26. An amount of £6,625,792 has been received for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. As per Appendix A, an amount of £1,005,792 has been allocated from this funding for contingencies. Any additional funding received will be added to the contingency money until further plans are agreed. The money received will be spent in the current financial year and in the following financial year ending 31 March 2022.

HR Comments (WI 17/12/20) Recruitment to the two fixed term posts will be undertaken in line with the Authority's recruitment procedures. The successfully recruited candidates will be employed on fixed term contracts for the duration as described in the report. Additionally, as noted in paragraph 21 there will need to be early engagement with services where staffing is to be established or may be impacted.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Local Authority Test and Trace Grant Resource Plan](#) (Published 14 September 2020)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Appendix A - Funding Plan for Contain Outbreak Management Fund and Test and Trace Grant

Aim and Outcome	Key Elements	Delivery Partners/Delivery Method	Contain Funding Allocation £6,625,792	Test and Trace Grant £3,802,915	Funding Total £10,428,515
Local Testing Improved coordination, deployment and outreach	Deployment of testing coordination and delivery infrastructure and recruitment of posts.	Coordination and delivery by CCG.		£400,000	£400,000
	Mobile testing targeted to local communities e.g. vulnerable, homeless etc.	Plan A) NCC Volunteers, Framework, Red Cross and voluntary groups (4 or less). Plan B) District and Borough Councils to each identify a small team of volunteers (min 4) to mobilise support.	£35,000		£35,000
	CCG Testing Coordination Posts and other new testing requirements.	Coordination and delivery by CCG and County Council Public Health.	£445,000		£445,000
Infection Prevention and Control Improved outbreak management in healthcare settings.	Deployment of infection prevention and control clinicians in settings such as care homes.	Coordination and delivery by CCG.		£982,000	£982,000
Contact tracing with individuals and Control Measures in settings To ensure sufficient capacity for contact tracing and	County Council Customer Service Centre telephone-based contact tracing integration with National Test and Trace System. Recruitment of staff to increase service capacity.	County Council Customer Service Centre (new activity).		£250,000	£250,000

<p>implementation of health protection control measures in settings in local outbreak management.</p> <p>To ensure effective track and trace in Nottinghamshire, including locally enhanced contact tracing as part of the national system. Aiming to increase contact tracing rates to 90% target.</p>	Development of the local COVIZ Client Management IT system to support integration, management, coordination and use of all local contact tracing.	New activity for County Council IT.	£37,000		£37,000
	Provide the address/telephone number of COVID-19 positives cases with missing contact information using District and Borough Council held databases through the COVIZ database case management system. This will enable the County Customer Service Centre to undertake contact tracing (average of 7 (1-15) cases per week per district).	District and Borough Councils to input information from their databases to support County contact centre tracing.		£50,000	£50,000
	Identification of premises of special interest and delivery of associated interventions.	Ongoing core activity for District and Borough Council Environmental Health teams.		£70,000	£70,000
	Responding to outbreaks and undertaking complex contract tracing at specific premises and locations.	Ongoing core activity for District and Borough Council Environmental Health teams.		£140,000	£140,000
	Working with LRF members e.g. Police and County Council enforcement to deliver a joined-up approach to contact tracing and any wider COVID-19 related Enforcement issues.	District and Borough Council Environmental Health/Community Safety leads to hold joint tasking meetings with Police and Public Health (at least weekly). Topics to include business regulation, public realm compliance, failure to isolate cases, COVID-19 containments plans etc.		£55,000	£55,000
	Participation in the development and use of the new client management system for contact tracing (COVIZ) as a single point of information to support local contact tracing and outbreak management.	District and Borough Environmental Health teams and admin support staff.		£35,000	£35,000
	Physical visits to failed contacts to ascertain status and compliance. Cases accessed via COVIZ case management system.	Plan A) County Council to contract a team (e.g. Parking Service, Home Care Services) for those that cannot be contacted after 2 call attempts at £10/visit (circa < 20 per week) per District and Borough Council.	£170,000		£170,000

		Plan B) Optional teams from District and Borough Councils for outputs controlled via Service Level Agreements for those that cannot be contacted that have refused to provide contact information >10 a week per district. Also, could include some of those that cannot be contacted after 2 call attempts at £10/visit.			
	Contact tracing contingency for County Council contact tracing.	If additional role of Local Authority in National Test and Trace and/or duration of service is needed into 2021/22.	£153,000		£153,000
Enforcement To ensure a coordinated enforcement approach across agencies to ensure communities and settings are safe. To ensure sufficient capacity for regulatory activities and enforcement with businesses and other premises. To ensure that Public Realm is safe. To ensure that statutory Environmental Health and Trading Standards duties are maintained.	Appointment of a senior system Programme Manager to oversee the development of a coordinated 'contain' approach across the LRF, followed by the appointment of three local 'Covid Response and Contain Coordinators' to work with the Programme Manager across each community safety partnership area if required.	County Council led appointments but embedded in Community Safety Partnerships.	£200,000		£200,000
	Delivery of a programme of proactive and reactive telephone and physical visits to target business premises to assess and secure COVID-19 compliance.	Ongoing core activity for District and Borough Council Environmental Health/Economic Development (as well as other staff). Will be allocated on a £ per population split.	£1,250,000		£1,250,000
		Resource to support County Council staff and network costs.	£200,000		£200,000
	Ensuring public realm safety through COVID-19 Officers and Marshals.	Ongoing core activity for District and Borough Councils.	Covered by High Street Fund and/or Local Authority Enforcement Grant.		
	Maintain food hygiene inspection programme to Food Standards Agency requirements.	Ongoing core activity for District and Borough Council Environmental Health teams. Will likely need for backfilling with competent staff.	Covered by funding for COVID-19 visits.		
Public Health Capacity To ensure sufficient capacity for Public Health Outbreak Management and critical Public Health Services.	Additional temporary posts employed through County Council Public Health Division.	New Public Health posts.		£829,805	£829,805

Schools and education To support and ensure effective outbreak management in education settings.	Recruitment of a Project Lead. Providing Public Health advice to schools.	County Council Public Health and Education.	£150,000		£150,000
Humanitarian Support To ensure support is available for people and communities (including vulnerable groups and addressing mental wellbeing).	Including Community Hub infrastructure, funding for schemes, for mental health and wellbeing, Community Hub Food Plan, self-isolation and care home support. Recruitment of liaison coordinators in Adult Social Care.	Coordination through Public Health and LRF Humanitarian Assistance Group and Community Hub Cell.	£2,520,000	£300,000	£2,820,000
	Commissioning a Homeless Health team.	County Council Public Health Commissioning.	£143,600		£143,600
	Housing officers to support rough sleepers into temporary accommodation.	District and Borough Council Housing Officers.	£36,400		£36,400
Communication & Engagement To ensure effective communication of behavioural approaches and local messages relating to outbreak management.	Develop and deliver local communication activities that support LRF core messages and themes, including hard to reach groups. Recruitment to support implementation of comms strategy.	Ongoing County Council led COVID-19 comms with LRF Partners. Includes funding for a one year fixed-term post for a Senior Communications and Marketing Business Partner (Band C) and a one year fixed-term post for a Communications and Marketing Officer (Band A) at a total of £94,807.	£210,000	£150,000	£360,000
		Ongoing District and Borough Council COVID-19 comms.	£70,000		£70,000
Contingency Fund To ensure funding reserves for future outbreak priorities.	Contingency fund.	Held by Nottinghamshire County Council.	£1,005,792	£541,110	£1,546,902
TOTAL (not including contingency)			£5,620,000	£3,261,805	£8,881,805