

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **COVID-19 LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To appraise the Health & Wellbeing Board of the Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan.

#### **Information**

2. In the period to 19 June 2020, the deaths of approximately 646 people in Nottinghamshire County recorded as being due to COVID-19 represented a tragic loss to family and friends. Although the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in Nottinghamshire is now falling, Health & Wellbeing Board members will remain concerned to limit further loss of life.
3. In addition to preventing as many deaths as possible, there is also increasing need for Nottinghamshire to return to life as normal as possible for as many as possible, and to do this in a way that is safe and fair, protects our health and care systems, and supports our economy. Critical to that will be continued and renewed adherence to hygiene measures which received prominence early in the pandemic. Social distancing and other nationally mandated arrangements also remain as important as ever.
4. With the transmission of COVID-19 in the community now at a lower level, focus turns to the early identification of clusters of new cases and quickly containing outbreaks as they arise. It is in this context that upper tier local authorities were notified by HM Government that they should prepare a Local Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June 2020, to complement and link to the nationally delivered test and trace arrangements.
5. The Nottinghamshire County Local Outbreak Control Plan (appendix 1) was published online on Tuesday 30 June.
6. The purpose of the Local Outbreak Control Plan is to ensure the rate of COVID-19 transmission in Nottinghamshire is kept under control. The plan sets out how Nottinghamshire County Council will work with the NHS, district / borough councils, neighbouring councils and other partners to keep people safe and protected. It describes arrangements for controlling the rate of COVID-19 transmission to enable a return to life as normal as possible for as many as possible, and to do so in a way that is safe, protects the health and care system, and supports the economy. It summarises the local arrangements for data surveillance, testing and contact tracing, and outlines arrangements for preventing and managing

outbreaks in care homes, schools and other educational settings, and other high-risk and/or complex settings, such as prisons and detention centres, leisure facilities and high-risk workplaces.

7. The plan has been developed on the following principles:
  - a. Locally produced – so that it is responsive to needs as they exist in Nottinghamshire.
  - b. Collaborative – it builds on, and links into, established multi-agency partnership arrangements.
  - c. Integrated – it provides a response that is co-ordinated across the geographies of county and city, and between the organisations across our local system.
  - d. Member led – local political leaders oversee the plan and lead engagement with local communities about its implementation.
8. The focus of the Local Outbreak Control Plan on the early identification of clusters of new cases and the rapid implementation of testing, contact tracing, and self-isolation is reflected in the seven themes that guidance indicates the plan should be centred. These are summarised in Appendix 2.
9. Implementation of the preparedness and response elements is overseen by the Director of Public Health, working closely with Public Health England's local health protection arrangements, district / borough councils, and the Local Resilience Forum. Daily surveillance and action planning is overseen by a COVID-19 protection board, co-chaired by the Directors of Public Health for Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City.
10. Political leadership in Nottinghamshire County (and separately in Nottingham City) is exercised through an Outbreak Control Engagement Board. The first meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Outbreak Control Engagement Board took place on Monday 29 June 2020 and obtained agreement between partner agencies to the Local Outbreak Control Plan before submission and sign off by the Joint Biosecurity Centre.
11. The Local Outbreak Control Plan has been developed in regard to *Guiding Principles for Effective Management of COVID-19 at a Local Level*. The process of development has been supported by eleven 'beacon areas' whose aim is to rapidly develop best practice and capture learning.
12. Achieving the objectives of the plan will depend not only on local collaboration but also on the role of HM Government in delivering reliable testing infrastructure and timely access to postcode level information about new cases.
13. Nottinghamshire County Council has been notified of an allocation of £3.8 million which is ringfenced for the purpose of COVID-19 local outbreak control.
14. Further information about the content of the Local Outbreak Control Plan and arrangements for governance and oversight will be shared with Health & Wellbeing Board members during the meeting.

## **Other Options Considered**

15. None.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

16. On 22 May 2020, HM Government requested that COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plans be developed by all upper tier local authorities by the end of June 2020.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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**

18. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1) That Health & Wellbeing Board members support the implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan.

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## **Constitutional Comments (AK 17/06/2020)**

19. The report falls within the remit of the Health & Wellbeing Board under its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (DG194 17/06/2019)**

20. £3.8m has been allocated from the Revenue grant determination (Ringfenced) – Local Authority COVID-19 Test and Trace Service Support Grant.

## **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.

- [Nottinghamshire County Local Outbreak Control Plan](#) (Tuesday 30 June 2020)

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All.