



Local Outbreak Engagement Board

4 November 2020

Time 11.00 am **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Partnership Boards
Venue MS Teams

Membership

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Katrina Boffey	Assistant Director of Strategic Transformation, NHS England & NHS Improvement - Midlands
Professor Ann-Marie Cannaby	Chief Nurse, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
Tracy Cresswell	Healthwatch Wolverhampton
Ian Darch	Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Marsha Foster	Director of Partnerships, Black Country Healthcare NHSFT
Adrian Philips	Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Opposition Leader
Dana Tooby	Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership
Paul Tulley	Managing Director, Wolverhampton CCG
David Watts	Director of Adult Services

Information

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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Agenda

PART 1 – Items open to all attendees

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS - PART 1

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Notification of substitute members**
- 3 **Declarations of interest**
- 4 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]
- 5 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION - PART 2

- 6 **COVID-19 Situation Update**
[To receive an update on the current COVID-19 situation.]
- 7 **COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report** (Pages 11 - 20)
[To provide a high-level summary of activity in support of the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan, including allocation of grant.]
- 8 **Incident Management Team (IMT) Update**
[To receive a verbal update on the work of the Incident Management Team.]
- 9 **Adults and Educational Settings Update**
[To receive an update on Adult Services and Educational Settings.]
- 10 **COVID-19 Business Support**
[To receive an update on work undertaken around business support during the pandemic.]
- 11 **Communications Plan Update**
[To receive an update on the Communication Plan for the Board.]
- 12 **Other Urgent Business**
[To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.]
- 13 **Dates of future meetings**
 - 02 December 2020
 - 03 February 2021
 - 10 March 2021



Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Minutes - 29 September 2020

Attendance

Members of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Professor Ann-Marie Cannaby	Chief Nurse, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
Tracy Cresswell	Healthwatch Wolverhampton
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Marsha Foster	Director of Partnerships, Black Country Healthcare NHSFT
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Opposition Leader
Paul Tulley	Managing Director, Wolverhampton CCG

In Attendance

Madeleine Freewood	Development Manager - City Health
Joanna Grocott	Systems Development Manager
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Neeraj Malhotra	Consultant in Public Health
Dr. Kate Warren	Consultant in Public Health
Richard Welch	Head of Partnerships and Commercial Services (Education)

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from David Watts and Katrina Boffey.
- 2 Notification of substitute members**
- 3 Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
Resolved:
That the minutes of the meeting of 6 August 2020 be approved as a correct record.
- 5 Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5a Urgent Business Item: Board Membership

It was noted that the Board was newly established and evolving constantly to incorporate cross-partnership working and engage with communities across the City. Following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, it was therefore proposed that membership be extended to include representatives nominated by the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and the Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership. It was agreed that the terms of reference would be amended accordingly and the nominated representatives would be invited to future meetings.

It was acknowledged that this would encourage wider diversity and ensure that communities could be reached therefore the proposal was endorsed.

Resolved:

1. That Local Outbreak Engagement Board agree for the membership to be extended to include representatives nominated by the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and the Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership.
2. That the Local Outbreak Engagement Board Terms of Reference be amended to reflect the new appointments.
3. That the Local Outbreak Engagement Board agree for nominated representatives to be invited to future meetings.

6 COVID-19 Situation Update

Dr. Kate Warren delivered the COVID-19 Situation Update presentation which outlined the current COVID-19 situation within the City.

The vast majority of cases were in the community with hospital cases low yet increased over last week or so.

The rate per 100,000 was 69.5 which, in relation to statistical neighbours, put Wolverhampton behind Birmingham and not much further ahead of the rest of the Black Country.

It was acknowledged that cases had risen across the country and not just in Wolverhampton.

Data still showed that older people were more at risk from the effects of the disease. Proactive testing within care homes had picked up more older adults. Older adults living in multigenerational households were at risk as it often spread easily within the household via younger people living there.

Despite schools reopening, there had been a very small number of positive COVID-19 cases among young children.

A shaded map of Wolverhampton provided a ward-by-ward overview; the darker the shading the higher the infection rate in that ward. It was noted that the data in some of the wards may have been skewed by a large household in that ward testing positive. The map shown was correct at 17 – 23 September 2020; the latest data available at the time of the meeting.

It was reported that NHS capacity was being monitored closely and extra precautions were being taken with staff in the older adult age range. Staff absence had increased but wasn't as high as levels experienced in March – April 2020.

Not all patients in intensive care were using ventilators however many were receiving Level Three Care which was the highest level of care and monitoring.

It was noted that there may be a lag between the intervention measures currently being introduced and the stabilisation or reduction of cases. This was due to the time taken between initial infection and for symptoms to show to prompt a test, therefore new cases would continue to emerge.

In terms of mortality, levels had dropped to rates which were normal for this time of year. The disease had been circulating more prevalently amongst younger age groups and they had not been as affected as older adults might be.

It was highlighted that extensive work to prevent the spread was continuing as, if it was not mitigated, infection rates could potentially rise to similar to those seen in March and April 2020.

Resolved:

That the COVID-19 Situation Update be noted.

7 **COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report**

John Denley, Director of Public Health presented the COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group Update Report. Every Local Authority is required to produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan specific to COVID-19 as outlined in the August 2020 national framework.

The report provided an update to the Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board on progress relating to the delivery of the local COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan. The information within the report covered the time period from the date the Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan was published, 30 June 2020, to publication date of this report, 18 September 2020.

Particular attention was drawn to the Emerging Risks highlighted on page 11 of the agenda pack. It was noted that in respect of access to testing, issues had been experienced nationally as well as locally however local issues were close to being resolved as additional walk-through and drive-through testing stations had been introduced.

There had been some negativity on social media where it had been perceived that the public were receiving mixed messages over testing stations being closed. Reassurances were offered that none had been closed, however availability had recently been low due to Wolverhampton testing stations taking pressure off other areas who had run out of testing capacity.

It was important to reinforce the message to get tested as soon as symptoms show and not be dissuaded by perceived difficulties.

It was noted that the testing infrastructure was in its early stages nationally however, five sites had been set up around the City for use by the public to increase availability.

Resolved:

That the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report be received.

8 **Escalation Intervention Plan**

John Denley, Director of Public Health provided an update of the Escalation Intervention Plan. It was outlined that the rise in infections was being monitored throughout the Black Country and required immediate response, therefore a Citywide Incident Management Team (IMT) had been established to control the risk.

It was important to establish what was driving the increase and how it could be tackled collectively to drive it back down by working in partnership with representatives throughout the City such as CCG, NHS, WVSC, WEDP, business groups, Chamber of Commerce, Wolverhampton and Bilston BIDs, University of Wolverhampton, to name but a few.

It was reported that a five-pronged approach had been devised with an overarching communications plan to enhance and build upon contact tracing data to understand what is driving the rise in infection rates and to reinforce compliance.

It was agreed that there should be a maintained focus on the City's most vulnerable residents. Those identified as vulnerable had been written to with advice on how to safely conduct as normal a life as possible in an effort to support them to recover and live through the pandemic. It was reported that an initial 10 – 15,000 emergency food parcels had been placed on standby to supply to foodbanks or residents as needed.

It was acknowledged that a tremendous amount of intensive work had been undertaken over the last two weeks with many positive outcomes achieved, most notably that Wolverhampton had achieved eighth highest testing rate in the country and highest in the region.

Resolved:

That the update on the Escalation Intervention Plan be received.

9 **Education Settings Update**

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services delivered the presentation on the Education Settings Update.

It was reported that all schools were now open and had shown promising attendance, although some parents had exercised extra caution around sending children in who were feeling unwell.

A robust attendance pathway was currently in place with the Attendance Team taking a proactive approach and engaging well with families.

There had been an increase reported in elective home learning, which had been expected as families either had found they preferred this method of learning or had concerns around possible infection in school. A dedicated Home Education Officer

had been appointed to provide support and initiate conversations with parents around what home education entails, its benefits and pitfalls.

Numbers were constantly evolving however at the time of the meeting, 3,000 children across the City were self-isolating and 67 incidents of positive cases had been reported.

The Authority had been working closely with the Department for Education to support schools and headteachers in navigating the guidance and making informed decisions on isolating the right bubbles. It was noted that it was important to balance safety with avoiding the risk of too many pupils missing school unnecessarily.

It was noted that schools needed to have a Remote Learning Plan in place by the end of September 2020. Many schools across the City had them finalised already and School Improvement Advisors had been analysing them to ensure they met the National Curriculum.

It was noted that the Authority were having daily conversations with the Department for Education to raise any issues.

It was reported that support for vulnerable learners was being continued by ensuring safe school transport for children and testing availability in special schools.

A concern was raised around the numbers of children self-isolating and the impact this had on teaching staff in terms of staff needing to self-isolate if their own children had to. It was noted that, to date, 50 pupils and 16 staff had tested positive which had resulted in 3,000 pupils and 200 members of staff self-isolating. This situation was being closely monitored and, as intelligence such as 'Test and Trace' became more efficient, it would become possible to safely send home smaller bubbles and fewer pupils and staff would be affected. In addition, guidance had been issued around childcare bubbles to assist and headteachers had been reporting promptly on positive cases as they became more familiar with the process.

In response to a query around what provision there was in place to support home-schooling due to the national increase in elective home learning as a result of COVID-19. It was clarified that all parents had the right to elect to home school their child for varying reasons and support was made available from the Authority, including learning resources, support group contacts and home visits. Parents did not have to accept support, although each case was cross-referenced with other vulnerabilities, checked to ensure parents were home-educating for the right reasons and that the arrangement was sustainable. It was important to stress to parents the great responsibility to make this decision.

Resolved:

That the Education Setting Update be noted.

10

Communications Plan Update

Richard Welch, Head of Partnerships and Commercial Services (Education), provided an update on the Communications Plan. Key communications activities to date had been divided into two categories: Universal (messages aimed at the general population such as wearing masks, testing, avoiding house to house contact) and Targeted (aimed at specific groups or settings, such as schools or care homes).

It had been identified that messages around staying safe and following guidelines had begun to get lost in repetition and not cascading effectively through communities.

It was proposed that, in order to strengthen communications, Councillor and Community leads be appointed as Champions to play a part in leading communities through the COVID-19 crisis. The Champions would engage with residents, acting as a bridge between local communities and the Authority, to provide information and advice, facilitate support and identify areas of vulnerability.

In addition, Local Outbreak Engagement Board members were asked to agree, adapt and promote 10 key messages to communities across the City on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It was noted that the decision to appoint Board members from Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and the Ethnic Minority Council - Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Partnership had been timely as this would further the reach across the City's communities.

The Board agreed to nominate representatives to be part a task and finish group to further develop a toolkit to inform the activity of Councillors and Community Champions. It was agreed that they did not have to make a decision today, but anyone wishing to nominate a representative for or volunteer to contribute to the task and finish group could contact Madeleine Freewood, Development Manager for further details.

The Board also agreed to endorse the proposed role and principles of Councillors and Community Champions.

Resolved:

1. That members of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board agree to nominate representatives to be part a task and finish group to further develop a toolkit to inform the activity of Councillors and Community Champions.
2. That any member of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board wishing to volunteer or nominate a representative for the task and finish group contact Madeleine Freewood, Development Manager in the first instance.
3. That members of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board agree to endorse the proposed role and principles of Councillors and Community Champions.

11 **Other Urgent Business**

There was no other urgent business raised.

12 **Dates of future meetings**

- November 2020
- 10 March 2021

13 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in paragraph 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

14 **Detailed COVID-19 Situation Update (Exempt)**

This item was exempt as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in paragraph 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

15 **Other Urgent Business (Exempt Information)**

There was no other urgent business.

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Local Outbreak Engagement Board Meeting 04 November 2020

Report title	Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Public Health	
Accountable employee	Madeleine Freewood	Development Manager
	Tel	01902 550352
	Email	madeleine.freewood@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Wolverhampton COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group	23 October 2020

Recommendation for noting:

The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is asked to note the contents of the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The multi-agency Wolverhampton COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) provides regular progress reports to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board to enable it to fulfil its objectives.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The SCG is responsible for prioritising, managing and overseeing the work plans aligned to the seven themes in the Local Outbreak Plan:

1. Care homes and schools
2. High risk places, locations and communities
3. Local testing capacity
4. Contact tracing in complex settings
5. Data integration
6. Vulnerable people
7. Local Boards

- 2.2 The remit of the SCG is to:

- set and regularly review strategic priorities for the city
- ensure plans are consistent with resources available and if not, escalate within the appropriate organisations
- escalate any situations to Public Health England /Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group level for mutual aid if necessary and ensure that any response to a local COVID-19 outbreak is completed as a co-ordinated approach, managing the various elements in the response
- review local and national epidemiology.

- 2.3 SCG provides a regular progress report to the Local Outbreak Engagement summarising key activity across the seven themes in the Local Outbreak Plan.

3.0 SCG progress overview

- 3.1 Appendix 1 of this report provides a copy of the SCG report to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council have been awarded a grant of £1.9 million for Outbreak Control. Grant funding must be spent in line with the grant terms and conditions. The attached report provides an overview of where this grant will be targeted. [JB/22092020/I].

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Every Local Authority is required to produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan specific to COVID-19 as outlined in the August 2020 national framework:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>

The Coronavirus Act 2020 provides a legal framework that gives Local Authorities – through Public Health and Environmental Health functions – the primary responsibility for the delivery and management of public health action to control outbreaks of infectious disease. [DP/20201023/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is a sub-board of Health & Wellbeing Together. Equalities implications of COVID-19 are being actively reviewed by both boards informed by qualitative and quantitative data. A report relating to the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities was presented to the July 2020 meeting of Health & Wellbeing Together.

7.0 Health and wellbeing implications

7.1 The Local Outbreak Engagement Board is a sub-board of Health & Wellbeing Together and health and wellbeing implications of Local Outbreak Plan are kept under review through established reporting lines.

8.0 COVID-19 Implications

8.1 The SCG summary report outlines progress relating to the delivery of the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information/covid-19-outbreak-control-plan>

10.0 Schedule of appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Wolverhampton COVID 19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

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Appendix 1

Report: Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

Intended Audience:	Local Outbreak Engagement Board		
Submitted by:	Wolverhampton Strategic Co-ordination Group		
Submission Date:	23.10.2020	Meeting Date:	04.11.2020

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board on progress relating to the delivery of the local COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan. The content of this report covers the time period from the date the Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan was published, 30 June 2020, to publication date of this report, 27 October 2020.

2.0 Local data & Intelligence

2.1 Local Data & Intelligence

A summary of the latest data will be provided before the meeting

3.0 Outbreak Control Plan (Key updates)

Theme 1: Care Homes and Educational Settings

Education:

- The demand on the Public Health call centre for schools is high. This line receives notifications of suspected and confirmed cases.
- An Incident Management Team comprising Public Health and Education colleagues meets three times a week.
- This team reviews and updates the intervention plan on a weekly basis.
- The Head Teachers' bulletin now goes out twice weekly instead of once a week to keep schools informed of the situation and any updates.
- Online engagement sessions with schools are also being held regularly.
- A session with governors of schools is scheduled for 22 October 2020.
- Preparations for school nurses to be involved in the Covid response has begun.

- Jointly prepared guidance (Council and NHS) for healthcare workers coming into schools has been disseminated to all schools.
- Guidance for other visiting professionals in schools, such as social workers and educational psychologists has also been updated and disseminated.

Care Homes:

- The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund – round 2, has been announced and CWC are in the process of distributing funds to care homes. As per guidance, 80% of the fund will go directly to care homes to help them implement infection prevention measures, such as supporting staff to self-isolate, cohorting staff, assisting with travel for staff, enhancing cleaning regimes.
- Care homes are re-registering on the care home testing portal every 21 days as per guidance. To understand compliance the daily Sitrep has been improved to include a question around regular testing of staff and residents.
- Outbreaks have increased in care homes, with many occurring following mass screening. Similarly, a number of homes are seeing isolated single cases which are largely staff.
- Refresher training in infection prevention is being offered, which will be bolstered once the new outbreak management provision goes live in early November.
- Weekly meetings with PHE continue to discuss outbreaks.

Theme 2: High Risk Workplaces, Locations and Communities

- An enforcement team comprising of representatives from Public Health, Environmental Health and West Midlands Police meets regularly to take action when notifications are received about COVID-19 non-compliance in businesses and other settings. Offer of testing as required at identified high risk settings.
- Communications to businesses, faith settings, Wolverhampton Homes and the Voluntary Sector have been occurring on a frequent basis to keep settings up to date with the guidance, how to stay safe and how to access testing.
- A Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared for all the members of the Homelessness Task Force.
- Targeted comms with Wolverhampton Homes for tenants living in locations with low testing take up and high positive rate of prevalence – linked to support packages available (isolation support payment).
- Testing information has been translated into a host of different languages in text and audio format to reach across Wolverhampton's diverse communities.

Theme 3: Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Approaches

- Wolverhampton has one drive-through COVID-19 Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) for members of the public with symptoms of the virus (Aldersley Leisure Village) with a capacity of 400 tests per day.
- There are currently four walk-through COVID-19 testing sites in the City for members of the public (also known as Local Testing Sites (LTS)). The sites are based at Showell Road, on the Faulkland Street Public Car Park, on the Mountford Lane Public Car Park in Bilston and at Blakenhall Resource Centre. All sites are open seven days a week, 8am – 8pm.
- Week commencing 9 November the City will open a further 2 Local Test Sites (LTS) in the City, placed at Whitmore Reans Library and Wednesfield Community Centre. This will increase the geographical coverage of testing access across the City.

- Wolverhampton are currently participating in a DHSC pilot, being one of 4 local authorities able to offer walk-in access to testing without booking an appointment. 50 slots per day are provided from the Faulkland Street site (commenced Friday 16 September.) This is to provide access to testing for those who struggle to book a test via the national system.
- Access to priority testing has been set up at a pillar 1 site at Showell Road, providing access to testing for staff working in educational settings, domiciliary care and homeless/housing services.
- The Council has worked with various partners across the City to rapidly increase testing capacity in recent weeks. On 20 October, the testing rate in the City as an average over seven days was 1957 per 100,000 residents.
- The Council will be further increasing our testing capacity by rolling out an Enhanced Employee Covid-19 Testing Programme. This is currently being piloted with one internal department with a view to roll out/extension in November to both internal departments and external partners.
- Asymptomatic testing is to be offered to high risk business settings to increase access to testing and to better detect asymptomatic prevalence in communities/settings, preventing unintended transmission.
- Enhanced communications rolled out to promote and encourage people to get a test no matter how mild their symptoms involving pharmacy, primary care, university, food banks and other key partners.
- Promotion of the isolation payment to support access to testing through the promotion of financial support available.

This city-wide coordinated approach towards testing allows the Council to achieve the objective to **keep people safe** by:

- Ensuring that employees that are most 'high-risk' of contracting coronavirus have access to regular testing which will help them remain safe and reduce risk of infection
- Enabling the Council to respond early to any positive cases and ensure we put the health and safety of our employees first.
- Increasing our understanding of the spread of the virus in the City by using intelligence-led testing
- Supporting the wider community, key employers, the most vulnerable and our residents to access testing.

Theme 4: Contact Tracing in Complex Settings

- Establishing a local contact tracing offer which will add value to the national Test and Trace system and assist Wolverhampton to identify any linked cases and potential clusters. This will be coupled with a welfare call to ensure people are able to self-isolate. This is due to go live in the next week.
- The health protection team has expanded to support PHE, initially with case management activity in high risk settings (e.g. schools). This will be expanded further to ensure the capacity in the team can meet the demand. PHE and LAs will work continue to work closely on outbreak and incident management.
- Environmental Health colleagues have put into operation their stand-by rota to support the core health protection team to absorb extra health protection extra business and workplace settings.

- Infection Prevention team at the Royal Wolverhampton Trust will expand to continue to support infection prevention and outbreak management in care homes. In addition to this they along with school nurses will proactively support schools with infection prevention measures and single case management.

Theme 5: Data Integration

- Regular surveillance of all available data continues and is fed into the relevant response groups and partnerships for action or decision.
- The range of data available has increased; data provided by Public Health England now includes a summary of calls made by schools to the Department for Education support line, and a list of common exposures (settings that 2 or more people testing positive attended in the week before their illness).

Theme 6: Vulnerable People

- Establish an automated telephone message which residents can call to hear information about the most up to date restrictions, advice and guidance. Will be communicated by letter to all those who fall into the shielding category, those over 60. This will ensure that everyone can access information regardless of their digital capabilities.
- Increasing messaging and FAQ's with a regular slot on Wolverhampton community radio.
- Exploring options for a texting system to share messages in a timely manner with vulnerable residents.
- Finalising the strategy and procedure to step up the support and offer for shielding and vulnerable residents. This will be considered if Wolverhampton move into tier 3.

Theme 7: Governance

- It was agreed to extend the membership of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board to include representatives from the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector and Ethnic Minority Council – Wolverhampton Equalities and Diversity Partnership on 29 September 2020. The Terms of Reference have been updated and are published on the Health & Wellbeing Together microsite:
http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk/local_outbreak_engagment_board.html

4.0 Communications and Engagement Plan

Driven by the Covid-19 Communications Group, a series of campaigns, messaging and interventions have been developed to brief residents (and the wider system) on Government announcements and the local position in relation to:

- The First weekend of national measures: Message from director of Public Health
- Appeal to residents to download new NHS Covid 19 App
- Local City restrictions: Reminder for residents
- Business focus: Display your QR code for track and trace
- School posters – messages to parents
- Testing update
- Rule of six press release
- 10 things we must do to stop the spread

- Local Outbreak Engagement Board agreed the development of a toolkit for Councillors and Community Champions
- New measures for the City – Tier 2 High Alert
- Infection prevention officers working with city schools
- Self-isolation guidance
- Faulkland street walk-in appointments
- Message from DPH and Chief Exec of RWT about RWT Cases and staying safe
- Young people – safety messages
- Test and Trace support payments scheme – comms ahead of launch
- Distribution of joint (CWC, Uni and WM Police) flyer for students about testing

Further work is in development for the Councillor and Community Health Champion scheme whereby Councillors and Community Leads will be provided with a toolkit of resources to enable the dissemination of information and key messages whilst also playing a surveillance and advocacy role in their local neighbourhoods.

5.0 Finance

Alongside the development of an outbreak control plan for the City, a grant of £1.9m was received in May 2020. The funding will be used to help minimise the spread of infection whilst also responding to outbreaks as they occur. Initial investment prevention areas include funding for schools to create COVID secure environments. Other areas of expenditure include communication resources and COVID-19 Testing.

In addition, the Council has also been awarded £6.3 in Infection Prevention grant funding for 2020-2021. This funding is being used to support adult social care providers in various settings, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

6.0 Emerging Risks

A complete risk register (red, amber and green risks) is held by the COVID-19 Outbreak Control Planning Group (OCPG). Escalation of risk through the governance structure thereafter is as follows:

- OCPG escalate any amber and red risks to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG)
- SCG escalate any red risks to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

As of 23 October 2020, there are no red risks to be escalated to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board. Red risks highlighted at the Local Outbreak Engagement Board on 29 September in relation to testing capacity are now either amber or in the case of R011 (lack of access to testing for symptomatic pupils and the wider household) closed.

7.0 Recommendations & Considerations

It is recommended that Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board:

- Note the content of the report.