

Appendix 1

Report: Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

Intended Audience:	Local Outbreak Engagement Board		
Submitted by:	Wolverhampton Strategic Co-ordination Group		
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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.