

Report: Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report

Intended Audience:	Local Outbreak Engagement Board		
Submitted by:	Wolverhampton Strategic Co-ordination Group		
Submission Date:	26.01.2021	Meeting Date:	03.02.2021

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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, 26 January 2021.

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:

- An extraordinary amount of work has been undertaken to rapidly support secondary schools in establishing their own test centres.
- A test centre with some priority slots for all education and early years staff has been established.
- Work is now commencing to support primary schools with the roll out of home testing kits.
- Schools continue to be supported when cases, clusters and outbreaks are identified.
- New process for schools reporting positive cases includes single cases and clusters reporting to DfE and outbreaks to LA Public Health to manage capacity and prioritise outbreak management.

Care Homes:

- The vaccination plan is well underway for care home staff and residents. All care homes will have had an offer of vaccine for residents and staff by end of January. To date the majority of homes have been visited by a PCN led vaccination team. Some homes have been delayed due to emerging outbreaks and a further 5 homes will be visited w/c 25.01.21. Homes with an outbreak will set a date for vaccination in conjunction with the relevant GP. Guidance stipulates those who are infected with Covid should wait around 4 weeks for the vaccine.
- Further government funds have been announced to help deliver the increased testing regimen in care homes. Since mid-December care homes have been asked to increase testing using Lateral Flow Devices to twice weekly for staff. Additionally, care homes carry out daily tests with staff in the event of a positive case. This funding will help establish test areas in the home and pay for additional staffing costs to administer the process.
- Since the most recent national lockdown commenced on 06.01.2021 all close contact indoor visiting has ceased unless in exceptional circumstances such as end of life. Outdoor visits are permitted; however, care homes are being strongly encouraged to use virtual means to help connect with loved ones in care homes.
- There has been a spike in care home outbreaks in-line with increased infection rates seen in the wider community. Many cases are detected from asymptomatic screening. These outbreaks are being managed in partnership with relevant health protection agencies.

Theme 2: High Risk Workplaces, Locations and Communities

- Pilot test sites have been established in businesses and will continue to be set up in the weeks ahead. Initial pilot sites have been successful and have been welcomed.
- Military planners provided support in the week commencing 11 January 2021 to scale up the offer to businesses and plan a programme of delivery.
- Plans are now underway to offer access to testing for businesses at scale. A range of testing options will be available and accessed dependent on the business size, capacity to test in-house and the RAG status of the business.

Theme 3: Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Approaches

- Wolverhampton now has 5 testing sites across the City:
 - Civic Centre for general population testing
 - Pendeford Library with priority access for Education staff and Early Years settings. Open to the general public at other times.
 - Community led sites at St Joseph's Church in Moseley Village, Bilal Mosque in Whitmore Reans and Ashmore Park Hub in Wednesfield. All sites are run by active community volunteers who have received training and support from the council. A sixth site is due to open W/C 25 January at Bilston Community Centre.
- Bespoke pilots have taken place at P3 and The Good Shepherd to encourage take up from populations who would not necessarily access a main community site. These have been welcomed and take up has been excellent. These will continue for the remainder of January.
- Since the commencement of lateral flow testing in the city over 31,000 tests have been completed between 8 December and 17 January.

- Work is currently ongoing to look at the feasibility of a mobile site which can ‘pop up’ in locations where (using data from DHSC) there is high positivity rates and low testing uptake.
- Testing team is working with the Cabinet office to highlight areas of good practice and learning to share across the country.
- An additional bid to DHSC will be placed by 22 January for additional Lateral flow testing kits to extend the community testing offer until 31 March, and to support vaccination sites and businesses to continue testing.

Theme 4: Contact Tracing in Complex Settings

- Local Test and Trace team established which supports the national team with Tier 2 calls to positive cases. Using a Wolverhampton telephone number and contact information collected by other Council services, we are contacting cases that are unanswered or incomplete with the national team.
- Establishing a ‘doorstep’ offer to support the local contact tracing team by making face to face contact with those who are not answering calls or have provided telephone numbers.
- The health protection team has expanded to support PHE, we are continuing to support case management activity in high risk settings (e.g. care homes). PHE and LAs will work continue to work closely on outbreak and incident management.
- Due to the increasing local case rate the health protection team been supporting all high-risk settings, with priority on high risk settings for vulnerable people.
- Environmental Health colleagues continue to support the core health protection team with infection prevention control measures in workplace settings.
- Infection Prevention team at the Royal Wolverhampton Trust has expanded to continue to support infection prevention and outbreak management in care homes. In addition to this school nurses are supporting the health protection team in responding to schools for single case management and infection prevention measures.

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.
- Transparency of data is much improved; the national gov.uk coronavirus data dashboard now provides national, regional and local level data on cases, deaths, and healthcare usage.
- Vaccination data is in development stage; local and national flows are being established. Priorities will be to develop oversight of uptake by priority group, and by demographic characteristics to ensure that access is equitable.

Theme 6: Vulnerable People

- An automated telephone message has now been established which residents can call to hear information about the most up to date restrictions, advice and guidance. 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. Covid messaging has also been translated to a number of languages and shared across other local community radio stations by community champions.

- Continue to support shielding and vulnerable residents through the Stay Safe Be Kind offer. Food parcels are still available and considered on a case by case basis if other more sustainable support is not in place or cannot be arranged.
- Work is being undertaken to establish a network of community champions to support activity and interventions to reduce the disproportionate impact of the virus on certain communities, develop engagement strategies and outreach work in the most at-risk places and with the most at risk groups and support to be informed about the vaccine programme as this accelerates.

Theme 7: Governance

- The Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together (Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Board). An update from the LOEB was provided to the 13 January 2021 meeting of HWBT regarding last case rate data and city response.
- The Terms of Reference for the LOEB are published on the Health & Wellbeing Together microsite: http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk/local_outbreak_engagement_board.html

4.0 Vaccine roll out

NHS England (NHSE) is responsible for the commissioning, implementation and delivery of immunisation programmes through NHS local teams. Acute trusts across the region have been allocated vaccine supplies, including multiple sites in the Black Country region, the largest being Walsall Manor Hospital. In Wolverhampton, six Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination hubs have been established, operating from local GP practices. New Cross hospital is being supported by Walsall Manor Hospital and has established a hub on site for front line healthcare workers.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have approved the use of three vaccines for mass roll out, Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/Astra Zenica and Moderna (with Moderna to become available for use in the spring). All vaccines have been tested stringently and provide the necessary protection required to prevent severe illness. Each vaccine requires a two-dose schedule to provide optimal protection.

The Joint Committee for Vaccine Implementation (JCVI) have provided guidance on the priority groups who should receive a vaccine. There has been a recent shift in strategy to provide first dose coverage to as many people as possible, as this offers a good level of protection in the first instance. This means that the second dose of both Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/Astra Zenica vaccines will now be offered 12 weeks after the first (previously this was 3-4 weeks).

National performance data is available in the public domain, regional data is available by STP footprint. Wolverhampton is in the Black Country and West Birmingham STP.

The Wolverhampton Clinical Commission Group have oversight of local performance data.

5.0 Communications and Engagement Plan

Driven by the Covid-19 Communications Group, campaigns, messaging and interventions continue to be developed and disseminated to brief residents (and the wider system) on Government announcements and the local position.

A councillor toolkit and supporting video material were developed and disseminated in December 2020. Work continues to develop the community health champion scheme whereby community leads coproduce resources and disseminate key messages in their local neighbourhoods.

6.0 Finance

The £1.9M Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant Determination (2020/21) received in May 2020 will be utilised to help minimise the spread of infection whilst also responding to outbreaks as they occur. Expenditure incurred in the themes above including communications has been funded from this source.

7.0 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 26 January 2021, there is one red risk to be escalated to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

R025 national vaccine supply

- Local Outbreak Plan theme: Vaccination
- Current PI score: red 20
- Impact: Disruption to local delivery impacting on ability to vaccinate high risk groups and causing inequity
- Treatment/ control: Partnership working with CCG and other stakeholders to manage local supply and raise with regional/ national partners
- Local Outbreak Plan theme lead: CCG

8.0 Recommendations & Considerations

It is recommended that Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board:

- Note the content of the report