

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 Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan was published, 30 June 2020. This report provides an update for the time period from the last meeting of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board on 3 February 2021, to publication date of this report, 2 March 2021.

2.0 Local data and Intelligence

2.1 Local Data and 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:

- Schools have continued to be supported throughout lockdown when they have had cases and outbreaks or just required clarification of current local and national guidance.
- Training has been provided to Secondary Schools and the College by Public Health to enable them to establish test centres.
- Training has been provided to Primary Schools to establish the testing at home programme.
- Work has commenced to support schools in their preparations for coming out of lockdown and in particular with the mass testing of pupils as they return to school, as well as the switch of Secondary Schools into the home test offer.
- Extra training regarding onsite testing is to be provided to support the return of schools from 8 March 2021.
- Adult Education are being supported to operate an onsite test site from 8 March 2021 to enable the return of their students. This will bridge the gap to home testing being available for these learners at the end of March 2021.

Care Homes:

- All care homes looking after older adults have been visited by a vaccination team through the primary care networks. All care home residents that were eligible for the vaccine, have been

vaccinated. A small group of residents have not received the vaccine due to them being COVID positive within the preceding 28-days, and in the case of a very small number, where residents or the next of kin have refused consent. A plan for the delivery of the second dose will be developed shortly in partnership with the primary care networks.

- Similarly, vaccination roll out for care home staff is well underway. To date, approximately 75% of care home staff have taken the vaccine. Further work in this area is being delivered to encourage more uptake. This includes, weekly interactive sessions with care home managers informing them of the latest information around vaccines, offer to care home staff to speak directly to a Public Health officer to address any concerns, City of Wolverhampton Council's Contact Centre proactively contacting care home staff who have not taken the vaccine (where staff have consented for their personal details to be shared) and regular dissemination of vaccine information including myth busting and promotional materials.
- In line with the reduction of infection rates seen in wider the community, care home settings have also seen a significant reduction of new positive cases and subsequently reduced outbreaks. The Infection Prevention Service continues to engage with care settings to complete audits to ensure infection prevention measures are strong and any training requirements are met swiftly.

Theme 2: High Risk Workplaces, Locations and Communities

- Businesses that are considered high risk, or where there have been outbreaks have been proactively reached out to and offered slots for routine testing at our community testing sites.
- With the recent government announcement, businesses with more than 50 employees are being encouraged to register with the government portal to access test kits for their staff and operate onsite test sites for the workforce.
- Businesses with fewer than 50 employees are being targeted to offer routine testing to their workforces and encouraged to book their employees into a community testing centre. A booking system is currently being trialled with corporate staff and will be rolled out to businesses imminently.

Theme 3: Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Approaches

- Wolverhampton now has six asymptomatic testing sites operational across the City. Three of the sites are at Civic Centre, Pendeford Library and Bilston Community Centre. Three sites at Bilal Mosque, Ashmore Park Hub and St Joseph's Church are being supported by volunteers from the local community who have been trained and are actively supported by the Local Authority.
- To support the return of educational settings and those unable to work from home, priority access for Education staff and other key workers is offered at the Pendeford site.
- A bespoke pilot, in partnership with DHSC, has taken place at Recovery Near You to encourage take up from populations who would not necessarily access a main community test site. These have been welcomed and take up has been excellent. An additional pilot with The Haven, offering testing for residents (adults and children), will take place w/b 1 March 2021. This will utilise home test kits within the home due to the 'vulnerabilities' of the residents.
- Since the commencement of lateral flow testing in the City over 55,000 tests have been completed between 8 December 2020 and 23 February 2021.
- The Local Authority has commissioned a mobile test, which can 'pop up' in locations where (using data from DHSC) there is high positivity rates and low testing uptake, or where areas are not in close proximity to a community rapid test. The unit will be operational from w/b 1 March 2021 at its first location in Bantock Park.
- Testing team is working with the Cabinet office to highlight areas of good practice and learning to share across the country.

- A corporate offer for staff testing is now been promoted to encourage all staff to undertake routine testing. Those that are unable to work from home are encouraged to test twice a week 3-4 days apart. Those working from home are encouraged to test once per week.

Theme 4: Contact Tracing in Complex Settings

- Local Test and Trace team continue to support the national team with Tier 2 calls to positive cases. Using a Wolverhampton telephone number and contact information collected by other Council services, this team is contacting cases that are unanswered or incomplete with the national team.
- Work to establish 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 is still in progress.

Theme 5: Data Integration

- Work is ongoing to use data from various sources to improve our understanding of vaccination uptake, reasons for delay or refusal, and inequalities. Findings are being shared with partners across the City to inform initiatives to improve uptake and reduce disparities by age, ethnicity, geography and deprivation.

Theme 6: Vulnerable People

- Meetings have taken place with Serco and Migrant Help to ensure that asylum seekers are registered with a GP so can access the vaccination.
- Support is in place for homeless people who test positive but discussions are in train to strengthen this offer.

Theme 7: Governance

- The Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together (Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Board).
- The Terms of Reference for the LOEB are published on the Health and Wellbeing Together microsite: http://wellbeingwolves.co.uk/local_outbreak_engagment_board.html
- A governance structure has been established to support and coordinate the City response to vaccination roll out.

4.0 Vaccine roll out

NHS England is responsible for the commissioning, implementation and delivery of immunisation programmes through NHS local teams, with the Wolverhampton Clinical Commission Group having oversight of local performance data.

The City of Wolverhampton Council's role in the vaccination programme is to support the local NHS in effective and efficient rollout to those in the highest priority groups in the City. The Director of Public Health also has an oversight system leader role to ensure robust health arrangements including effective vaccination delivery are in place for their local population. The Director for Adult Social Services has a designated role to collate information on the requirements for and take up of, vaccinations by social care workers/ other related eligible cohorts.

The delivery model in Wolverhampton is via six Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination hubs. This includes vaccine delivery from Aldersley Leisure Village and the Bert Williams site. Special

vaccination clinics have also taken place in faith settings in Wolverhampton on Sunday 14 February 2021.

The Council is also working in partnership with local PCNs to support the booking of eligible patients into clinics and proactively contacting those who are yet to take up an offer.

In addition to the PCN hubs New Cross hospital has been acting as on-site hub for front line health and social care workers, although delivery from this site has been temporarily paused and moved to Manor Hospital Walsall. Additionally, the national booking site has also temporarily opened to frontline health and social care workers. The nearest mass vaccination site to Wolverhampton is the Black Country Living Museum.

5.0 Communications and Engagement Plan

The COVID-19 Communications Group continues activity to coordinate campaigns, messaging and interventions to brief residents (and the wider system) on Government announcements and the local position.

A Community Champions Steering Group has now been established to drive forward the approach, focusing on using intelligence to target communities and coproduce activity. Community Champion Ambassadors are working with over 100 organisations and volunteers who will be part of the network. Work is taking place in partnership with the CCG for community champions to support in increasing vaccine uptake through engagement in communities and providing capacity to support community models of vaccine delivery.

6.0 Finance

The £1.9 million Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant Determination (2020 - 2021) received in May 2020 continues to 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 2 March 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 and Considerations

It is recommended that Wolverhampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board:

- Receive the Wolverhampton COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Report.