

Health Scrutiny

08 July 2021

Report title	Wolverhampton Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan – 2021 refresh	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Health and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Public Health	
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Report to be/has been considered by	Wolverhampton Covid-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group	16 March 2021
	Local Outbreak Engagement Board (email circulation)	22 March 2021
	Strategic Executive Board	25 March 2021
	Health and Wellbeing Together Board	28 April 2021

Recommendations for noting:

The Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to note:

1. The refreshed Outbreak Control Plan for Wolverhampton

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Health Scrutiny with a copy of the refreshed Outbreak Control Plan for the city.
- 1.2 The refreshed Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan sets out how, together, we will continue to protect and support our city, further informed by the learning we have gathered since the first version of the Plan was published in June 2020.
- 1.3 It provides an update on progress achieved during this period, reflects recent changes to national guidance and looks forward to how we collectively 'reset, recover and relight' through the next stages of the national Roadmap, embedding

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Every Local Authority is required to produce and publish a thematic Local Outbreak Control Plan specific to Covid-19. The aim of the Wolverhampton Outbreak Control Plan is to:
 - Reduce the spread of COVID-19 infection and save lives
 - Help as many people as possible return to normal life, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and supports our economy to recover.

Wolverhampton first published its Outbreak Control Plan in June 2020, supported by a governance structure including the creation of a 'Local Outbreak Engagement Board' (LOEB). In Wolverhampton, the LOEB is a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together.
- 2.2 Following the publication of the Government's Roadmap on 22 February 2021, a refresh of the Department of Health and Social Care 'Contain Framework' and an increasing focus on Variants of Concern, Local Authorities were asked to review and update their Local Outbreak Management Plans in March 2021 in order to ensure they remained fit for purpose as well as aiding national understanding.
- 2.3 Plan themes remain:
 - Care homes and educational settings
 - Higher-risk settings, communities and locations
 - Community testing
 - Contact tracing
 - Data integration and information sharing
 - Vulnerable communities
 - Governance and local boards
 - Communications and engagement, including community resilience
 - Resourcing
- 2.4 In addition, refreshed plans were also asked to include information specific to:
 - Support for self-isolation

- Surveillance
- Responding to Variants of Concern
- Action on enduring transmission
- Interface with vaccines roll out
- Activities to enable 'living with Covid-19'

2.6 The refreshed Local Outbreak Control Plan has also been aligned to the Relighting our City Strategy and is a key document in supporting the city as it moves towards the next phase of living with Covid-19.

2.7 The timeline for completion of the document was rapid with Local Authorities provided with an initial two weeks to update Outbreak Control Plans including identifying good practise, issues, risks and opportunities. Draft versions were shared with the designated Senior Regional Coordinator West Midlands in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). On 24th March the final draft was then submitted to DHSC Regional Partnership Teams for review in association with Regional Assurance Working Groups. Following this, issues, risks and opportunities at a national level were escalated from Regional Assurance Working Groups to the National Assurance Working Group and other interested forums by 02 April 2021.

2.8 The refreshed Outbreak Control Plan was presented by the Director of Public Health to Health and Wellbeing Together on 22 April 2021.

3.0 Monitoring and oversight

3.1 The Outbreak Control Plan is a partnership Plan, and as such it is co-signed by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Public Health, the Interim Chair, Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, the Chief Executive, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Chief Superintendent, West Midlands Police. This partnership approach was recognised as a strength by the DHSC assurance process.

3.2 Pages 10 and 11 of the document highlight how a shared response underpins the Plan. Throughout, reference to Community Champions, faith and community groups and the wider voluntary sector, illustrate that the success of the Plan in ensuring no-one is left behind rests on a city response built on trust and cooperation.

3.3 The Plan is thematically structured. Each theme references what has been achieved since the publication of the first iteration of the Plan in June 2020 and then identifies future activity. A governance structure is presented on page 12 of the Plan. Responsibility for delivering the future activity outlined in the Plan will sit with a range of different boards and groups within the governance structure.

3.4 The Wolverhampton Covid-19 multi-agency Strategic Co-ordination Group will continue to provide leadership on the approach to tackle the impact Covid-19 has on the city.

- 3.5 Local and system governance arrangements for the Outbreak Control Plan will be kept under review as we progress through the different stages of the Roadmap, with oversight provided by the Local Outbreak Engagement Board at bi-monthly public meetings, a sub-board of Health and Wellbeing Together.
- 3.6 Aligned to the this the Wolverhampton Covid-19 Outbreak Control Planning Group, chaired by the Director of Public Health, has refreshed the programme management approach to monitoring and oversight of the Plan to ensure it is robust going forward. This includes capturing issues, risks and progress monitoring arrangements.

4.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 4.1 Is there anything Councillors could do to support the ongoing work to increase the uptake of Covid-19 vaccine across the whole city and within in all communities to help us to continue to protect the most vulnerable and get the city back on its feet?

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 Government have announced a number of one-off grants to support local authorities in their response to the pandemic. This includes allocations from the Outbreak Control - Test and Trace grant and the Contained Outbreak Management Fund which are ring-fenced public health grants and have to be spent in line with the conditions of grant. In 2020-2021 the Council received a total of £9.3 million from these two grants. The Government have announced the extension of the Contained Outbreak Management Fund into 2021-2022 totalling £400 million, Wolverhampton's allocation is £2.2 million, this grant continues to be subject to grant conditions and the submission of monitoring returns. The Contained Outbreak Management Fund will be used to support the activities outlined in the plan for 2021-2022.

[LD/29062021/H]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 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.

[TC/30062021/A]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 One of the most stark features of the pandemic so far has been the impact that Covid-19 has had on particular communities and groups, including people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, people living in more deprived areas, those working in

higher risk occupations, people living in overcrowded conditions and / or who have relevant, pre-existing health conditions.

- 6.2 The Outbreak Control Plan seeks to highlight inequalities exposed or amplified as a result of Covid-19 so that we might better target support to these communities and ensure no-one in our city is left behind.

8.1 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications of the report.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 9.1 The aim of the Outbreak Control Plan is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infection and save lives and help as many people as possible return to normal life, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and supports our economy to recover.
- 9.2 Health and wellbeing implications of Local Outbreak Plan are kept under review through established reporting lines.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no direct Human resource implications of the report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no direct Corporate landlord implications of the report.

12.0 Covid Implications

- 12.1 The Covid implications of this report are detailed in the main body of the report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

- 13.1 The 2021 refreshed Outbreak Control Plan should be read in conjunction with the first Outbreak Control Plan published in June 2020:
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-06/Wolverhampton%20COVID-19%20Outbreak%20Control%20Plan%20v2.0.pdf>

14.0 Appendices

- 14.1 Appendix 1: Wolverhampton Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan - Our Journey So Far: Living with Covid-19, March 2021: <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information/covid-19-outbreak-control-plan>