

Outbreak Management Advisory Board and the Outbreak Control Plan

Summary

1. All local authorities with responsibilities for public health were required to develop and publish Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plans by 30th June 2020 to ensure local delivery of the NHS Test and Trace Service and an effective local outbreak response. This work to be led by the Director of Public Health as part of their statutory role.
2. Local authorities are also required to establish new member led Outbreak Management Boards with a key role around ensuring advocacy for local residents in the city's outbreak response and effective communication and engagement with residents, businesses etc.
3. In York we have established an Outbreak Management Advisory Board (OMAB), chaired by the leader of the Council with a variety of other partners represented.
4. OMAB met for the first time on 22nd June and for a second time on 13th July 2020. It will now meet monthly, unless there is a need to meet more frequently.
5. An initial draft Outbreak Control Plan was shared with key stakeholders in June for comment. The final plan was approved by the Outbreak Management Advisory Board on 13th July 2020. The Plan is attached at **Annex A** to this report and includes the Terms of Reference for the Outbreak Management Advisory Board.

Background

6. A new (novel) coronavirus which came to be named SARS-CoV-2 was first identified in late 2019. This virus appeared to cause a respiratory type illness of varying levels of severity now known as Covid-19. Over the last six months the virus has spread to cause a global pandemic, including in the UK.
7. The first pandemic wave in the UK occurred in March peaking in April. Since then the number of cases, hospital admissions and deaths from Covid-19 have all fallen steadily. It is anticipated that further pandemic waves will follow, therefore there is an urgent need to minimise and manage the spread of infection so the people of York feel safe to return to work, school and public places and restart the economy.
8. Achieving these objectives requires a co-ordinated effort from local and national government, the NHS, GPs, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and the general public.
9. Our local Outbreak Control Plan sets out our planning and response centred on seven key themes as set out in the Department of health and Social Care guidance. More details against each of the themes are set out in the Plan.
 - a. Care homes and educational settings, including early years, schools, colleges and universities.
 - b. High risk places, locations and communities.
 - c. Local testing capacity.
 - d. Contact tracing in complex settings.
 - e. Data integration.
 - f. Supporting vulnerable people to get help to self-isolate.
 - g. Local Boards and governance structures.
10. Because disease does not contain itself within local authority boundaries, as far as possible the York Outbreak Control Plan is aligned with the North Yorkshire plan to facilitate joint working and ensure a single point of escalation via the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum. There are also established mechanisms in place to ensure cross border working with other local authorities in the region as necessary, for example in a situation where a person works, or attends a school in York but lives in another area.

Consultation

11. The draft plan was shared for comment and feedback internally within the Council, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and key partners through the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum.
12. The plan is intended to be a live document and will evolve as national guidance changes and as a result of learning from our local outbreak response and the learning from other areas such as the local lockdown in Leicester.
13. Initial engagement with residents has taken place through “Our Big Conversation”. So far there have been over 500 responses. The key issues arising from the Covid-19 related health questions are summarised below:
 - a. 98% confident they know the symptoms (82% extremely or very confident)
 - b. 98% confident they know what to do if they have symptoms (86% very or extremely confident)
 - c. 95% confident of social distancing guidance (81% very or extremely)
 - d. There is less confidence in who and how many to socialise with, rules around returning to work and journeys you should make. We will look at what we can do to address these.
 - e. There is low confidence others will stick to rules
 - f. More people understand our advice than the governments
 - g. Slight challenge re shops and public transport which we can look to address.
 - h. Lower confidence re how safe York will be when visitors from UK or abroad come. Will need addressing.
 - i. 95% feel informed of what they can do to stop the spread of the virus (75% extremely or very).
14. The feedback from residents will be used to inform our communications and engagement plan which will be regularly evaluated and updated.

Options

15. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to receive and note the Outbreak Control Plan and the establishment of the Outbreak Management Advisory Board.

16. All agencies represented at the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to commit to working together to implement the plan.

Analysis

17. Failure to produce and publish a local Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan would mean that the council was not meeting a mandatory requirement but most importantly, not having an outbreak control plan would put the people living and working in the city at risk of infection, put lives at risk and harm the recovery of York.

Council Plan

18. The York Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan relates to the Council's Plan 2019-23 by ensuring good health and wellbeing.

Implications

19. The following implications have been taken into consideration.

- **Financial**

The Minister of State for the Department of Health and Social Care allocated a ring-fenced grant of £300m to local authorities on 10 June 2020. The amount of grant received was decided upon using the 20/21 Public Health Grant allocations as a basis for proportionately distributing the funding. City of York Council received £733,896 to be used to fund the local outbreak response as determined by the Director of Public Health. Initial estimates of how the budget will be spent are set out in the following table. As the pandemic unfolds these figures may be subject to further amendment.

	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Public Health Programme lead for Covid outbreak prevention & response/ test and trace	£43,500	£58,896	£102,386
Specialist Public Health Protection	£47,250	£63,000	£110,250
Environmental Health	£37,500	£50,000	£87,500
Contact tracing	£76,500	£102,00	£178,500
Data analysis/business intelligence	£25,500	£34,000	£59,500
Dedicated communications support and engagement	£12,750	£17,000	£29,750
Infection control measures	£52,500	£68,000	£120,500
Business support	£19,500	£26,000	£45,500
Total	£315,000	£418,896	£733,896

It is unclear at this stage whether further funds will be available in future years. Therefore the activities funded from the grant will need to consider the longer term financial impact and may need to be funded from core Public Health budgets in future. Careful consideration is needed when committing the Council to ongoing costs from a one off funding source.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

Recruitment or redeployment of council staff to support delivery of the local outbreak control plan will be in accordance with corporate human resources policies and procedures.

- **One Planet Council / Equalities**

We know that there are stark inequalities in the burden of risk and outcomes of Covid-19. The Outbreak Control Plan identifies these inequalities and the delivery of the Plan will include measures to mitigate these.

- **Legal**

There is a statutory duty for the Council to prepare an Outbreak Management Plan. The Plan will need to be kept under review and may require amendment to respond to, and remain compliant with, emerging national guidance and legislative changes.

Risk Management

20. The risk to the residents of York from the Covid-19 pandemic is high, the York Outbreak Control Plan sets out the local planning and response which reduces the risk to medium.

Recommendations

21. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to receive and note the Outbreak Control Plan at **Annex A** to this report and the establishment of an Outbreak Management Advisory Board.
22. All agencies represented at the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to commit to working together to implement the plan.

Reason: To assure the Health and Wellbeing Board that the national requirement for producing and publishing a local Outbreak Control Plan has been met.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

Date 21.07.2020

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Outbreak Control Plan