

Health and Wellbeing Board

24 March 2021

Refresh of the local outbreak management plan

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health

Local Councillor(s): Cllr Rebecca Knox, Health and Wellbeing Board Chair

Executive Director: S Crowe, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Sam Crowe
Title: Director of Public Health
Tel: 07775-811932
Email: sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and approve the refresh of the Local Outbreak Management Plan – Living Safely with COVID-19.

Reason for Recommendation:

Refresh of the local outbreak management plan is a national requirement, in line with the updating of the national Contain Strategy. The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board oversees the Local outbreak engagement board, which in turn provides political oversight to the COVID-19 response provided by the Health Protection Board.

1. Executive Summary

All Councils in England became responsible for developing and delivering local outbreak management plans in June 2020. In the intervening 9 months, much has changed, including the national strategy in response to COVID-19, with

publication of the Roadmap on 22 February. The refreshed local outbreak management plan sets out the change in responsibilities of Councils in responding to COVID-19, and protecting the local population. The plan details the work of the Health Protection Board and Local Outbreak Engagement Board during the next phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also shows how the health protection work will continue as we learn to live with COVID-19 as safely as possible, and return to a less restrictive way of life under the stages of the roadmap.

2. Financial Implications

No direct financial implications. The plan sets out at a high level the broad areas that the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and Test and Trace Grant are being invested into, to respond to COVID-19.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

The plan is concerned with ensuring that we keep transmission of COVID-19 as low as possible, to minimise direct impacts on health, including serious illness, and death arising from COVID-19 infection. It also shows how the health protection board's work over the next phase will enable a return to more normal way of life, allowing people and communities and our economies to start the process of recovery.

4. Climate implications

No direct implications for the climate are contained in the report.

5. Other Implications

Direct implications for public health are set out in the local outbreak management plan refresh, not least the necessity to continue to provide a substantial and ongoing response to managing the consequences of COVID-19. In order to do this, we need to work closely with many other sectors, including the voluntary and community organisations that are so important in maintaining the efforts required on public health measures to keep infection rates low.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: HIGH

Residual Risk: MEDIUM

The current risk of a resurgence of COVID-19 resulting in significant impacts including loss of life are currently rated HIGH. This is in view of the severity of the wave over the winter period, and the impacts locally. However, having a strong and refreshed local outbreak management plan, plus the mitigation measures including the progress with local vaccination, reduces this risk with an effective plan to MEDIUM.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

Public Health England have published a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID19, that shows that the impact of COVID-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them.

The report found the largest disparity was by age, with people who were 80 or older seventy times more likely to die than those under 40. Risk of dying among those diagnosed with COVID-19 was also higher in males than females; higher in those living in the more deprived areas than those living in the least deprived; and higher in those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups.

There were also increases in all cause deaths among those born outside the UK and Ireland; those in a range of caring occupations including social care and nursing auxiliaries and assistants; those who drive passengers in road vehicles for a living including taxi and minicab drivers and chauffeurs; those working as security guards and related occupations; and those in care homes.

The specific focus on care homes, other high-risk settings and vulnerable local people within our local outbreak management plans will be key in mitigating these inequalities locally as far as possible.

We draw on this research locally in understanding the measures the local plan will need to take in ensuring we consider the impact of COVID-19 on different groups in our communities. The plan sets out a number of ways that we mitigate unintended consequences, including the Trusted Voices groups, regular engagement with sections of the community who may have different views and needs in relation to COVID-19, and the insights work we collaborate on with Dorset CCG to ensure that the vaccination uptake is as high and equitable as possible.

8. Appendices

None.

9. Background Papers

The refreshed Local Outbreak Management Plan is currently in production, and a working draft is required for regional sign off by 12 March. The draft document will follow this covering report as soon as it has been completed by the Health Protection Board.