

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**SMT – 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD – 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

**TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL OUTBREAK PREVENTION & CONTROL PLAN**

**REPORT OF LIZ NOAKES, DIRECTOR HEALTH, WELLBEING &  
COMMISSIONING (STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR ANDY BURFORD  
HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD CHAIR – CLLR KELLY MIDDLETON**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

**1.1 Introduction**

Local Authority-led outbreak plans have played a key part in the [Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#). As part of a new system working approach, from June 2020, the plans were established to tackle the coronavirus pandemic as part of the [COVID-19 contain framework](#). With local authorities working alongside the newly established [NHS Test and Trace programme](#) and [Joint Biosecurity Centre](#) and Public Health England (PHE).

During the past 9 months [The Telford & Wrekin Local Outbreak Plan](#) implementation has demonstrated that a strong locally-led system has been best placed to prevent and reduce transmission of the coronavirus. The local COVID-19 Health Protection Board and Outbreak Engagement Board have provided governance, professional and political oversight and assurance, and public-facing engagement and communication.

Local Authority Directors of Public Health were asked to coordinate a refresh of their Local Outbreak Management Plans (LOMPs) during March 2021, to incorporate the learning during the pandemic so far. This refresh of the Telford & Wrekin LOMP describes the local journey and approach we have taken and our key achievements. It sets out the arrangements for the next phase of the response, accounting for the associated funding, reflecting local roles, responsibilities and resources. It also presents an opportunity to share good practice and to reflect on developments since the original plan was produced.

## 1.2 Achievements



## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the refreshed Telford & Wrekin Local Outbreak Management Plan March 2021.

### SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council priorities?	
	Yes	<p>Coronavirus has impacted our communities and partners organisations in an unprecedented way. Therefore this plan is a key part of our recovery following the pandemic, and as such it contributes to all the priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• securing the best start in life for children and young people</li> <li>• protect and create jobs as a 'business supporting, business winning council'</li> <li>• improve local people's prospects through education and skills training</li> <li>• keep neighbourhoods safe, clean and well connected</li> <li>• support communities and those most in need and work to give residents access to suitable housing</li> <li>• improving health and wellbeing across Telford and Wrekin</li> <li>• protect and champion our environment, culture and heritage</li> </ul>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	COVID-19 particularly impacts on people in Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME), older people and those who are clinically vulnerable.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	The DHSC expects Local Authorities to publish their refreshed Local Outbreak Management Plans by 31 <sup>st</sup> June 2020.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The Government have allocated £300m to local authorities in England to develop and action their plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area, in the form of a Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant. Telford & Wrekin have received an allocation of £1.162m to support the implementation of this plan. TAS 3/2/2020

<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<p>Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, both Public Health England and the Director of Public Health have responsibility for responding to incidents that present a threat to public health and protecting the community from the spread of infectious diseases. Additionally, the Environmental Health team has duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 with regards to handling an outbreak of a disease. Consequently, Public Health England, the Director of Public Health and the Council's Environmental Health team are required to work together to control local outbreaks, As part of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government required all local authorities (led by their Directors of Public Health) to publish a Local Outbreak Plan by 30 June 2020. There is also a need to keep the Local Outbreak Plan under review to ensure that it still enables the authority, and its partners, to appropriately respond to, and manage, outbreaks. This report is in response to a request from the Department for Health &amp; Social Care for feedback on the LOP process. The contents of this report demonstrate the areas of good practice and the potential risks identified by this authority to be fed back to DHSC. AL 15/03/2021</p>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	<p>Our COVID surveillance and ward profiling intelligence indicates that enduring transmission rates are found in those wards with the highest proportion of people from BAME backgrounds and these wards are often the among those with the highest levels of deprivation in the borough.</p>

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **3. LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

The DHSC have asked for feedback as part of our LOMP refresh, see below for the Telford & Wrekin response on our good practice and risks and issues.

#### **3.1 Good Practice**

- Strong Council-led partnership approach has been crucial in working across teams, and with partners and our communities
- Health Protection Hub leadership and expertise combines public health and public protection functions to directly inform Covid secure, compliance and enforcement activity
- Bespoke case management system with online reporting process means rapid action is taken on situations and outbreaks
- Local enhanced contact tracing and Local Contact Tracing Partnership with NHS Test & Trace / PHE means early identification of cases and situations curbs transmission
- Named Hub officers for high risk places, i.e. care and education settings and workplaces means sound relationships underpin our prevention and control work
- Better than average access to symptomatic and asymptomatic testing has evoked a testing culture in the borough with consistently high testing rates, including advice to seek precautionary testing
- Significant social media reach and engagement through locally branded campaigns, with weekly releases and video case studies
- Strong community support offer since the March 2020, with community support line, hardship payments, community champions model with interfaith council support
- Top performing vaccination programme in the country, Council support to mass vaccination centre at Telford International Centre, system-wide inequalities action plan to reduce vaccine hesitancy and improve uptake
- Telford & Wrekin Health Protection Hub:
  - The Hub has dedicated capacity and expertise, in addition 50 local authority staff have been trained to cope with surge phases. This was operationalised, for example, in Jan/Feb 21 during the period of peak of infection rates i.e. 596 per 100,000 - 1,072 cases in a week.
  - Prioritisation framework for periods of high infection rates: the hub prioritises cases for contact tracing according to vulnerability e.g. age and setting e.g. care and education setting. During previous surge periods the Hub has continued to deliver fully on

the Follow Up Fails from NSH Test & Trace as part of the Local Contact Tracing Partnership with PHE/NHS T&T

- Locally-led IMTs: the SDM for Health Protection and Consultant in Public Health regularly chair IMTs to manage situations and outbreaks, e.g. for care and education settings and work places. Support is only requested from PHE if there is a healthcare setting involved or specialist CCDC support is required for complex situations. See above re Hub expertise and surge capacity

### 3.2 Risks

- **Funding** – there is a need to consolidate the various sources of temporary funding (Test & Trace Outbreak fund, COMF & Community Testing funding) to enable local authorities to plan with more certainty and flexibility over the medium to long term
- **Variants of Concern (VOCs)** – dealing with multiple virulent variants will be a challenge but the authority has a Council-wide operational plan to undertake surge testing. There is a need however to ensure this is deployed using a Public Health Risk assessed approach and with sufficient laboratory capacity to undertaking timely sequencing of samples.

### 3.3 Issues

- **Covid Secure Legislation:** Moving out of the pandemic there needs to be legislation that will allow local authorities to deal effectively and promptly with issues such as social distancing. All guidance on Covid secure should, at the very least, be made statutory and the guidance should reflect what is in the legislation to avoid confusion and allow for consistency across the whole country.
- **National testing strategy:** There needs to be a coherent national testing strategy with a clear direction on purpose, scope and levels of testing in different settings, with roles and responsibilities defined
- **LA payment for testing:** payment for delivery i.e. staffing Community Collect is challenging, if testing appetite in the community declines the service will still need to be maintained whereas funding for Community ATS is based on price per test delivered.

**4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

None.

**5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Telford & Wrekin Local Outbreak Prevention & Control Plan – July 2020
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy Refresh proposals - Feb 2020

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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