
To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 27th July 2020

From: Liz Gaulton, Director Public Health and Wellbeing

Title: Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan Update

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on plans for the development of a Local Outbreak Control Plan for Coventry as part of a wider Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire pilot. This will be a key part of next steps for managing COVID-19 locally.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress on local and sub-regional outbreak control planning including the publication of a Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire outbreak plan and a local Coventry implementation plan (appended below).

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The next phase of the response to COVID is critical. To avoid a second peak and to enable the gradual and phased return to a more normal way of life, it is key that we maintain social distancing, measures such as hand washing, that cases are rapidly identified and people take the right steps to self-isolate and that any emerging outbreaks are managed quickly.
- 3.2 Contact tracing and outbreak management will only be effective if case numbers – and the transmission rate – remain at a manageable level. This means that although testing and tracing are very important, social distancing and measures to prevent the spread of Covid are also essential.
- 3.3 The NHS Test and Trace service was launched on 28th May and forms a central part of the Government's coronavirus recovery strategy. Anyone with symptoms of Covid 19 will now be tested and their close contacts will be traced. New guidance states that those who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive must isolate for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms, to avoid unknowingly spreading the virus.
- 3.4 This is part of a wider 'test, trace and isolate approach', which will play a vital part in suppressing the basic reproduction number (R0) of the Covid-19 virus which is key to ensuring the avoidance of a 'second peak' as existing restrictions are removed.

4 Test, Trace and Isolate Approach

- 4.1 Test, trace and isolate includes 4 elements:
- rapid testing at scale to control the virus and stop its spread;
 - an integrated contact tracing service to follow up and advise any contacts of positive cases and support people to self-isolate;
 - using data to identify and target any outbreaks at local level; and
 - using our knowledge of the virus and how it behaves to inform social and economic decision making.
- 4.2 Bringing the public with us is also key. This needs strong communication and engagement at a local level so that people are willing to participate, know what steps they can take and understand why certain measures are being introduced and comply with these.
- 4.3 In order to be successful, this 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.
- 4.4 Nationally it has been recognised that local government and wider health and care systems play a central role in the identification and management of infection within local authority areas and that the local solution needs to be in place to a) deal with very complex or high risk issues that need local knowledge & connections b) to create a simple system to communicate with the public what they need to do and to make sure that the national programmes 'stick' on the ground.
- 4.5 The Department of Health and Social Care has announced funding from a new ring-fenced funding package of £300 million to local authorities in England, to enable local authorities to work with local NHS and other stakeholders to develop tailored outbreak control plans. Coventry has been given an allocation of £204,100. This will be used to increase capacity and capability in order to manage outbreaks, provide preventative training, and analyse data
- 4.6 Local Directors of Public Health are responsible for building on existing health protection plans to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks and protect the public's health, working through Covid-19 Health Protection Boards and with Public Health England's local health protection teams; supported by, and work in collaboration with, NHS Gold command emergency planning forums and a public-facing Board led by council members to communicate with the public.
- 4.7 Eleven Local Authorities areas have been selected as Beacons to work with national leaders to rapidly develop and test outbreak control plans at a local level; identify common themes, and share best practice; as well as innovating to develop faster approaches to testing and tracing and identifying opportunities to scale the programme rapidly. Warwickshire has been selected as the lead authority for a pilot with Solihull and Coventry, which will also work with the NHS, Public Health England and the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 4.8 At regional level, the local outbreak control plans will need to connect into wider national and regional emergency response arrangements led by the Local Resilience Forum Strategic Command Group.

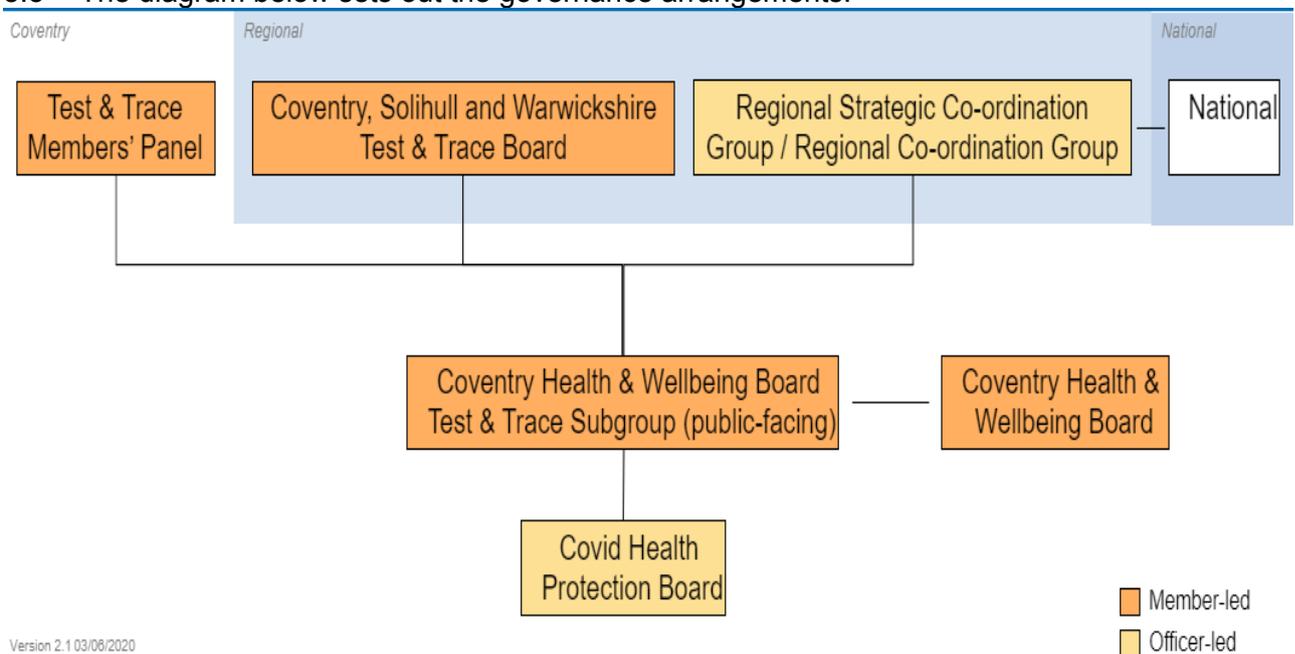
5 Coventry Arrangements

- 5.1 Coventry has established a Covid-19 Health Protection Board, the first meeting of which took place on 16th June 2020. This board is developing & overseeing the delivery of Coventry's Local Implementation Plan, led by the Director of Public Health. This is a multi-

agency group and will include representation from the CCG, PHE, Environmental Health, Social care, Education & schools, Enforcement, Communications and WM Police.

- 5.2 The Covid-19 Health Protection Board will report at regular interval to the public facing Health and Wellbeing Board Test & Trace subgroup. The purpose of the Test and Trace Sub Group is to provide oversight of the Coventry Test and Trace programme, provide local ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak responses to Covid-19 in Coventry.
- 5.3 A shadow CSW Leaders' Group brings together senior executive and political leadership from across Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull to provide senior leadership across the CSW sub-region.
- 5.4 A Coventry Member's Panel has been established providing political leadership and maintaining a Council strategic oversight of the implementation and operation of Covid-19 Test and Trace in the City.

5.5 The diagram below sets out the governance arrangements:



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Document Location: <https://coventrycc.sharepoint.com/teams/People/PublicHealth/PublicHealth/Health%20Protection/Coronavirus/Test%20%20Trace/COVID-19%20Test%20and%20Trace%20Governance%20Framework.pptx?web=1>

6 Local Coventry Implementation Plan

- 6.1 The Local Coventry Implementation Plan was developed by the COVID-19 Health Protection Board and published, alongside the wider Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire plan in June.
- 6.2 The both plans include the following priority areas:-
 - **Community Engagement to build trust and participation-** Working with our communities and voluntary sector partners to ensure messaging around testing, tracing and outbreak management are understood and that all residents are engaging with programme
 - **Care homes and schools** - Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response).

- **High risk places, locations and communities** - Identifying and planning how to manage high-risk places, locations and communities of interest (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies).
- **Track cases at local level to spot any trends by time, place or location** - Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment, examples may include NHS, pop-up etc).
- **Contact tracing in complex settings** - Assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities, developing assumptions to estimate demand and options to scale capacity).
- **Data integration** - Integrating national and local data and scenario planning as this is developed by the national Joint Biosecurity Centre (e.g., data management planning, including data security, NHS data linkages). Data will be shared with local authorities through the Joint Biosecurity Centre to inform local outbreak planning, so teams understand how the virus is moving, working with national government where necessary to access the testing and tracing capabilities of the new service.
- **Vulnerable people** - Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups etc) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities. Local communities, organisations and individuals will also be encouraged to follow government guidance and assist those self-isolating in their area who need help. This will include encouraging neighbours to offer support and identifying and working with relevant community groups.
- **Local Boards** - Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member led Board to communicate with the general public.

7 Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire (CSW) Combined Response

- 7.1 A joint team has been established across CSW to identify areas for joint delivery across all three areas. Each area has its own Local Outbreak Control Plan but collaboration is being planned in a number of key areas including:
- Data hub (with Coventry acting as lead authority to co-ordinate data flows both from local system and regional/national PHE feeds) has created live data feeds to support outbreak management and identify raising tides of potential hot spot areas early.
 - Joint outbreak management team being led by Warwickshire.
 - Joint response to resourcing testing, being led by Solihull
 - Mutual aid arrangements between the three authorities for support around testing, infection control and other key resources required to manage outbreaks

Report Author(s):

Name and Job Title:

Valerie de Souza, Public Health Consultant
Valerie.desouza@coventry.gov.uk