

CSW Test and Trace Beacon Programme

Phase Review (Headlines)

October 2020



Coventry Solihull Warwickshire COVID19 Test and Trace Beacon

Overview

Together Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council alongside the West Midlands Combined Authority were selected to help lead the development of the Government's new £300 million Test and Trace Programme by sharing lessons learnt. **Our sub-regional Beacon is one of 11** across the country, announced in May 2020, to help localise planning.

Our work as a Beacon, hand in hand with our existing history of working together as a sub-region, has given us the opportunity to pool our knowledge, resources and ideas to create an **outbreak control response**, consisting of both proactive and reactive activity to prevent spread, that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Sub-regional and local governance arrangements have been established to support our response, bringing together key stakeholders. A CSW Outbreak Control Plan was developed in June 2020, supported by Local Implementation Plans in each of the 3 areas.

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Accomplishments/Benefits

- Collaboration between CSW specialist services (e.g., legal, communications and epidemiology)
- Closer Public Health relationships – DsPH and consultants (e.g., Regional Health Protection Group)
- Bringing together sub-regional Elected Members
- Significant profile raising in and influence over regional and national conversations
- National recognition (e.g., schools toolkit, Let's Do It Campaign; LGA case study; #EverydayHeroes campaign) and learning from early outbreaks (e.g., Coventry Tesco)
- Rapid development of initial outbreak response arrangements, with assurance achieved through joint working
- Mutual aid arrangements, both formal and informal
- Use of military planners across sub-region to support the identification of MTU sites
- Cross border collaboration in relation to cases and outbreaks
- Delivery of beacon products (e.g., CSW Outbreak Control Plan, CSW microsite, including public facing dashboard)
- Sharing and re-purposing of materials to save times and capacity (e.g., Let's Do It Campaign, National Contain Framework legal powers document)
- Joint commissioning where logical (e.g., community testing service and case management system in Coventry and Warwickshire)
- Transparency around data

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Position Statement

Since the establishment of the Beacon in May 2020, the landscape has changed:

- We are in a different position in relation to the pandemic, which is placing significant pressure on our resources
- Regional structures have evolved to support outbreak control responses
- Further government regulations and guidelines have been/are due to be introduced (e.g., tier system)
- Our test and trace outbreak control response across the sub-region has moved from design into implementation

Beacon arrangements have been reviewed in light of the above, marking a **move into a second phase of our outbreak control** response across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

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Phase II Proposed Beacon Offer

It is proposed that Beacon activity centres on supporting the delivery of local responses through continued joint working, offering:

- Mutual aid arrangements
- Network for sharing expertise, knowledge and best practice
- Continued shared comms and epidemiology work
- Assurance and confidence in adapting to changes in guidance and/or regulation
- Continued sub-regional voice, supporting engagement on a regional and national level
- Structure and governance for the delivery of the outbreak control response within the sub-region which aligns with regional arrangements
- Opportunities for collaboration, including joint service delivery, between partners as part of local response activity where appropriate
- Further collaboration around devolved contact tracing
- Benefits from DPH leadership of the Regional Test and Trace Sub-Group (Liz Gaulton) and role on the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) Board of Directors (Ruth Tennant)

Sub-regional programme activity will be minimalised to enable resources and capacity to be focused on local preventative and reactive activity.

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Phase II Proposed Beacon Programme Arrangements

Proposed Beacon Programme arrangements:

- Light touch programme management provided as part of Warwickshire's Programme Delivery Manager role
- Sub-regional funding top-sliced budget retained to facilitate the potential, future design and/or delivery of sub-regional products
- Updates/briefings locally led utilising the local, responsive mechanisms in place within each authority. Regional and sub-regional messages to be fed through these local arrangements, replacing the sub-regional Member Briefing and Highlight Report
- Sub-regional governance structures retained, meeting less frequently
- Update of the CSW Outbreak Control Plan, aligning with regional plans and practice
- Continued support for sub-regional products - maintenance of CSW microsite and public facing dashboard – and epidemiology activity

It is proposed to undertake a phase review in early January 2021 to reconsider and realign the beacon approach and funding if required.