



## Health and Wellbeing Board

### **Report title: Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Lewisham

### **Outline and recommendations**

The purpose of this report is to present the Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan to the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Endorse the COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan
- Act as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The NHS test and trace service was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to provide a comprehensive national contact tracing service for COVID-19 in England involving national, regional and local partners.

The service operates through 3 levels of workforce:

- Level 1: National and regional health protection teams
- Level 2: Professional contact tracing staff employed by the NHS who will interview cases and identify contacts, escalating complex issues to Level 1
- Level 3: Call handler staff who will communicate with and provide advice to contacts, escalating difficult issues to Level 2

The role of local public health teams will largely be to support Level 1 of the service i.e. supporting outbreaks in complex settings and providing support to contacts requiring support to self-isolate, although our role in communications and community engagement will be applicable to the roll out of all levels of the service.

- 1.2. In order to clearly articulate and implement the local authority role in contact tracing, upper tier local authorities have been asked to develop local outbreak control plans.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan to the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.2. The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- Endorse the Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan
  - Act as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board

### 3. Background

- 3.1. System partners have been working together to ensure that there has been a consistent

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and effective response to COVID-19. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been 1190 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lewisham residents (up to 9<sup>th</sup> July) and 260 deaths associated with COVID-19 in Lewisham (up to 26h June).

- 3.2. Directors of public health for all upper tier local authorities were asked to establish local COVID-19 outbreak control plans by the end of June 2020 to articulate their role and that of their local systems in further prevention and control of COVID-19 outbreaks alongside national (NHS Test and Trace), regional and local mechanisms for outbreak control.
- 3.3. The local COVID-19 outbreak control plans are required to cover the following seven themes:
  1. Care homes and schools – planning for local outbreaks in these settings
  2. High risk places, locations and communities – identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities
  3. Local testing capacity
  4. Contact tracing in complex settings
  5. Data integration
  6. Vulnerable people – supporting local people to get help to self-isolate
  7. Local boards - establishing governance structures
- 3.4. Eleven areas in England (Newcastle, Cheshire West and Chester, Tameside, Leeds, Norfolk, London (led by Camden), Surrey, Devon with Cornwall, Warwickshire, Middlesbrough, Leicestershire) will be beacon sites for the roll out of contact tracing who will:
  - Rapidly develop and test on outbreak control plans at a local level
  - Identify common themes and share best practice
  - Innovate to develop faster approaches to testing and tracing
  - Identify opportunities to scale the programme rapidly

## **4. Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan**

- 4.1. The Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan sets out the arrangements, processes and actions that will effectively prevent and manage outbreaks of COVID-19 to ensure that Lewisham residents and communities are protected from the impact of COVID-19.
- 4.2. The plan brings together the existing outbreak prevention and management work of national and regional Public Health England (PHE), local authority public health teams, the national NHS test and trace service, Joint Biosecurity Centre and collaboration of wider system partners to form a robust framework for COVID-19 outbreak management in Lewisham.
- 4.3. This plan is a live document and is subject to change in line with the latest developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.4. The governance for the plan will be formed from the following structures and the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board is now due to act as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board with the responsibilities outlined in the table below.
- 4.5. As part of its role as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Board members will hear direct experiences of COVID-19 from a number of community stakeholders including

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the Lewisham BME network and Lewisham Healthwatch.

	Lead	Membership	Purpose	Accountable to
<p><b>Local Outbreak Engagement Board</b></p> <p><b>(Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) with direct reporting to Mayor and Cabinet)</b></p>	Elected Mayor of Lewisham	<p>Health and Wellbeing Board members including LBL Executive Directors of Community Services and Children and Young People, Chair of Lewisham and Greenwich Trust, South London and the Maudsley representative and Lewisham Healthwatch.</p> <p>Other invited representatives as required e.g. police or Lewisham homes.</p>	<p>Political and partner oversight of strategic response</p> <p>Oversee the coordinated, transparent response to local COVID-19 outbreaks (and collaborating across the region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide timely communications to the public</li> <li>• Provide public-facing delivery oversight of Test and Trace programme locally</li> <li>• Act as liaison to Ministers as needed</li> </ul>	Mayor and Cabinet
<b>Local Authority Gold</b>	LBL Chief Executive/ COVID-19 Gold Director	Executive Directors and Council officers	Responsible for implementing the Council's overall Covid19 Outbreak Control Plan management, policy and strategy and achieving its strategic objectives; delivering swift resource deployment; owns the connection with the Joint Biosecurity Centre, Government departments & COBR	Mayor and Cabinet
<b>Covid-19 Health Protection Board</b>	Director of Public Health (DPH)	Multi-agency representation, including Public Health, NHS (incl. CCG, LGT, Primary Care), Environmental Health, Adult Social Care, communications	<p>Provide assurance that there are safe, effective and well-tested plans in place to protect the health of local population during COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide infection control expertise</li> <li>• Lead development and delivery of local plans (DsPH)</li> <li>• Link directly to PHE London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC)</li> </ul>	Local Authority Gold
<b>Public Health Single Point of Contact (SPOC)</b>	Director of Public Health (DPH)	Public Health Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receives notification of outbreak from LCRC, local settings or other sources</li> <li>• Ensuring control measures are implemented as soon as possible</li> <li>• Ongoing support for settings during an outbreak</li> <li>• Answering Covid-19 related enquiries from settings and other Council departments</li> </ul>	COVID-19 Protection Board and Gold

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The Director of Public Health has been named as the single point of contact for receipt of information regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases in complex settings from PHE as part of the contact tracing process. This will be part of a joint agreement between the PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and London Local Authorities for supporting the management of COVID-19 incidents and outbreaks, including those in complex settings that is currently being finalised.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1. Lewisham Council has received an allocation from central government of £2,267,070 to support implementation of local outbreak control plans. Expenditure on activity described in this report will be funded from this grant.

## 6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The legal context for managing outbreaks of communicable disease which present a risk to the health of the public requiring urgent investigation and management sits:
- With Public Health England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
  - With Directors of Public Health under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
  - With Chief Environmental Health Officers under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
  - With NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups to collaborate with Directors of Public Health and Public Health England to take local action (e.g. testing and treating) to assist the management of outbreaks under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
  - With other responders' specific responsibilities to respond to major incidents as part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
  - In the context of COVID-19 there is also the Coronavirus Act 2020 which received royal assent on 25th March 2020.
- 6.2. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.3. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.4. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.5. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster

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good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed at above.

- 6.6. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

- 6.7. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- [The essential guide to the public sector equality duty](#)
- [Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making](#)
- [Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities](#)

The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

- 6.8. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:

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## **7. Equalities implications**

7.1. COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on specific groups including older adults, and those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. Health and Wellbeing Board Members' attention should be drawn to the following reports regarding these inequalities:

- Disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID-19, PHE, 2020 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf))
- Beyond the data: understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups, PHE, 2020 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892376/COVID\\_stakeholder\\_engagement\\_synthesis\\_beyond\\_the\\_data.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf))

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

8.1. There are no significant climate change and environmental implications of this report.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

9.1. There are no significant crime and disorder implications of this report.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

10.1. This plan will provide a framework for action to prevent and mitigate against the negative impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Lewisham residents.

## **11. Background papers**

11.1. Lewisham COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, June 2020 available at: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/coronavirus-covid-19/health/the-lewisham-covid19-outbreak-prevention-and-control-plan>

## **12. Report author and contact**

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