



*Although a formal committee of Brighton & Hove City Council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults and Healthwatch.*

Title:	Local Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan	
Date of Meeting:	28 July 2020	
Report of:	Director of Public Health, BHCC	
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Wards Affected:	All	

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**Executive Summary**

All upper tier local authorities are required to develop outbreak control plans in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Brighton & Hove's plan describes the action underway to help residents, businesses and organisations prevent the spread of Covid-19, to make best use of available data to detect trends and outbreaks as early as possible and ensure there is are robust structures and processes in place to respond to outbreaks. The delivery of the plan is underpinned by effective engagement and communication.

**1. Decisions, recommendations and any options**

1.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board



- 1.2 Note the contents of the Local Outbreak Control Plan published on 30 June 2020 and included in Appendix 1
- 1.3 Agree that the Health and Wellbeing Board will act as the Member Led Board in accordance with the guidance from the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC)
- 1.4 Approve the establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group to oversee the Local Outbreak Control Plan. Draft Terms of Reference for this group are included in Appendix 2

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The national NHS Test and Trace service was launched in May. Test and Trace helps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by supporting people who have symptoms to have a test and following up the close contacts of anyone who tests positive so they too can be assessed and given advice about self-isolating.
- 2.2 As restrictions related to Coronavirus are lifted and the economy opens up the risk of local outbreaks increases. To strengthen the delivery of Test and Trace in local areas all upper tier local authorities were asked to develop Local Outbreak Plans by the end of June 2020.
- 2.3 Any outbreak of an infectious disease requires a coordinated, multi-agency response to ensure that:
  - the cause of the outbreak is investigated
  - control measures are put in place
  - appropriate advice is communicated
  - public health is protected.
- 2.4 The Brighton & Hove Local Outbreak Plan was produced by the local authority in conjunction with Public Health England and health service partners and published on 30 June 2020. It sets out how the Council, local businesses, local communities and other statutory agencies all play their part in managing infection control.
- 2.5 National government funding of £300m is being provided to local authorities in England to support the delivery of the plan. In June it was announced that the allocation for Brighton & Hove City Council will be £1.86m.
- 2.6 The plan will be kept under review to reflect changing circumstances including central government direction and local concerns and priorities.

### **Outline of the Local Outbreak Control Plan**



2.7 The aim of the Brighton & Hove Local Outbreak Control Plan<sup>1</sup> is to protect the public's health by:

- Preventing and containing the spread of Covid-19
- Ensuring a timely, effective and coordinated approach is taken in the event of an outbreak in Brighton & Hove
- Instilling and maintaining trust and confidence by ensuring that the Brighton & Hove residents and stakeholders are engaged and well informed throughout the outbreak

2.8 Given the rapidly changing situation the plan is a live document.

2.9 The plan includes the following themes:

- Care homes and schools:** Delivering the plan will ensure that current systems to prevent and respond to local outbreaks in these settings continue to operate effectively. Detailed guidance is available for schools and will be refreshed regularly in line with new evidence.
- High risk places, settings and communities:** a strategic risk assessment approach will identify the greatest risks faced across the city and enable businesses and other organisations to adopt best practice and protect local residents and visitors. It will also identify where additional attention is required. This workstream builds on the extensive knowledge, experience and practice of the Council's Environmental Health service. Standard Operating Procedures will set out the outbreak response in different settings. Engagement with local communities, including vulnerable communities who are at greater risk from Covid-19, is at the heart of the plan.
- Testing.** The plan will ensure that accessible and responsive testing services are available, particularly in the case of an outbreak situation.
- Contact Tracing.** The plan aligns with the NHS Test and Trace service and established outbreak management processes. Public Health England (PHE) is responsible for co-ordinating outbreak management and the local PHE Health Protection Team will work closely with Brighton & Hove City Council (including Public Health, Environmental Health and other teams as appropriate) and other partners (for example the NHS) to facilitate a timely and proportionate outbreak response.
- Data Integration.** Delivering the plan will ensure the full use is made of the range of information to monitor change including early warning indicators to identify potential outbreaks or increased levels of community transmission that require escalation for an appropriate response.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/local-covid-19-outbreak-plan>

- vi. **Supporting vulnerable people.** Services will need to meet the needs of diverse communities and vulnerable local people will supported to get help to self-isolate. Those that request support will be signposted to details of the local support offer and a helpline number to contact for support. The support is provided through the community hub arrangements which have supported clinically vulnerable residents who were advised not to leave home during the pandemic. Support may include food delivery, medicines or practical support to enable them to self isolate at home.

## Local Governance

- 2.10 Guidance states that plans must include the establishment of a member-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB).
- 2.11 The various national guidance documents state the purpose of the board includes:
- To provide political oversight of local delivery of the Test and Trace service,
  - Provide regular and timely communications to the public
  - Lead the engagement with local communities
  - Be the public face of the local response in the event of an outbreak.
  - Act as liaison to Ministers as needed
- 2.12 The guidance also advises that this can be a new or existing forum such as a Health and Wellbeing Board or Covid-19 Recovery Board.
- 2.13 In Brighton & Hove it is proposed that the overarching delivery of these functions will be delivered by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board will seek to:
- 2.14 Monitor the effectiveness of working arrangements, intervention measures and communications in the city
- Consider resourcing implications to support the plan
  - Review the efficacy of relevant information and data
  - Provide advice to education governing bodies
  - Advise those leading recovery in the city
  - Give specific consideration to the care of vulnerable people and their movement between and management within care settings
- 2.15 In the event of a significant Covid-19 outbreak the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, can advise that a LOEB is

convened. The trigger for convening the Board will depend on the scale and nature of the outbreak.

- 2.16 The draft terms of reference for approval of this Board are outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.17 Another group, the Brighton & Hove Covid-19 Health Protection Board brings together senior professional leads overseeing the delivery of the plan. This group will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The first meeting of the Board will take place on 28 July. Terms of reference are also included in Appendix 2.

### **3. Important considerations and implications**

#### **3.1 Legal**

The Local Outbreak Control Plan is aimed to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 throughout the City and quickly identify and manage outbreaks. The Director of Public Health has a statutory responsibility to improve and protect the health of the population they service under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

#### **3.2 Finance**

The resourcing requirements of the outbreak prevention and control plan are not yet fully determined as they will be contingent on the number and extent of any further outbreaks in Brighton & Hove, and the accompanying control measures required.

The Council has been allocated £1.86m as a “Test and Trace Service Support Grant” which will be used to support these functions. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19. Business case planning is underway to support the delivery of the plan.

#### **3.3 Equalities**

It is well established that Covid-19 has had a disproportional impact on a number of specific groups including those with protected characteristics. In terms of the overall morbidity and mortality, older people, men, some BAME groups and those in certain occupations have higher risk of serious disease and death. Overall the trends in mortality and morbidity from Covid-19 follow an established socio-economic gradient with those worst off most affected.



The outbreak prevention and control plan will be prioritising engagement with those groups who will benefit most from taking action to protect themselves and those around them from further outbreaks of Covi-d19, learning from the initial phase of the outbreak. There is a communication plan which supports the overall outbreak control plan. Regular engagement with residents and a diverse range of stakeholders will enable us to improve messaging and to support these groups more effectively.

Public Heath will continue to review and monitor the data received to ensure that inequalities are recognised and mitigations put in place where possible working with local communities and partners.

### **3.4 Sustainability**

One positive impact of the lockdown has been to improve air quality and encourage cycling and active travel. Temporary measures to close some roads, widen footpaths to encourage social distancing and creating cycle lanes to make cyclists safer will continue to have a positive impact to encourage active travel.

## **Supporting documents and information**

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Local Outbreak Control Plan**

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/local-covid-19-outbreak-plan>

### **Appendix 2**

Draft Terms of Reference for the Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB)



