

## Local Outbreak Engagement Board Paper

### 1. Reference Information

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Paper tracking information	
<b>Title:</b>	COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan Update
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<b>Paper date:</b>	25 September 2020
<b>Version:</b>	1.0
<b>Related papers</b>	Local Outbreak Control Plan

### 2. Executive summary

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The national NHS Test and Trace Service was established in May 2020 in order to control the rate of reproduction of COVID-19 by reducing the spread of the infection. Public Health teams and partners are responsible for the development and delivery of Local Outbreak Control Plans. This plan is designed to clarify how local government works with the national Test and Trace service, so that the whole local system works to contain the virus. In Surrey, delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan commenced at the beginning of July 2020. This report details progress on the plan including key outcomes and milestones to date, challenges and next steps going forward.

### 3. Recommendations

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- To note the report.
- To continue to provide political oversight of local delivery of the Test and Trace Service.
- To continue to lead the engagement with local communities and be the public face of the local response in the event of an outbreak.
- Members to ensure appropriate information on the programme and on COVID-19 in Surrey is cascaded within their own organisations and areas of influence.

### 4. Reason for Recommendations

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- The recommendations reflect the functions of the LOEB as set out in the Terms of Reference.

## 5. Detail

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The following information provides an overview of progress on the delivery of the Test & Trace Programme in Surrey.

### Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

Governance for the T&T Programme has been established - the Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) meet monthly and the Health Protection Operational Group (HPOG) meets fortnightly.

### Local Outbreak Control (LOC) Plan

- **Surrey LOC Plan** - the aim of the [Local Outbreak Control Plan](#) – COVID-19 Test and Trace, is to protect the health of the population of Surrey by: preventing the spread of COVID-19; early identification and proactive management of local outbreaks; co-ordination of capabilities across agencies and stakeholders; and assuring the public and stakeholders that this is being effectively delivered. This is a ‘live’ document which is updated and re-published monthly as part of the regular review process.
- **Escalation Framework** – The Surrey Escalation Framework has been produced by PH and HPOG partners and includes the local COVID-19 arrangements which occur before reaching the national oversight escalation categories as described above. These local COVID-19 arrangements are divided into three categories as follows: Outbreak prevention and containment; Raised local alertness; Raised local concern. Escalation between these local categories is determined by the Public Health team at the daily data surveillance meetings which consider early warning indicators, including number of cases per 100,000 population (7 and 14 day rates); trend including direction and speed of travel; test positivity rates; exceedance reports and contact tracing intelligence.
- **Local Powers** – Under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020, Surrey County Council has the following powers:
  - Regulation 4: Premises Restriction or Closure
  - Regulation 5: Event Prohibition, Restriction or Requirement
  - Regulation 6: Public Outdoor Place Prohibition, Restriction or Requirement

The following people have delegated authority to authorise the use of the powers to issue a Direction: Surrey County Council Director of Public Health (DPH); Surrey County Council Chief Executive; Nominated deputies of the DPH or Chief Executive. A Local Legal Powers Process Guide has been issued, covering the steps required to prepare for and issue a direction under the new regulations for events, premises and outdoor spaces. This includes alignment with the work on the events checklist as well as a process for referring a planned event to Public Health for consideration under the regulations.

- **Local Contact Tracing** – on 10 August 2020 it was announced NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England will extend its partnership with local authorities to reach more people testing positive and their contacts. A regional approach is being taken with regard to this and Public Health is currently

awaiting responses from the National T&T programme on key questions e.g. resourcing, funding.

## Assurance & Readiness

- Test and Trace attended the MHCLG run virtual SE LRF cross-border outbreak exercise on 10 September. Key themes identified and being actioned include: establishing relevant key contacts and relationships; ability to review data across borders; and how to align comms and messaging.
- A process for regular assurance reviews is being looked into.
- Test and Trace was part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Winter Preparedness session run by Emergency Management on 27 August.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) held a virtual SE LRF cross-border outbreak exercise for 10 September.
- A Sector Led Improvement (SLI) meeting was held on 21 August with East Sussex and Bucks, sharing ideas and learning on key areas (prevention, resource allocation, data & intelligence).

## Communications and Public Engagement

- Communications are central to prevention and management of COVID-19. A COVID-19 Communications Plan and Protocol are in place. The Escalation Framework identifies the process for notifications (internal/partner comms) and comms/engagement (with residents) across all stages. Communication team also attend the daily data monitoring meetings held by Public Health.

## Resources and Capacity

- Capacity across the system continues to be reviewed and planned for, covering both outbreak response and prevention work. This includes capacity in key areas such as Public Health, Communications, etc as well as partners. Proposals/options are being developed or under review (e.g. Surrey Environmental Health Managers, Homeless, BAME, etc).

## Data & Intelligence

- Public Health hold daily data surveillance meetings in order to review the COVID-19 data and intelligence on a systematic basis and take prompt action in line with the Escalation Framework (i.e. requesting deployment of mobile testing units). SCC Communications also attend this meeting. Enhancements to the post code level dashboard have been completed are being used in the daily meetings. A [\*\*COVID-19 Intelligence Report for Surrey\*\*](#), summarising data that is in the public domain, is now being published every Monday.

## 6. Challenges

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The following areas have been identified as key challenges:

- There is a potential for multiple and /or complex outbreaks (e.g. a community outbreak). The management and response to these will require significant capacity/resource in key areas of the system.
- There is an issue that the demand for testing is now exceeding national lab capacity (pillar 2). The impact of this is that the daily data received by local

authorities and will not reflect the true picture and extent of COVID in the community. This could lead to a lack timely testing and undetected outbreaks.

- There are significant uncertainties about future disease activity. There is the potential for an overwhelming increase in the autumn / winter period e.g. a second wave, winter flu, etc.
- The Test & Trace government grant received by SCC was formulated based on the annual PH grant basis, for which Surrey receives the second lowest per population head in the country. Expenditure to cover local outbreak requirements will therefore require careful planning.

## 7. Timescale and delivery plan

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- Delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan is ongoing and will be required throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 8. How is this being communicated?

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- The communications strategy to support the LOC Plan is led by Surrey County Council Communications and Engagement Department in conjunction with system partners in the MIG (Local Resilience Forum Multi Information Group).
- A plan for ongoing communications for all Surrey residents, as well as focused communications during outbreaks, is in place. In addition, the process for notifying partners as per the Escalation Framework (internal/external) is outlined in the Communications Plan/Protocol.
- Please refer to the *Local Outbreak Control Communications Plan Update* paper for further details on communications.

## 9. Next steps

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Next steps include:

### LOC Plan

- Continue to review and update LOC Plan monthly.
- Continue to drive delivery of LOC Plan through HPOG.
- Complete outstanding work on any local protocols that support the high-risk settings in the Plan.
- Continue winter planning with LRF partners.  
Continue to monitor risks and implement mitigating actions.

### Local Powers

- Document learning after each procedure and incorporate into SOP for future use.

### Resources & Capacity

- Finalise the additional known capacity requirements and proposals, and the associated budget.
- Continue to monitor the capacity and budget as the external environment changes e.g. changing COVID situation, national policy changes, etc.