

Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan Update
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Related papers	Surrey Local Outbreak Control Plan

2. Executive summary

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 Plan. 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

- To note the report.
- To continue to provide political oversight of local delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- To continue to lead the engagement with local communities and be the public face of the local response.
- 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

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

5. Detail

National Easing of Restrictions in England

On 22 February 2021 the Government published a four-step plan setting out the roadmap for easing restrictions and exiting England's third national lockdown - [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021](#). On 29 March 2021 the 'Stay at Home' rule ended in England and now up to 6 people or 2 households can meet outside. On 31 March 2021 shielding for those in the clinically extremely vulnerable group ended.

On 12 April 2021 it is anticipated that we will move to step 2 of the roadmap, when non-essential retail, personal care services, public buildings, most outdoor attractions, self-contained accommodation, and hospitality venues for service outdoors only, will re-open. The current COVID-19 restrictions are available [here](#).

Local Outbreak Control Plan

On 18 March 2021, the [COVID-19 Contain Framework- a guide for local decision makers](#) was updated and all local authorities were asked to update Local Outbreak Control Plans. Surrey's plan has been updated to reflect the new roadmap for easing lifting restrictions, the contain framework, and recent operational developments. The latest plan was re-published on 30 March 2021 and is available [here](#). Developments and progress on delivery across key workstreams is outlined below:

Contact Tracing update

Since the successful participation in the National Hot Spot Pilot, Surrey has been completing all of the contact tracing for cases since 15 March. Between the 15 and 26 March 94.76% of cases were completed. This compares with 89.02% of cases that were being completed in Surrey by the national and local contact tracing teams before the pilot started. These early results show a 5.73% increase in the number of cases completed when all contact tracing of cases is completed by Surrey.

The local service is developing face to face contact tracing by Environmental Health teams in the near future. This will enable the service to contact those people we are unable to reach by phone.

Testing update

Full details on COVID testing in Surrey are available [here](#).

Symptomatic testing

A range of testing for symptomatic individuals continues to be accessible including regional drive-through test sites in Guildford, Chessington, Gatwick, Heathrow and Twickenham and local test sites in areas of greater population density offering cycle/walk-in testing.

Children's care homes can bulk order 10 PCR kits every 21 days to be used on staff and residents when symptomatic in case they cannot access a PCR test through the online portal or 119.

GPs can also order stocks of PCR tests for testing symptomatic patients. GPs can use their discretion to offer the swabs where they deem it to be clinically appropriate in order to streamline patient care and/or increase improve access to testing for patients who would otherwise be unlikely to get a test via the primary testing routes. This might be due to barriers around language, distance, disability, or digital inclusion. These PCR testing kits are also available to symptomatic general practice staff and their symptomatic household members.

Targeted Community Testing (Asymptomatic Testing)

Local authority led targeted community testing using lateral flow devices (LFDs) is currently available on site to anyone aged over 16 who lives or works in Surrey. There are currently four larger asymptomatic test sites in Spelthorne, Epsom & Ewell, Woking and Redhill and an additional 25 pharmacies across the county offering this testing. The Surrey Testing Cell is exploring the setup of further local authority led testing sites and collection of self-test LFD kits, and a mobile testing solution to increase access to testing for hard to reach and vulnerable population groups.

Individuals aged over 18 in the same household, childcare bubble or support bubble as a pupil, student or staff member of a school, nursery or college and in occupations related to schools, nurseries or colleges can collect self-test LFD kits from selected NHS Test & Trace test sites or order self-test LFD kits to be delivered to their home. As lockdown and relevant national restrictions are eased, collection of self-test LFD kits will expand to focus on other groups of people, in accordance with the timetable set out in the national roadmap.

There are multiple nationally led asymptomatic testing streams that provide LFD regular testing in various settings, such as educational settings, care settings, and NHS settings with testing kits provided by NHS Test & Trace directly to these settings. As of 30 March 2021, the government has reintroduced [PCR testing](#) for positive LFD test results in England to confirm the result of the rapid LFD tests.

Surge Testing

The Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) has completed surge testing, also known as localised testing, in two areas of Woking and Egham in Runnymede. These have been surveillance exercises in response to notification that a different variant of COVID-19 which originated in South Africa had been identified from positive tests case in these areas.

Vaccination Programme Roll-out

Surrey Heartlands Vaccination Programme

Surrey Heartlands now has a total of 16 local vaccination sites, one vaccination centre at Epsom racecourse, and 11 community pharmacies across the geography and three Hospital Hubs. In addition to 'fixed' sites, local Primary Care and Community based colleagues have also been visiting care homes and those who are housebound to ensure they receive their vaccination.

In total and to date 519,068 vaccinations have been delivered to the residents of Surrey including Health and Social Care Workers. Delivery of vaccinations has been done in accordance with The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority cohorts and Surrey Heartlands is on track to have offered all those in JCVI cohorts 1 - 9. These cohorts are:- all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers; frontline health and social care workers; residential care workers; all those over the age of 80+, 75 to 79, 70 to 74, 65 to 69, 60 to 64, 55 to 59, 50 to 54 years of age and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals. Planning is now underway to vaccinate cohorts 10 (people who are 40 to 49 years of age). NHS England (NHSE) will confirm the date when vaccinations will commence for cohort 10.

Detail on daily and weekly uptake of vaccinations can be found [here](#).

Community (COVID) Champions

The Community (COVID) Champions programme has continued to develop with Public Health successfully engaging eight out of eleven boroughs and districts. The role of Community COVID Champions is to share information on COVID provided by Public Health among their local communities. Recent progress includes:

- 25 March 2021 was the busiest day yet for the programme, with four online meetings in one day at Reigate & Banstead, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath and a launch at Runnymede. This means six districts and boroughs are now holding regular, well-attended online meetings with excellent engagement from across the community. Mole Valley are next to launch an online meeting on 28 April 2021 with presentations from their Chief Executive and the CCG
- Nine of the districts and boroughs now receive the weekly e-briefing and work is underway to engage the last remaining two, Tandridge and Woking, as well as to support Waverley and Guildford in launching fully. The briefing covers local/ national data and guidance, testing and vaccinations, reducing health inequalities, and COVID-related public health topics
- Contain Outbreak Management Funds (COMF) funds have been secured to extend the programme across communities working with voluntary sector organisations, with a view to further increasing the diversity of Champions across ethnicity, culture, faith, age, etc to strengthen the programme's ability to address health inequalities
- External stakeholder engagement is going well, with the programme now connected into both Surrey Heartlands CCG and Frimley ICG communications teams, plus the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's national Community Champions workstream

Minority Ethnic and Faith Communities – COVID-19 Vaccinations

Consistent with national trends, the Black African communities in Surrey have expressed the lowest vaccine confidence and subsequent vaccination uptake. Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities are also less confident and have lower uptake in comparison to the white population. The findings of the BAME Rapid Needs Assessment highlighted the importance of and mechanisms for ongoing engagement and building trust, this has informed the work of the Equality

and Inclusion Group for the vaccination programme. Working with SMEF, BAME forums and community leaders, Faith Leaders and the GRT community has enabled an understanding of the challenges to convenience of access to, and confidence in the vaccination. These challenges have been reviewed using a behavioural insights framework and co-production model which has informed key initiatives to support increase in uptake. These initiatives have included roving outreach delivery models, co-designed training and community led myth busting communications.

Enforcement update - provided by Surrey Police:

Operation Apollo

Surrey Police's continued response to the Coronavirus Pandemic



Operation Apollo is the name given to Surrey Police's co-ordinated response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The dedicated Operation Apollo daily Covid police resources which commenced in November 2020, continue to operate using the 4E's policing approach; in order to prevent the further spread of Covid-19.

- Engaging with the public,
- Explaining the rules that the government has put in place and what they mean for the public,
- Encouraging the public to follow the rules and then
- Enforcing the rules by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) when and where the public have then subsequently not complied.

When events are expected to see higher levels of breaching (including the Easter weekend); additional resources have been put in place, to be able to deal with these and deter any further breaches.

The dedicated resource has consisted of 1 Police Sergeant and 6 Police Officers working a daily 8 hour late turn shift, dealing with actionable grade 3 (non-urgent) calls coming into the force along with border force referrals, which is where border force have not been able to confirm travellers into the country are isolating and the Police are required to attend and ensure compliance with the regulations.

The units also conduct regular patrols checking in with the vaccination centres and via high visibility foot and vehicle patrols in areas identified as hotspots. These are locations popular within the communities for groups and as a result likely to be

subject to Covid breaches. They include skate parks, beauty spots, shops and public houses. These are completed to provide reassurance within communities and support businesses, encouraging compliance and dealing with any non-compliance issues.

Over the Easter period, an additional 2 Police Officers per division will be working a daily 8 hour earlier shift; covering the four days which equates to an additional 22 Police Officers per day.

Surrey Police were initially issued with a Surge Fund of £388,264 by the Home Office to help fund the additional work required to enforce Covid Regulations when the second lockdown was brought in. With the Governments extension of the ability to enforce regulations until September 2021; an additional £750,644 has been provided to Surrey Police to ensure the continued enforcement of any that are in place.

Enforcement in Numbers

Since the beginning of Operation Apollo, One £10,000 FPN was issued in January for a large party for a wedding within the Reigate and Banstead borough, which was in breach of the rules.

There have been three summons of further £10,000 FPNs;

- One for organising a funeral for more than 30 people in Staines during November.
- One for holding/participating in a gathering of more than 30 people in a private dwelling in Cobham during December.
- One for organising a funeral for more than 30 people in Epsom during February.

A total of 13,313 Covid-related incidents have been reported into Surrey Police since 20th March with 3,106 of the incidents being reported during the recent lockdown since 4th January.

1,542 FPNs have been given since 23rd March 2020. 1,016 FPNs have been issued since the start of the most recent lockdown from 4th January (52 were in the last 7 days), for each of the following offences:

Offence Heading	Number
During self-isolation period leave / be outside of place where self-isolating (International travel)	1
International Travel - During self-isolation period in England leave / be outside of place	1
Self-Isolation - Following positive coronavirus test fail to comply with self-isolation requirements	3
Self-Isolation - Worker fail to notify employer of requirement to self-isolate	1
Tier 4 Offence - Fail to cease carrying on business / service not permitted to be open in Tier 4 area	2
Tier 4 Offence - Fail to close restricted business / service in Tier 4 area providing food / drink f	1
Tier 4 Offence - Participate in gathering of more than two people in public outdoor place in Tier 4	93
Tier 4 Offence - Participate in gathering of two or more people in other outdoor place in Tier 4 area	41
Tier 4 Offence - Participate in gathering of two or more people in private dwelling / indoors in Tier	301
Tier 4 Offence - Person living in Tier 4 area, leave / were outside of place where living, without reason	450
Tier 4 Offence - Person from Tier 4 area participate in gathering of two or more people in other public place	26
Tier 4 Offence - Person living in Tier 4 area participate in indoor gathering of two or more people	33
Tier 4 Offence - Person living in Tier 4 area participate in gathering of more than two people in public place	8
Tier Offence - Obstruct person carrying out a function under the coronavirus regulations	4
Tier Offence - Contravene a direction/ fail to comply with a requirement given by relevant person	30
Tier Offence - Fail to comply with reasonable instruction/prohibition notice given by a relevant person	6
Face Coverings - Enter/remain in relevant place in England without wearing a face covering	6
Face Coverings - Being responsible for child contravened direction given to wear face covering	3
Self-Isolation - Contravene requirement given by relevant person under self-isolation regulations	2
Self-Isolation - Person come into contact with other person/group during period of self-isolation	2
International Travel - Person arriving in England from non-exempt country or territory fail to self-isolate	2
Total	1,016

Adult Social Care (ASC) update - provided by the Deputy Director – Adult Social Care (SCC):

Care Homes

Across a combination of SCC goodwill grants, Infection Control Fund rounds 1 and 2, and the Rapid Testing Fund in 2020/2021 care homes in Surrey have received over £32m of additional funding from the Council to support them with additional costs and financial pressures incurred during the pandemic.

The government has recently announced there will be an Infection Control Fund round 3 which will provide further financial support in 2021/2022. We are currently awaiting guidance from the DHSC on the rules but we understand this will cover the period April 2021 to June 2021.

If people have returned home to self-isolate with their families (e.g. people with LD) then ASC has continued to pay the care home at the normal fee to retain the placement for the individual and support the care provider financially.

The majority of SCC placements in care homes will also benefit from a 2% fee uplift from 1st April subject to the rules about how it is being applied.

ASC alongside public health and NHS colleagues continues to provide targeted follow up support through the work of the Quality Assurance team and IPC nurses where there may be concerns for example around vaccination uptake, staffing, outbreaks, or other service delivery matters.

Overall the position is improving within care home settings, data regarding care homes for the week ending 26 March is set out below.

- Care Home Infection Rate for residents is currently 1%
- Covid Immunisation in Care Homes – 93% of residents immunised with first dose
- Flu Immunisation in Care Homes – 85% of residents immunised

Winter Pressures

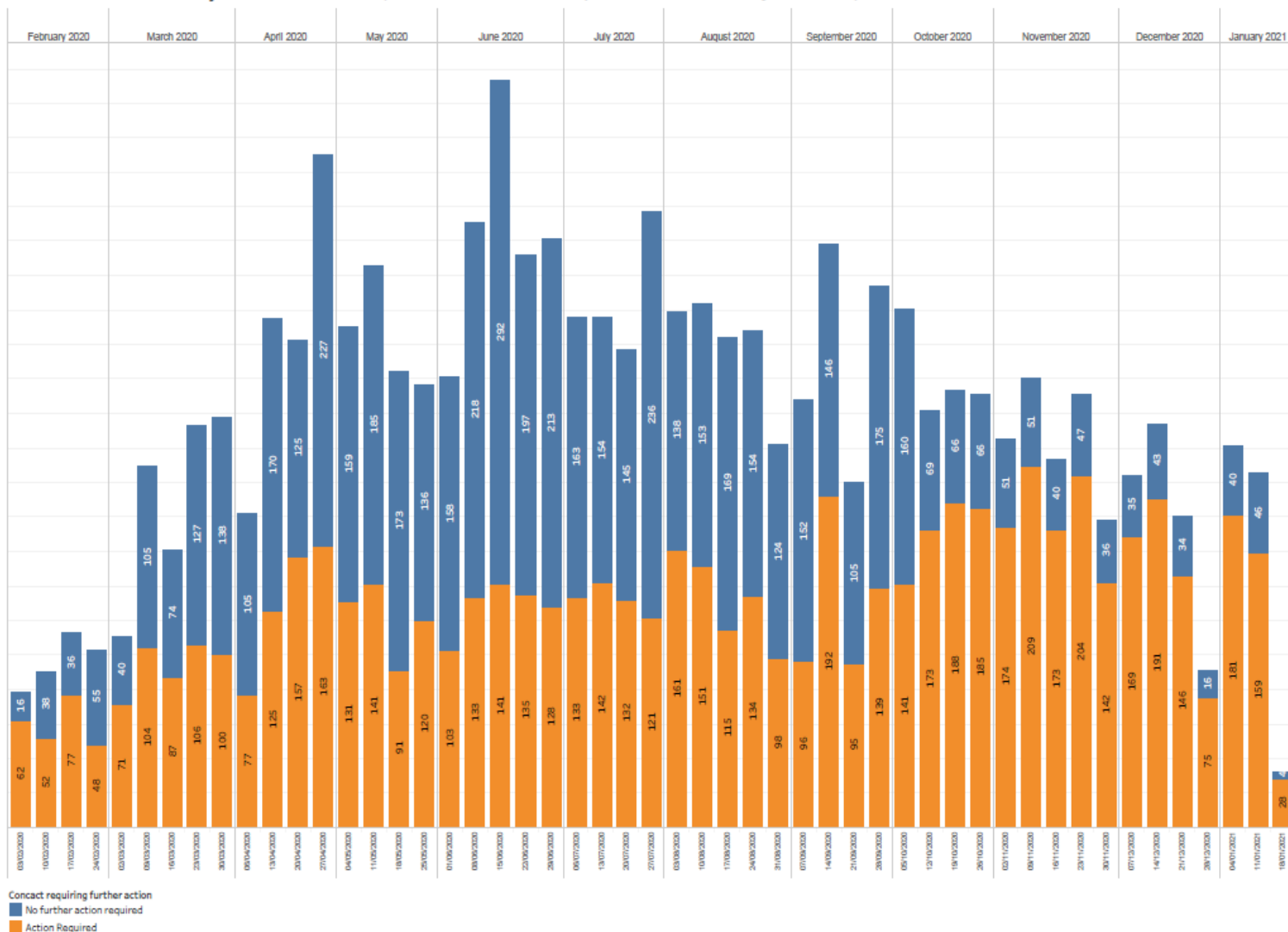
ASC continues to monitor the potential impacts of seasonal pressures although this year the demands have mainly been as a result of the pandemic. ASC has been supporting the NHS both at a system and local level, teams continue to work with NHS colleagues to support the flow out of Surrey hospitals. Members of the Adults Leadership Team are actively working to support the system in a rapidly changing and demanding environment with a current focus supporting the NHS over the Easter period and with recovery work.

Mental Health

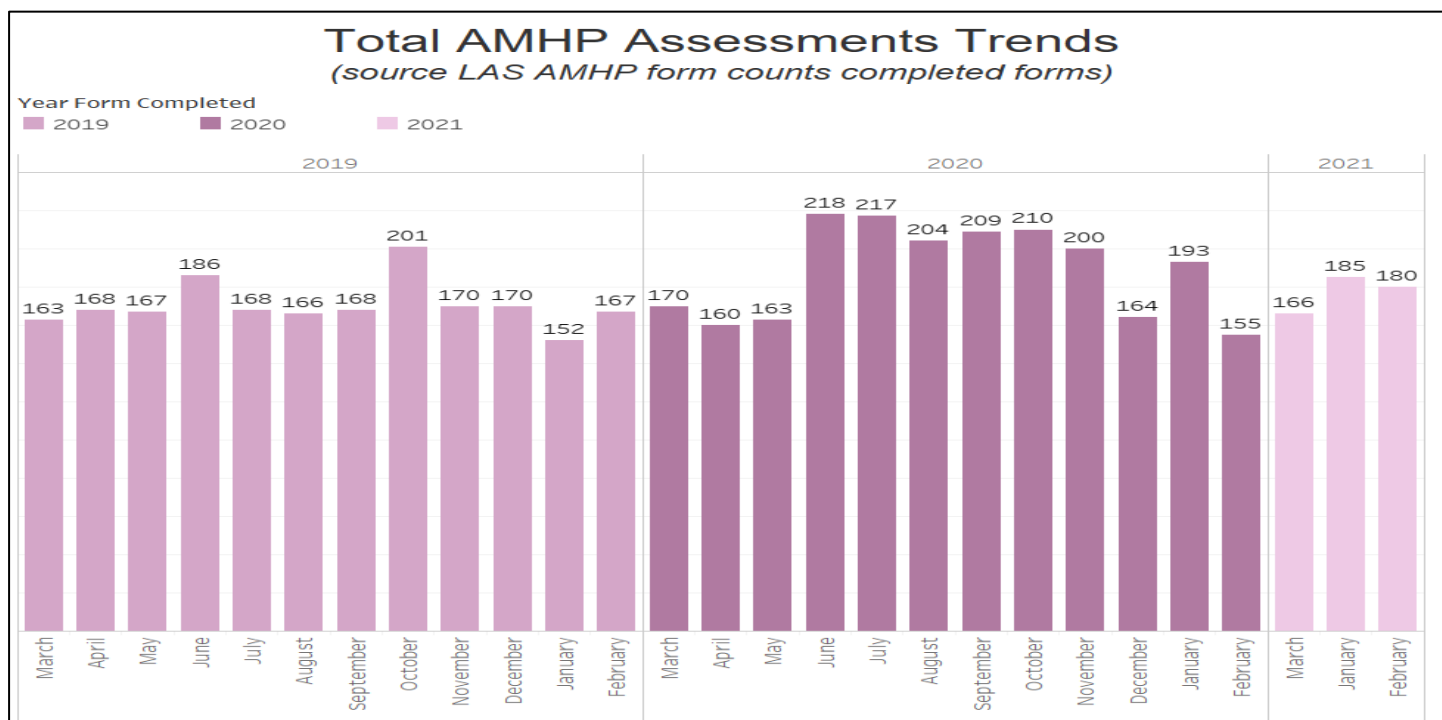
The mental health system is continuing to experience significant pressures, factors such as employment and financial insecurities and isolation are likely to have a further negative impact on Surrey residents in terms of their mental health and wellbeing. There is an increase in the number of people presenting in a crisis who were not known to services before. There has been an increase in the use of emergency powers under the Mental Health Act, with s135/s136 activity 30% higher than 2019 and a higher percentage of those people assessed requiring admission.

The increase in referrals to ASC is illustrated below, the orange bars represent the increase in people needing further action following initial contact rather than signposting, information and advice as represented by the blue bars and we continue to see an increase in the numbers of people coming through the ASC MH locality teams, there has been a 61% increase in cases open on LAS since October 2019.

Total Contacts Received by Mental Health Teams (source LAS contacts extract. Report shows data as at Tuesday of latest week)



The tables below show the number of mental health act assessments completed by the AMHP teams from 2019 to 2021.



The ASC teams work closely with the Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust to support hospital discharges and prevent admissions. ASC is attending the Surrey Heartlands Mental Health emergency response meetings and are jointly leading on the accommodation and hospital flow workstreams.

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning update - provided by the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (SCC):

Service Improvement

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the Council continues to progress its service improvements across children's services. Following positive feedback from the Department of Education and NHS England in January 2021 in which they confirmed "it is the view of the Department and NHS England that you have demonstrated clear and sustained progress. This means that we no longer need to continue any formal monitoring such as a monthly progress review." we received similar confirmation from the Youth Justice Board in March that we have made "effective and sustained" progress in this area too, and that as a result they have formally de-escalated Surrey from YJB priority status. More recently Ofsted carried out a focused visit into the quality of our support for vulnerable children and families during the pandemic. The report from this visit is due to be published in May.

Wider impact on educational settings

Children returned to school on 8 March, with the exception of a very few children that remain required to shield until 31 March 2021. The DfE have introduced additional guidance to the sector that extends the protective measures and resources available to secondary schools, colleges, and families of all school age children.

On return, secondary and college students have been offered twice weekly asymptomatic testing; the first 3 tests were carried out on site and students are now testing twice a week at home (schools supply home tests for students and staff). In addition, secondary and college age students are asked to wear a face covering in most classrooms if social distancing cannot be maintained, this is subject to review at the end of the spring term.

To reduce transmission, households and childcare of all school age children and college students are able to access twice weekly asymptomatic testing via an asymptomatic testing centre or by online ordering. Children and families with COVID 19 symptoms are advised not to use Lateral Flow Device (asymptomatic rapid tests) tests but continue to arrange a PCR test online.

Remote learning remains in place in response to any outbreaks or individual children that are required to isolate.

Family Economic Hardship

Financial hardship has seen a marked shift during the pandemic in Surrey, as elsewhere in the UK. Recent survey data from residents demonstrates clearly that the pandemic has exacerbated existing financial difficulties and caused more families to fall into financial distress, with 36% of residents surveyed reporting that the pandemic had caused a negative impact on their financial circumstances.

Economic strain was certainly heightened for parents of school-aged children, and our internal modelling suggests that there will be a 20% increase in uptake in children eligible for free school meals. The sudden switch to online classes and homework placed a financial burden on struggling families as schools require technological devices that many families do not have. Taking all of this into account, 49% of households with children said the pandemic has been entirely negative to their children's education.

Surrey County Council is supporting families alongside our network of third sector partners (Homestart, the YMCA and EIKON), with programmes including the Surrey Crisis Fund, Family Centres, the Family Support Programme, and Funded Early Education for two-year-olds (FEET Funding). In addition, given a 122% increase in food parcel distribution for families at food banks last year, our Winter Support Grant funding has been helping over 120,000 people (an estimated 70% of which are children) through 18 food banks since December 2020.

Crisis in CAMHS / Mental Health contract

Both nationally and locally, more children and young people (CYP) have been reaching out to the crisis services. As well as numbers rapidly increasing, the complexity and severity of needs is also much greater and more CYP require more intensive support and treatment. CAMHS crisis services have continued to support the most vulnerable and high-risk children aiming to minimise the number of young people attending A&E. There has been an increase in virtual solutions to engage with families and virtual assessments in each District General Hospital Paediatric A&E and Paediatric Wards. There is now a dedicated 24/7 crisis line available in Surrey, and from May further improvements will result in a single, separate telephone number for crisis advice for CYP. Full details of intensive support, home treatment is available on the SABP website.

As children and young people have returned to schools, information for staff and parents / carers has been distributed through the school bulletin as well as published on local websites. This information ensures families know how to access the right advice, guidance, and support at the right time. A guide has been distributed summarising the key resources available to help maintain children's wellbeing, address any emotional needs and sign post to services and [Children's mental health and wellbeing - Healthy Surrey](#) have kept up to date information.

The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health contract has been awarded to an Alliance Partnership which includes: The Surrey Wellbeing Partnership, Learning Space, National Autism Society, Barnardo's and Tavistock and Portland and Surrey and

Borders Partnership (SABP). The way children's emotional wellbeing and mental health services in Surrey are delivered is being transformed by this alliance of organisations who will work together to provide the appropriate level of support at the right time, alongside key stakeholders.

In order to ensure the new contract gets off to a good start, a backlog of over 1500 cases waiting for ASD assessments, has been tackled through a programme of remedial action. Since December 2020 the number of children waiting to join the pathway has fallen from 1,512 to 69.

The transformation will introduce a new approach where children and young people will have a central voice in decisions about their care and improving self-identified outcomes. There will be a greater emphasis on addressing and meeting needs, rather than getting a diagnosis as a trigger for help and support. This framework for change is the IThrive model which conceptualises need in five categories or needs based groups: Thriving, Getting Advice, Getting Help, Getting More Help and Getting Risk Support.

6. Challenges

The following areas have been identified as key challenges which are summarised below. These are documented within the risk register:

- New variants of COVID pose a threat to the system by potentially placing extra demand on capacity and may require re-direction of resources impacting Public Health planning/response to pressure on wider system and incident management and control.
- There is an ongoing risk relating to capacity – for example within the Public Health Intelligence and Insight Team due the volume of data analysis required for COVID data monitoring, surveillance and reporting.
- There are several risks associated with establishing Locally Supported Contact Tracing. A separate risk log has been developed which identifies these risks and any mitigating actions.

7. Timescale and delivery plan

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

8. How is this being communicated?

- The communications strategy to support the Local Outbreak Control 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.

9. Next steps

Next steps include:

- Continue to review and update the Local Outbreak Control Plan on a monthly basis.
- Continue to monitor COVID-19 data and surveillance daily.
- Continue to drive delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan through the COVID Management Group.
- Adapting any local protocols that support the high-risk settings in the Local Outbreak Control Plan to reflect new national guidance and learning.
- Continue to assess risks and implement mitigating actions.
- Continue to monitor the capacity and budget as the external environment changes e.g. changing COVID situation, national policy changes, etc.

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