

## Adults, Wellbeing and Health

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 January 2022

### COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan



---

## Report of Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council

### Electoral division affected:

Countywide

### Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an update on the Local Outbreak Management Plan, the Health Protection Assurance Board and the current local COVID-19 activity. In addition, this report includes an update on the Government's Autumn and Winter Plan, Contain Framework and Plan-B guidance.

### Executive summary

- 2 In County Durham there are established health protection assurance arrangements with key partners working closely on infectious diseases, environmental hazards and emergency preparedness and response. This work reports annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board and has stood us in good stead to establish rapid partnership arrangements, including with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) North East Health Protection Team, for developing the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan and preparing for complex cases of COVID-19 and outbreaks.
- 3 The work is managed by the Local Health Protection Assurance Board (HPAB) building on the extensive cross Council and partnership planning and response to COVID-19 and is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at every meeting. Recent updates relate to current activity; data, outbreak control, Local Tracing Partnership, vaccination programme, testing programmes, funding; regional collaboration, communications, Covid Champions and national updates.

- 4 The COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan sets out the role of the County Durham system in preventing and controlling COVID-19 with a focus on robust management of outbreaks and providing support for complex settings, communities, and individuals where required. It aims to protect the health of the County's population from COVID-19 and assure stakeholders, and the public, that efficient and effective arrangements are in place.
- 5 The Plan remains a dynamic document which will be updated according to learning and experience in dealing with the COVID-19 response. The Public Health Team will keep the Plan under regular review and amend/update according to local, regional and national developments.

### **Recommendation**

- 6 The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
  - a) note and agree the report and the robust governance and outbreak control arrangements in place to identify, control and contain COVID-19 cases, clusters and outbreaks.

### **Background**

- 7 The County Durham COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan takes a population health protection approach and has a particular focus on higher risk settings, locations and communities which involves enhanced oversight with a broader range of partners, expertise, communications, intelligence and governance. This process is built on established and longstanding relationships with UKHSA North East Health Protection Team.
- 8 The Local Outbreak Management Plan is managed by the Local Health Protection Assurance Board which currently meets fortnightly. The plan is presented at every Health and Wellbeing Board along with the current activity update.
- 9 Throughout the pandemic the plan has continued to be updated to include areas of work including the vaccination programme; developments to the NHS Test and Trace Service including the localisation of delivery through the Local Tracing Partnership; responding to Variants of Concern (VOCs); the role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs), including social and physical distancing, good hygiene and face coverings; self-isolation support and the ongoing work to support those most vulnerable and impacted by inequalities within our population.

- 10 National guidance such as the Contain Framework and the Autumn and Winter Plan help the effective planning and deployment at local level and underpins what the Government is hoping to achieve. That is, living safely with the virus and acknowledging it will not be eradicated but will become endemic and will continue to circulate in pockets in the community.

### **Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)**

- 11 The LOMP is a dynamic document, evolving to plan and respond to any changes in the rates of COVID-19 and also major organisation change during 2021/22 including the establishment of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) as well as the implementation of the white paper setting out legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill.
- 12 The revised plan was assured and commended for several examples of good practice, including the comprehensive assurance provided by the plan, the Spike Detector Tool and Community Spike Outbreak Management Group, the collaborative work with the university (also commended in a Cabinet Office visit and presented nationally) and the Community Champions programme which has been presented at a number of national webinars.
- 13 The plan's objectives are to:
- Protect the health of our local communities through:
    - Provision of clear prevention messages in relation to COVID-19.
    - Rapid detection of COVID-19 cases, clusters and outbreaks including any new variant of concern or interest.
    - Preventing onward transmission.
  - Provide support to those who need to self-isolate.
  - Develop and apply intelligence, including the knowledge and insight provided by our local communities.
- 14 In addition, the plan addresses:
- Responding to Variants of Concern (VOC).
  - Action on enduring transmission.
  - Enhanced Contact Tracing, in partnership with HPT.
  - Ongoing role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs), including social and physical distancing, good hygiene and face coverings
  - Interface with vaccines roll out

- Activities to enable 'living with COVID' (COVID secure)
- 15 The updated COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan is currently being revised with updated guidance, the Contain Framework and Winter Plans and a revised version will be shared at the next Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Contain Framework and Autumn/Winter Plan presentation is attached at appendix 2 for information.
  - 16 Since October the Government has published the Autumn and Winter Plan and revised the Contain Framework. This provides the information required to prepare the Local Outbreak Management Plan for Autumn and Winter season.
  - 17 Both the revised Contain Framework and national Autumn and Winter Plan aim to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the National Health Service (NHS) does not come under unsustainable pressure – Plan B.
  - 18 The documents made no changes to the roles and responsibilities for local authorities, and reinforced that while COVID-19 continues to present an unprecedented challenge, well-established local, regional and national arrangements for public health and emergency planning and response continue to form the basis of the response.
  - 19 Regular updates are provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to reflect the dynamic situation the current pandemic presents, revised policy and guidance and new developments and their impact on the local delivery of the LOMP.

Recent LOMP activity includes:

- Implementation of Plan-B restrictions.
- Surveillance of cases continues to ensure the NHS and Social Care are not overwhelmed.
- Maximising uptake of the Covid vaccine, booster programme and 12-15 vaccinations.
- Continue to support Test and Trace to identify and isolate positive cases to limit transmission while providing support for self-isolation.
- Supporting the most vulnerable to prevent increased inequalities.

- Promoting Covid Safe measures Hand, Face, Space, Fresh Air, isolate, vaccinate, to enable the public to make informed decisions.
- Continued support for setting such as workplaces, schools and university aligned to working safely guidance.
- Supporting the uptake of Flu vaccine as the flu season and other respiratory viruses are expected to be high. This winter we are faced with the double threat of both Covid-19 and flu.
- Continued communication campaigns covering the Autumn and Winter plans.

## **Role of the Local Health Protection Assurance Board**

- 20 The key purpose of the Local Health Protection Assurance Board (HPAB) is to lead, co-ordinate and manage work to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- 21 The HPAB meets on a fortnightly basis. The current work of the HPAB includes:
- Delivery of the COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan.
  - Regional oversight of LA7 work.
  - Data and intelligence analysis, including health data from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CCDFT) and the County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
  - Developments and innovation: e.g. Vaccination Programme and the Spike Detection Tool.
  - Oversight of setting-based intervention, including educations, care homes, community, workplaces, University, etc.
  - Oversight of COVID-19 Testing including PCR and LFD testing strands available throughout the county.
  - Oversight of COVID-19 funding allocation and delivery.
  - Oversight of Outbreak Control.
  - Oversight of the Local Tracing Partnership.
  - Assurance of actions carried out in relation to COVID-19

## **Current overview aligned to the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)**

### **Covid-19 Data**

- 22 As of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022, County Durham's 7- day rate is 1442.0 per 100,000. Rapid case rises have been driven by the omicron variant which is now the dominant variant within the North East and across the country. Our emergency departments remain under pressure, so we continue to encourage people to follow Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air guidance to limit the risk of exposure and reduce transmission.
- 23 The latest public figures please can be accessed through our local County Durham [COVID-19 dashboard](#) which provides a summary of cases by rates, ages and Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) along with current vaccination data, hospital bed occupancy and a summary of Covid-19 deaths.

### **Outbreak control and community transmission**

- 24 COVID-19 outbreaks follow agreed UKHSA joint management arrangements set out in an overarching Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which covers a number of different settings. The Director of Public Health provides oversight and leadership of all Outbreak Control Teams.
- 25 The dedicated Outbreak Control Team (OCT) reporting to the Director of Public Health (DPH) and the Local Health Protection Assurance Board (HPAB) has established strong working relationships with key partners within the Council and across the health and social care system and draws on existing expertise depending on the setting or group of people affected, such as school, workplace, prison etc. They work closely with the HPT in PHE, supporting formally-convened OCTs.
- 26 To retain the health protection expertise gained within the team during the pandemic the council has committed to fund a Protecting Health team, consisting of 3 posts to manage the ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks, other emerging and arising health protection issues, including climate change.

### **Reintroduction of some mandatory restrictions – Plan B**

- 27 From Friday 10 December, face coverings became mandatory for most indoor public venues including places of worship, theatres and cinemas, as well as in shops and on public transport. Face covering will not be needed in hospitality settings.

- 28 From Monday 13 December, people are instructed to work from home if they can.
- 29 From Wednesday 15 December (subject to parliamentary approval), people will need an NHS Covid Pass - or a negative lateral flow test - to gain entry to:
- Nightclubs
  - Indoor unseated venues with more than 500 people
  - Unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people
  - Any venue with more than 10,000 people
- 30 From the 22nd December the self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. The guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.
- 31 From 4th January - updated face coverings guidance to include the use of face coverings in classrooms for Year 7 and above, in addition to guidance for face coverings to be worn by pupils, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms and on school transport (to be reviewed 28th January).

### **Covid-19 vaccinations**

- 32 All adults are to be offered COVID-19 boosters by end of January 2022. Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice for people aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. Everyone who is currently eligible will be able to book their jab from three months after their second dose.

### **COVID-19 vaccination – 3<sup>rd</sup> dose for those people who have a severely weakened immune system**

- 33 A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all those aged 12 years and older who had a weakened immune system around the time they had their first two doses.

- 34 One extra dose for people who have a severely weakened immune system will be given to improve their protection. The extra (third) dose should be given at least 8 weeks after the second dose. This should be followed by a booster dose approximately 3 months after the extra (third) dose.

### **Change to testing for International Travellers**

- 35 All travellers arriving into the country from 30 November are required to take a PCR test on or before day 2 and self-isolate until they have received a negative test result.

### **Local NHS Test and Trace – Local Tracing Partnership**

- 36 The Local Tracing Partnership (LTP) continue to operate a local Test and Trace service on behalf of the NHS with priority postcodes within County Durham. A matrix has been developed to underpin which postcodes are prioritised. This is based upon localities:
- Vaccination status
  - Case prevalence over time
  - Compliance with Test and Trace contact
- 37 As capacity in the LTP has increased and cases have stabilised the LTP have increased the number of areas covered in the county, from 15 November to 20 Middle Super Output Areas with coverage almost at 50%.
- 38 It is anticipated that demand will likely increase over December and January and the LTP will be focussing resources to ensure sufficient staff capacity.

### **Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

- 39 The Covid-19 vaccination programme continues to be rolled out successfully and at speed across County Durham. The Government announced on 29 November to expand the vaccination programme and the NHS issued guidance on 3 December 2021 that all people over 18 will be offered a vaccination appointment by the end of January 2022.
- 40 Of the eligible population in County Durham 86% have received their 1st dose; 80% are fully vaccinated with 14% unvaccinated as of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Currently activity includes:



- Health and care partners continue to address increased demand using GPs, the Arnison Mass Vaccination Centre, community services and community pharmacies.
- Community Services Teams continue to visit the housebound to give both the flu and Covid booster vaccinations.
- The 12-15yr vaccination programme reports that 43.4% of 12-15 yrs. and 65.9% for 16-17 yrs are now vaccinated. Phase 1 was completed 30 November with phase 2 planned from 6-17 December and takes into account the original uptake at schools, associated MSOAs where coverage is less than 60% and vulnerable groups.
- 12-15yrs will be offered 2nd dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least 12 weeks following their 1st dose; 2nd dose programme to take place early 2022.
- A move to weekend appointments for young people has been popular and increased rates of vaccination in this age group.
- The 'leaving no-one behind' programme utilised the Melissa Bus to target areas where vaccination uptake was less than 70% and delivered a communication and community engagement programme to reinforce messages, raise awareness and support confident conversations to address a large variation in vaccination uptake across the county by deprivation, gender and age.

## **Covid-19 Testing Programmes**

### **Testing Oversight Group**

- 41 The Testing Oversight Group provides governance for the range of testing channels currently deployed (below) and recording progress, issues and risks:
- Education: (Secondaries, Primaries, FE, Special Schools, Early Years and PVI).
  - Community: (special workforce solutions (F&R, Aycliffe Secure), Workplaces – staff who can't WFH, Staff and volunteers in contact with Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, and targeted asymptomatic testing).
  - Workforce (other): Care Homes, Day Care and Prisons.
  - PCR: Static Sites and MTUs.

- Surge Testing: processes in place through the LRF

- 42 The government have signalled that testing remains a key strand through the content provided in the Contain Framework, the Autumn and Winter Plan and the Education Contingency Framework.
- 43 Symptomatic (PCR) testing will continue to be available with some realignment of sites planned for January 2022 and no current end date. Targeted Asymptomatic Community Testing (LFD) is referred to throughout the Autumn and Winter with a possible end date or reduction of offer from March 2022.
- 44 The Department for Education guidance requires all secondary schools to prepare to test pupils once on-site on return in January 2022. Tests, PPE and funding will be provided to support schools. After the test on return, pupils should continue to test in line with government guidelines.
- 45 Testing regimes in higher-risk settings such as the NHS, social care, and prisons and testing programmes overseen directly by DHSC such as Daily Contact Testing continue with no suggested end date.

### **PCR Testing (Polymerase Chain Reaction)**

- 46 PCR testing is the gold standard of test where swabs are processed in labs and results are reported within 24hrs. The Testing Oversight Group supports the planning and direction of PCR testing resources to high Covid-19 rate areas identified by the Spike Identification Tool and in response to any testing requests from individuals outbreak control meetings.
- 47 We currently 3 fixed Local Testing Sites (LTS) with 4/5 mobile testing units (MTUs) which can be deployed to one of 10 sites across the county as demand and rates require.
- 48 LTS and MTUs have moved to winter opening hours – LTS: 8am - 6pm; MTU: 9am – 3pm.
- 49 Winter maintenance for testing site have been agreed and the promoting of home testing kits has been added as a mitigation for any periods of severe weather.
- 50 DHSC has notified us of Christmas and New Year MTU operating hours; 3 hours opening on 25 and 26 December and 1 January with LTS sites operating throughout on shorter hours giving north, east and south west of the county provision. The Locomotion, Shildon may potentially open as a PCR site New Year's day.
- 51 In January 2022 work to reshape the local and regional PCR footprint that delivers the right PCR capacity to managed demand will commence. It is

expected this will remove underused sites from the system. County Durham has 3 LTPs currently, if any sites are lost we have the capacity to fill any gap with our available MTUs.

- 52 The MTU sites have been involved in a pilot where Mobile Processing Units (on site PCR lab) provide a PCR test result in 2 hours.

### **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing**

- 53 The aim in County Durham has been to develop a rapid and targeted asymptomatic community testing solution to support our actions to control the transmission of the virus.

- 54 From July 2021 testing was re-shaped to deliver a mobile assisted testing site (ATS) service, with a smaller/casual workforce, responding to spikes, high rates, targeting high prevalence area and identified vulnerable groups has been implemented. This service is also available for backup assisted testing responses for surge, schools and workplace testing. Work in this area include:

- Updated Guidance: Covid-19 Restrictions 'What you can and cannot do' has moved away from advising twice weekly LFD testing to a risk based approach.
- Our local Targeted Community Testing (TCT) focused on targeted groups, such as: low income households; men; people with disabilities; young families; Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services; Gypsy Roma Traveller service, Domestic Abuse and brief interventions provided by the Covid Awareness Team at events, vaccination sites and high footfall areas.
- There continues to be over 180 LFD collection points in County Durham including; DCC customer access points; Cultural venues; Libraries; Leisure Centres and 124 Pharmacy Collect sites.
- Currently there are no community assisted LFD testing sites delivering in County Durham and assisted testing site for Aycliffe Secure staff.
- The last collated figures show that from April to October 2021 we have issued 39,860 packs of 7 tests issued (that's 279,020 individual tests).

### **Education Testing**

- Twice weekly testing for students and staff continues (year 7 and above) with anecdotal evidence of high local testing uptake. The testing process seems to have reached a steady rhythm.
- DfE guidance requires all secondary schools to test pupils once on-site in the new term in January 2022. After the initial test on return, pupils should continue to test twice weekly in line with government guidelines.
- Outbreak testing is set out in the Education Contingency Framework. Schools and FE colleges with a positive case have been recommended that identified close contacts take a PCR test and test daily (LFDs) for 7 days to suppress transmission.
- Durham University committed to full testing programme until the end of term and testing on arrival for January 2022 and though to March 2022 dependant on government guidance in the new year.
- Since 25 Sept 2021 the university have undertaken 127,000 LFD tests averaging 2,100 tests per day with a positivity rate of 1.2 per 1,000 tests

### **Surge testing**

- 55 Work to develop local surge testing plans were led by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and approved by CMT, the LRF and HPAB. At the present time there has been no requirement for large scale surge testing within County Durham.

### **Variant of Concern (VoCs)**

- 56 When new variants of COVID-19 are identified, such as the omicron variant, rapid research is undertaken nationally and internationally to assess the impact of the variants on factors which might change the impact of the virus on humans: for example, whether it is more transmissible; whether it causes more severe illness; or vaccine efficacy.
- 57 Within County Durham a VoC Oversight Group has been convened (co-chaired by the Deputy Director in Public Health and a Consultant in Health Protection, HPT). When required, this group has met weekly to discuss VoC cases. These cases are monitored through shared line list and regular updates from HPT and daily systematic review of local data. This group reports to the HPAB.

## **COVID-19 funding**

- 58 The purpose of this funding is ‘to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred in relation to the mitigation against management of local outbreaks of COVID-19’.
- 59 The Outbreak Funding Budget Group continues to oversee the process for managing expenditure from funding received through the Test and Trace Grant and Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) providing monthly updates on expenditure and bi-monthly project updates to the Health Protection Assurance Board and CMT to ensure those receiving funding follow the Outbreak Funding Briefing and Procedure regarding expenditure, recharge, monitoring and reporting.
- 60 A detailed programme of work report has been submitted to CMT and HPAB in November to provide an activity update on current bids to date, including detail of current spend.
- 61 20 bids have been completed to date with total bid value of £2.3 million.
- 62 A revised RAG rated system has been agreed for bids flagged as red and was implemented from the October monitoring from returns These will capture risks associated with bids where spend is in the later part of quarter 3 and 4.
- 63 A further position statement will be undertaken in quarter 4 to ensure funding will be spent by March 2022 and to identify any underspend.

Projects in progress include;

- Development of long COVID clinics.
- Grants to education providers.
- Grants to grass roots sports and activities providers.
- Domestic abuse system improvement.
- Housing – vulnerable, prison leavers, temporary secure accommodation
- AAPs and community buildings – Covid Recovery.

## **Recognition of contribution to Public Health Award**

- 64 Our local Public Health team have introduced this award to recognise the actions made by countless staff across many organisations and private individuals who have contributed to the local Covid-19 response.

- 65 Nominations can be submitted by email to [PublicHealth@durham.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealth@durham.gov.uk) with the reasons for the nomination and an example of work.
- 66 A thank you letter and a certificate will be awarded in recognition of their contribution to Public Health.
- 67 The award is 'always on' meaning there is no deadline for submission, and we would encourage all readers to nominate anyone who has contributed to the local Covid-19 response. Some examples already awarded include:
- 90yr old lady of Little's Newsagents, Hunwick During 1st lockdown up at 4am daily for papers, provided a bigger range of groceries, ensuring those who were shielding and those who didn't feel safe to travel to large supermarkets could buy what they needed.
  - Local 17yr old student 'modelled' for our DCC Get Tested posters as part of the Covid Safe County campaign. Admirable as given her age and the risk of being judged or embarrassed by her peer group, she saw the importance of the message and put aside her own concerns to help others and promote the importance of testing
  - Girls football team created food parcels for their vulnerable girls and parcels for key workers delivering these to care homes making sure those staff in such a hard time felt needed. They protected the mental health of their young girls with check in calls and zoom quizzes to ensure the girls and their families were ok and safe.
  - Pupil from Shotton Hall Academy used his money saved for his birthday and pocket money to buy supplies to create over 1,000 coronavirus survival packs which he delivered to youngsters across Co Durham and created special VE Day bags for care home residents.

## **Regional Collaboration LA7**

- 68 The seven local authorities of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, and Sunderland have been working as a collective LA7 since September 2020 focusing on a joint approach to COVID-19.
- 69 The approach is based on a deep understanding of our local communities and informed by data and intelligence which centres

around the inequalities that local communities face, either directly or indirectly due to COVID-19. The work has included political leadership and lobbied for interventions specific to the needs of north east residents, businesses and the health and social care system.

- 70 The joint approach has centered around a small set of priorities, informed by Directors of Public Health:
1. Engage our communities and work with them to address inequalities;
  2. Localised, regionally coordinated Test, Trace and Isolate programme;
  3. Roll-out of targeted community testing;
  4. Protection of vulnerable individuals in the community;
  5. Rapid implementation of a vaccine programme.
- 71 These have been revisited in light of the revised policy and guidance:
- To protect our communities and mitigate the significant health inequalities as a direct or indirect impact of covid
  - Built on early intervention, strong public health collaboration, resources to initiate the actions
  - To protect those most vulnerable, keep our schools open and support our businesses and economy and public services
  - To live safely with covid-19 as restrictions are lifted
  - Continued implementation of local outbreak management plans and all actions/support within these
  - Support NHS colleagues to maintain standards
  - Implement Govt guidance
  - Agree updated testing strategy
  - Ensure support for those unable to make personal choices
- 72 The award winning Beat COVID NE campaign informed by insights from local people giving a joint message across the LA7 geography has been a visible and positively evaluated outcome of this collaboration and this work continues to support communication campaigns addressing vaccine hesitancy and the easing of restrictions.

## Communications

- 73 Clear and timely communication plays a key part of any effective outbreak response. Throughout the pandemic the Outbreak Control team has contributed to and supported the work of the COVID-19 communications group, providing all members with specialist Public Health advice and information. The team has been involved in all aspects of the outward facing public communications and internal DCC communications, developing a local communication plan aligned to the LOMP. The Drummond Beat Covid North East campaign has now moved to an 'Acts of Kindness' messaging campaign since mid-August.
- 74 Communication activity focus has included:
- Promotion of pop-up testing sites and the Melissa bus is ongoing.
  - Targeted comms in low vaccine take up areas and locations of pop up sites.
  - Refresh of hands, face, space assets with the message changed more to thank residents for thinking of others and continuing to wear a mask, keep their distance etc.
  - Communications for return to school and twice weekly assisted testing in the autumn term.
  - Focus on return to work/office encouraging twice weekly LFD testing symptomatic PCR test for close contacts
  - Mandatory vaccines for staff and changes to self-isolation
  - Collective push on testing
  - Ongoing communications; get tested; self-isolate; vaccinations; 'Let's keep life moving'; community collect
  - Autumn/winter planning
- 75 Local communications and actions are aligned with PHE and with local, regional, and national partners as appropriate for the best outcomes for our communities and the reduction of community transmission.

## Covid Champions

- 76 COVID-19 Community Champions are trusted voices in local communities. As well as us sharing relevant and timely information with communities, Champions share feedback from communities - what's working well, what questions people have, what people think can be done better enabling responses to be shaped by local intelligence.



- 77 Covid Champions have supported our communities to progress through the steps of the roadmap, informing local communities on self-isolation, promoting our testing sites to encourage people to test regularly and supported the vaccine programme, targeting areas for further communication where there have been increases in positive cases.
- 78 The Champions programme continues to share generic and targeted key messages and provide feedback to inform future action. The work of the programme is guided by the Community and Settings Oversight Group. Covid Champions continue supporting the Melissa Bus and wider vaccination programme.
- 79 The evaluation of the Summer Fun and Food Holiday activity programme has been completed reporting a reach of 302 young people engaged. Further training was given to an additional 6 organisations to support the October holiday programme, based on feedback from the evaluation.
- 80 Feedback from the Junior Champions insight work showed that in the 12 and over – the majority of young people gained Covid-19 updates from News channels, with 85% not connected to DCC social media. NHS campaigns resonated strongest. While the under 11's got their covid information from family and school and they were more aware of community comms. Further Comms work is planned to develop messages to reach children and young people.
- 81 The Young Champions model will be used to gain insight and intelligence on the 12+ vaccine programme.

## **Conclusion**

- 82 The Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) provides assurance, governance and future direction to ensure the ongoing ability for all settings to respond rapidly to any outbreak situation to protect the health of the residents and workforce of County Durham.
- 83 The Outbreak Control Team are revising the LOMP based on updated guidance, the Contain Framework and Winter Plans so that we are ready to work through Autumn/Winter and will be shared at the next Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

## **Background papers**

- Included in presentation.

## Other useful documents

- None

---

**Contact:** Amanda Healy

Tel: 03000 264323

---

---

## Appendix 1: Implications

---

### Legal Implications

N/A. Health Protection: Legal and Policy Context<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Finance

Local Outbreak Management Funding to be allocated to Local Authorities still to be confirmed.

### Consultation

Ongoing consultation with the key partners, community representatives and PHE members.

### Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Vulnerable populations must be reached and supported.

### Climate Change

N/A.

### Human Rights

N/A

### Crime and Disorder

---

<sup>1</sup> ADPH, FPH, PHE, LGA et al (2020) Public Health Leadership, Multi-Agency Capability: *Guiding Principles for Effective Management of COVID-19 at a Local Level*. <https://www.adph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Guiding-Principles-for-Making-Outbreak-Management-Work-Final.pdf>

N/A.

### **Staffing**

Staff time across all key stakeholders for the ongoing planning, prevention, and support for the outbreak management to protect residents.

### **Accommodation**

N/A.

### **Risk**

Risks are identified throughout the LOMP.

### **Procurement**

N/A.

### **Disability issues**

N/A

---

## **Appendix 2: Contain Framework and Autumn/Winter Plan Presentation**

---

Contain Framework and Autumn/Winter Plan presentation – See separate file