

CABINET
14 JULY 2020

DARLINGTON LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Kevin Nicholson, Health and Housing Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to brief Cabinet about the Local Outbreak Control Plan at **Appendix 1**, that was published at the end of June 2020.
2. It should be noted that the Local Outbreak Control Plan is a working document and will be updated regularly to reflect changes required to ensure it remains up to date and can be successfully implemented during outbreaks.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members receive the Darlington Outbreak Control Plan.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported as all Local Authorities in England are required by the Department of Health and Social Care to have local COVID-19 outbreak control plan in place.

**Suzanne Joyner,
Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

S17 Crime and Disorder	Not specifically relevant.
Health and Well Being	The Plan protects health.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report has no implications for Carbon Impact and Climate Change
Diversity	Impact to be determined.
Wards Affected	All wards affected.
Groups Affected	All groups affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has not budget implications
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This is a borough-wide plan.
Efficiency	This report has no efficiency implications
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Background

- The NHS Test and Trace service was launched on 28th May 2020 as part of the government's COVID-19 recovery strategy, its primary objectives are to control the COVID-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives. This will help return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy. Achieving these objectives requires a co-ordinated effort with local government, NHS and other relevant organisations at the centre of outbreak response. Local authorities are required to work with partners to build on existing health protection plans to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks and protect the public's health. Specifically, to develop a Local Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June 2020. National government funding of £300m is being provided to local authorities in England. On June 10th it was announced that the funding is based on the 2020/21 Public Health Grant allocation, and for Darlington Borough Council it will be £778,834.

Overview and Approach

- Darlington Local Outbreak Control Plan is primarily about controlling outbreaks. However, preventing spread of the virus is still critically important to prevent localised outbreaks and to avoid a second wave of the pandemic. Residents need to continue to follow national and local guidance on staying at home if symptomatic: social distancing, washing hands, and using face coverings in public places. A Communications Plan will address how to encourage the public to follow this guidance.
- The Local Outbreak Control Plan builds on existing health protection plans already in place and the strong partnership arrangements between Darlington Borough Council, Public Health England (North East and Yorkshire) and the North East Health Protection Team.

8. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has advised that the Local Outbreak Control Plan is centred around 7 themes:
 - (a) Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, identifying potential scenarios and planning the required response).
 - (b) Identifying and planning how to manage other high-risk places, locations and communities of interest including sheltered housing, dormitories for migrant workers, transport access points (e.g. ports, airports), detained settings, rough sleepers etc (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies).
 - (c) Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population. This could include delivering tests to isolated individuals, establishing local pop-up sites or hosting mobile testing units at high-risk locations (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment).
 - (d) Assessing local and regional contact tracing and infection control capability in complex settings (e.g. Tier 1b) and the need for mutual aid (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities of interest and settings, developing assumptions to estimate demand, developing options to scale capacity if needed).
 - (e) Integrating national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook (e.g. data management planning including data security, data requirements including NHS linkages).
 - (f) Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. encouraging neighbours to offer support, identifying relevant community groups, planning how to coordinate and deploy) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.
 - (g) Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public.

Contact Tracing

9. The national NHS Test and Trace service, which went live on Thursday 28th May, has been set up to undertake contact tracing for COVID-19. Contact tracing may identify outbreaks where additional support to control the spread of COVID-19 at a local level is needed.

Triggering the Local Outbreak Control Plan

10. The Local Outbreak Control Plan will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community.
11. In the event of an outbreak, North East and Yorkshire and North East Health Protection Team are responsible for co-ordinating outbreak management and will work closely with the Public Health team at Darlington Borough Council to facilitate a timely and proportionate outbreak response. The Local Outbreak Control Plan

details the roles and responsibilities, and processes that will be followed in the event of an identified outbreak. A Local Outbreak Response Group will manage the operational processes.

Local Governance

12. As part of the response the Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board will act as the Member-led board engaging with residents, providing leadership on communication and engagement with communities in Darlington. There is also a requirement to establish a Health Protection Board which will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This is an operational group, chaired by the Director of Public Health responsible for strategic oversight of the delivery of the plan.

Data and Intelligence

13. The Local Outbreak Control Plan sets out the arrangements, including national, regional and local roles and responsibilities, for monitoring and reporting available testing and tracing data which will be used to identify and manage local outbreaks. This will be based on existing data sharing and reporting arrangements, extending where required. This will include the necessary information governance protocols and arrangements.