



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

13th OCTOBER 2020

REPORT TITLE:	UPDATE ON WIRRAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the board with an update on the implementation of the Wirral COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan to date.

This matter affects all wards within the Borough; it is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Adult Social Care and Health Committee are asked to note the contents of the report, the progress made to date and to support the ongoing COVID-19 response.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Our local outbreak plan gives an overview of how we will work to Keep Wirral well and protect residents from the impacts of COVID-19.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 22 May the government asked all councils to develop local COVID-19 outbreak plans. Our local outbreak plan gives an overview of how we will work to Keep Wirral well and can be found on the Wirral Council website:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Health%20and%20social%20care/Health%20in%20Wirral/Coronavirus/COVID-19%20Outbreak%20Management%20Plan%20for%20Wirral.pdf>

- 3.2 The Outbreak Plan sets out:

- how we will prevent transmission of COVID-19 within the community
- how we will ensure we have an effective and coordinated local approach to managing COVID-19 outbreaks across different settings within the Borough
- how we will ensure vulnerable people are protected
- how we will link with national and regional systems to ensure we get maximum benefit for the population of Wirral.

The Plan is based on our three key principles to prevent, control and manage outbreaks of COVID-19.

Prevention: The single most effective method of reducing transmission and outbreaks of COVID-19. Achieved through clear and timely information, preparation, advice and engagement.

Control: further transmission of COVID-19 when there is a suspected or confirmed case. Achieved through accessible testing, contact tracing and supporting people to self-isolate as appropriate.

Manage: Suspected or confirmed outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) by providing timely access to specialist support and advice.

- 3.3 Since the publication of the plan we have been progressing the 7 priority actions. A summary of key progress is provided in the table below.

Priority	Progress to date
<p>1) Intelligence and Surveillance <i>Access to the right local data to enable the other 6 themes and prevent outbreaks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed local surveillance system (WiCAM system) to capture local outbreak data • Daily and weekly surveillance undertaken at a local level: Understand the epidemiology of the current situation and appropriately target action/ control measures. <i>See Appendix A for Current Weekly Surveillance Report.</i> • Supporting development of the CIPHA (Combined Intelligence for Population Health Action) integrated data and analyst network resource for Cheshire & Merseyside.
<p>2) Care Homes and Schools <i>Prevent and manage outbreaks in specific individual settings (e.g. schools, care homes)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity of community IPC team to support care home settings to implement actions to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in their setting. • Instructed care homes to close to non-essential visitors, including health and social care staff, due to increasing transmission rates (End of life visits will be supported, with strict IPC measures in place) • Delivery of training for schools and nurseries on the application of national guidance, best practice and expected prevention controls measures • Dedicated school support team established to provide timely advice and guidance when case, or multiple cases within setting identified.
<p>3) High Risk Workplaces, Communities and Locations <i>Prevent and manage outbreaks in other high-risk locations, workplaces and communities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wirral Covid-19 Outbreak Hub in place to prevent, control and manage outbreaks of Covid-19 across all settings within the borough • High risk settings mapped and identified. Proactive support provided to ensure compliance with guidance and outbreak plans in place. • Daily multi-agency meeting to review local situations requiring support (PH, Intel, EHO, Licensing, IPC, Police) • Developed dedicated COVID-19 complaints email • Roll out COVID self-assessment scheme and COVID compliance pack - Over 700 businesses requested pack to date. • Developed COVID-19 Compliance toolkit and conduct compliance visits to high risk premises – around 900 COVID Compliance visits
<p>4) Local Testing Capacity <i>Deploy local testing capacity optimally</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work to increase local testing capacity – retained Satellite testing centre at Bidston, 3 Local testing sites established, taken all opportunities to utilise Mobile Testing • Outreach testing offer established for vulnerable groups • Where possible prioritising testing of symptomatic individuals and essential workers

<p>5) Contact Tracing in Complex Settings <i>Deliver contact tracing for complex settings and cohorts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local contact tracing capacity to enable us to reach more Covid-19 residents and their contacts more quickly, and limit the spread of disease. Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reaching people who are currently being missed by the national system. ○ Working with our local NHS partners to ensure that, where a Wirral patient tests positive in our healthcare system every possible contact from community to hospital is reached. ○ Where local intelligence identifies cases or outbreaks in our community before NHS Test and Trace, we will build capacity to reach those contacts and provide isolation advice.
<p>6) Vulnerable People <i>Support vulnerable people and ensure services meet the needs of diverse communities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach testing offer established for vulnerable groups • Deliver support to vulnerable people to self-isolate (Practical, emotional, and financial support)
<p>7) Communication & Engagement <i>Take local actions to contain outbreaks and communicate with the general public</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear communication Plan developed – focussed upon Keep Wirral Well message • Quick guides and Toolkits developed for settings – accessible key messages • Development of Wirral Community Champions programme. To date over 400 people have signed. More information here: https://www.wirral.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-updates/keep-wirral-well-during-covid-19 • 21,000 leaflets delivered across wards with highest numbers of cases by community connectors and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service • Ongoing engagement with Wirral BAME community

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1.1 The delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan is funded via Test and Trace Support Service Grant of £2,733,018 awarded to Wirral Council in June 2020.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. New powers have been provided to support enforcement activities which have been reviewed.

5.2 The governance for the outbreak plan is discharged via the Wirral Outbreak Board chaired by the Leader of the Council.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan relies upon the utilisation of staff and assets by both Wirral Council and wider system partners.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 As the local activity increases clarity regarding additional funding to deliver the required actions is required. COVID-19 is a new virus and the understanding of the virus is developing constantly and therefore changes to the plan will be required at short notice to respond to the developing evidence base.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 No public consultation/ engagement has been undertaken in the writing of this report. However, community engagement is being undertaken to ensure the effective delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No direct climate implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: Julie Webster
Director of Public Health, Wirral Council
0151 666 5142
juliewebster@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: COVID-19 weekly surveillance Report (25/09/20)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date