



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 19th November 2020

REPORT TITLE:	DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACT TRACING IN WIRRAL
REPORT OF:	JULIE WEBSTER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

Contact tracing aims to break the chain of transmission by ensuring cases follow public health advice on isolation. At this stage of the pandemic, contact tracing will not be sufficient to achieve control alone. However, the establishment of a scaled and robust contact tracing model within a wider approach to community engagement is a key part of the exit strategy from higher local alert levels.

This report provides options and makes a recommendation for the future direction for contact tracing in Wirral.

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- The Adult Social Care and Health Committee are asked to support the recommended option to deliver locally supported contact tracing plus targeted local contact tracing where intelligence identifies high transmission risks

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The recommended option builds on the existing model of locally supported contact tracing, and the current development of the Outbreak Hub to target an expanded contact tracing resource where it will have the most impact, without significant duplication of national effort or drain on resource from other, equally important aspects of the response.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options considered and their risks and benefits are outlined within the options paper included in Appendix 1.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Contact tracing is an important part of the *Find, Test, Trace, Isolate, Support* model. People with symptoms are identified, tested, their contacts traced, all appropriate persons are given isolation advice and provided with support to isolate where appropriate. Each component of this model is essential to sustainably limit transmission of COVID-19.
- 3.2 As part of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Tier 3 agreement it has been agreed that councils will gain greater control over contact tracing activity. Discussions regarding this are ongoing, however, to date the request for a ring-fenced team declined but additional cash funding has been provided. Given these developments it is important we are clear as a local system on the future direction of contact tracing in Wirral.
- 3.3 A detailed Contact Tracing options paper is included in Appendix 1. This paper:
- Gives an overview of current approaches to contact tracing nationally, regionally and locally
 - Reports headline performance figures for national, regional, and local systems
 - Provides three options for the future direction for contact tracing in Wirral

The paper recommends we further develop locally supported contact tracing plus targeted local contact tracing where intelligence identifies high transmission risks. This option builds local developments to date and focusses contact tracing activity within the COVID hub where it will have the most impact, without significant duplication of national effort or drain on resource from other, equally important aspects of the response.

We propose continued engagement in LCR contact tracing developments with a desire to progress further towards greater local control in the longer term.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Tier 3 funding has been allocated to Wirral for the development of local contact tracing activity.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The delivery of these proposals will rely upon the utilisation of staff and assets by both Wirral Council and wider system partners.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are risks to upscaling delivery due to resource implication, both financial and workforce. Where possible these will be proactively identified and mitigated. Requests for further resources for delivery will be communicated to the National Test and Trace Team.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 No public consultation/ engagement has been undertaken in the writing of this report. However, community engagement will be undertaken to ensure the effective delivery of these proposals.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 These proposals aim to minimise the risk of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable cohorts. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure these proposals do not discriminate against anyone.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No direct climate implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Contact Tracing: Wirral Approach - Options Appraisal

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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