

<b>Report title:</b> Essex Outbreak Plan	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Health and Wellbeing Board	
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<b>Date:</b> 15 July 2020	<b>For:</b> Update and Endorsement
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**1. Purpose of Report**

The Board are asked to note, discuss and endorse the Draft Outbreak Plan for Essex

**2. Recommendations**

2.1. The attached plan is Endorsed by the Board.

**3. Context**

3.1 The coronavirus Outbreak is receding. This is entirely as a result of people's adherence to lockdown.

3.2 As number of cases reduces, local variations in case rates and discrete outbreaks become relatively more significant. A robust local Outbreak Plan can allow wider national relaxation of measures and a return to normality with economic recovery while helping contain local outbreaks

3.3 This will include ensuring local people maintain social distancing at 2m wherever possible and socially isolate if infected or in contact with somebody who is infected as well as maintaining hand hygiene

3.4 As numbers reduce it becomes possible to identify and robustly manage any local outbreaks. This will be delivered through national and local Test, Tract m, Contain and Enable (TTCE) services.

3.5 In addition to TTCE and local comms initiatives to support social distancing, the Outbreak plan will involve consideration of local lockdowns.

**4. Plan and Approach**

4.1 People with symptoms are strongly encouraged to have a test. If positive they will be contacted by a national contact tracing service and their close contacts identified and advised to isolate.

- 4.2 Where the situation is more complex eg care homes, schools, healthcare, hostels, prisons, businesses and workplaces Public Health England (PHE) will be notified and will contact the Local Authority who will work with PHE to manage those outbreaks locally
- 4.3 This has involved development of a local Test and trace service that is provided by Provide and ACE supported by local DC/BC and City EHOs, the Essex Wellbeing Service (EWS), PHE and in-house consultant support. ECC have been given a grant of £5.78m to deliver this service.
- 4.4 The local TTCE service need strong links with the SCG, education, care home hubs, the NHS, the police and providers of services to vulnerable groups. There are standard operating procedures to allow working with all these partners in a range of settings
- 4.5 The Outbreak Plan also required careful understanding and processing of data around numbers and patterns of cases locally to identify and explain any local increase in cases to allow timely intervention.
- 4.6 Governance of the Outbreak system is proscribed with a local officer led Health Protection Board and a member led Outbreak Engagement Board. The membership and terms of reference of these bodies is detailed in the plan. The Health Protection Board will oversee the management of local outbreaks and consider the need for wider actions. The SCG also has a key role in delivering action at a wider system level. The Outbreak Engagement Board will consider and seek action to deliver wider actions locally that will reduce outbreaks including local lockdowns.

## **5 Consideration**

### **a. Financial implications**

The service costs are funded through PH grant and have been agreed.

### **b. Legal implications**

The Plan is a non-statutory document with no direct legal effect. However, it does say how Essex public services would intend to work together in the event of a further outbreak in Essex. It is currently believed that any legal restrictions for a significant local outbreak would be likely to be imposed by central government but the public sector may have existing legal powers to tackle some smaller scale issues

## **6 Equality and Diversity implications**

- 6.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

6.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

6.3 The report is an update of current planning arrangements; each planning group will be responsible for equality impact assessment of any intended plans.

## **7 List of appendices**

Outbreak Plan

## **8 List of background papers**

None