

Report for: Cabinet Member signing 10th August 2020

Title: COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan for Haringey

Report authorised by Dr Will Maimaris – Interim Director of Public Health

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Ward(s) affected: ALL

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report seeks Lead Member agreement to approve the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan for Haringey.
- 1.2. The Haringey COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan will play a vital part in preventing new outbreaks of COVID-19 and reducing the impact of any outbreaks that do occur.
- 1.3. The best way of reducing further impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of our communities is to prevent a significant rise of cases locally. This is also the best way for us to keep our schools open, our care homes COVID free, our high streets operating and our NHS open for all. To do this we need to work across organisations in Haringey and beyond, and we are also asking our residents and communities in Haringey to continue to do their bit to keep us all safe.
- 1.4. The plan will develop over time, considering new and relevant information and guidance as it becomes available. We are committed to constantly learning about how we can better prevent and manage COVID-19 locally.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan at appendix 1.
- 2.2. To agree to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder to make any amendments to the plan required due to the changing nature of the Pandemic and the level of local response needed.

2.3. To note allocation of Haringey's COVID-19 Test and Trace support grant of £1.862m which is to be used to prevent, mitigate and management of outbreaks of COVID-19 in Haringey and support the delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1. All local authorities in England are required to develop and implement a COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan. It was a requirement that each plan be submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care by the end of June 2020. Haringey Council submitted a draft plan as there was recognition that the development of the plan was an iterative process and the situation was fluid.

3.2. In addition, all local authorities in England have been awarded a COVID-19 test and trace service support grant. The purpose of the grant is to support local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19. The grant for Haringey is £1.862m.

4. Alternative options considered

4.1. None were considered as all Local Authorities are requested by Government to have a COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan.

5. Background information

5.1. The Haringey Local Outbreak Management Plan outlines how the Council will play their part and work with other agencies and other parts the public health system to prevent and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. The draft plan is available on the council's website <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/covid-19-local-outbreak-management-plan>. An accessible version is also attached to this report as an appendix.

5.2. The overall objectives for the prevention and management of new COVID-19 outbreaks in Haringey are:

- To prevent local spread and outbreaks of COVID-19 and identify any clusters of cases proactively
- To manage and mitigate any local outbreaks that develop
- To have a multi-agency plan owned by local partners and communities
- To engage and involve local communities
- To understand the impact of COVID-19 on our local communities
- To provide local infrastructure and oversight on outbreak prevention to link into national programmes, and to link with neighbouring areas

5.3. The plan has 8 priority areas:

- 1 Data and information about the outbreak
- 2 Communication, engagement and messaging including prevention
- 3 Management of cases and operational management of outbreaks, including how we will work with neighbouring areas
- 4 Local testing capacity
- 5 Specific settings including care homes and schools
- 6 Haringey's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities
- 7 Supporting people to self-isolate
- 8 Local Governance and oversight

5.4. The work will be steered by a new local Haringey COVID-19 Prevention and Outbreak Management Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health. Attendance for this board will include:

- Haringey Council - Senior managers from environmental health, emergency planning, communications, engagement and community support leads
- Haringey Partners - NHS, voluntary and community sector representative(s) and the local Healthwatch that represents patients in Haringey.

5.5. The Haringey COVID-19 Prevention and Outbreak Management Board will report to Haringey's Health and Wellbeing Board as a forum for political leadership and engagement with the public on our plans.

5.6. Any local outbreaks will be managed through an incident management team, with joint leadership from PHE and any local authorities impacted, as well as other partners relevant to the situation (e.g. headteachers, GPs and care home managers).

5.7. Any incidents which require a local incident management team will also feed into Haringey Council's GOLD emergency planning structure for our COVID response. Haringey Council GOLD is a strategic meeting of senior managers in the council held as required in order to respond to local emergencies. GOLD meetings are currently held weekly, but they can be held more frequently if required.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1. The Haringey COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan contributes to the Haringey Borough Plan 2019 – 23 strategic priorities, particularly to Priority 2 – People, Priority 3 – Place and Priority 4 – Economy.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance Comments

- 7.1 This report is seeking approval for the Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan.
- 7.2 The council has been allocated £1,862,362 ringfenced grant from the Department of Health and Social Care to support the national test and trace service and deliver our local outbreak management plan.
- 7.3 Costs arising from the implementation of the Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan will be allocated against the ringfenced Test and Trace Service Response Grant. The monitoring of this grant will be made through the Adults and Public Health department.

Procurement – not applicable

Legal Comments

- 7.4 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 7.5 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 imposes roles and responsibilities on specified organisations in relation to preparing for and responding to emergencies. Local authorities are a Category 1 responder under the Act, and have a duty to respond to emergencies on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.
- 7.6 Under section 6 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the Director of Public Health is responsible for the Council's public health response to incidents that present a threat to the public's health.
- 7.7 There are a wide range specific statutory responsibilities, duties and powers available to the Council to respond and to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak, which includes the Coronavirus Act 2020 and associated regulations, and the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 as amended and associated regulations, The Council's Covid-19 Outbreak Plan sets out the Council's response, subject to government guidance.
- 7.8 This decision is to be made under Part 4 Section H paragraph 18 (a) and 18 (b) of the Council's Constitution as an urgent decision. This matter is urgent because all local authorities are required to have a local outbreak management plan in place to implement.
- 7.9 The Council's public sector equality duty (PSED) is referred to in the Equalities section of this report. This duty requires the Members to have due regard the requirements of the PSED in their decision-making processes.
- 7.10 To demonstrate that the Council have had 'due regard' to its equalities duties, there is no prescriptive way in which due regard is evidenced. However, it is generally advisable that an equalities impact assessment (EIA) is carried out, as this provides a method of assessing equalities aims.

- 7.11 The comments contained in the Equality Section of the report states that the Plan has a specific section on actions to mitigate impacts of COVID on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups, who, evidence suggests are adversely impacted by COVID-19.
- 7.12 The PSED is a continuing duty, and as the Plan is living document the Council needs to ensure that equalities evidence is taken account of throughout life of the Plan, and due weight is given to equalities aims. It is advisable that an EIA is carried out, and included in any further report.

Equality

- 7.13 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not; Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
 - The plan has a specific section on actions to mitigate impacts of COVID on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups, who, evidence suggests are adversely impacted by COVID-19.

8. Use of Appendices

Haringey's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan – appendix 1

Joint Agreement between the PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre and London Local Authorities for supporting the management of COVID-19 outbreaks and complex settings – Haringey version – appendix 2

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Link to funding allocation announcement for outbreak management at local level – note this funding is intended to support and work with the existing NHS test and trace service. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-authorities-across-england-receive-funding-to-support-new-test-and-trace-service>