

Report to: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 14 July 2020

By: Director of Public Health

Title: East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan

Purpose: To seek Health and Wellbeing Board approval of the proposed East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is recommended to:

- 1) approve the proposed East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan (appendix 1); and**
 - 2) receive a further report at its September 2020 meeting updating on the development of the Plan.**
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1 Background

1.1 Covid-19 (a coronavirus) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation in March 2020 after sustained global transmission.

1.2 East Sussex County Council, like all upper-tier local authorities, was asked by Government to produce a first version of a local Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June 2020, to prevent cases of the virus where possible in East Sussex and to respond to any local outbreaks.

2 Supporting information

2.1 East Sussex County Council has produced a Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan, as required by the Government. The plan (appendix 1) has been developed in collaboration with East Sussex partners, including the NHS and Borough and District Councils.

2.2 Government guidance also requires there to be a public-facing board led by Council Members to communicate openly with the public about the local Plan. This function may be undertaken by an existing body.

2.3 The East Sussex Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan will continue to evolve as guidance is received by Government. The Plan covers the following areas:

- Care homes and schools
- High risk places, settings and communities
- Testing
- Contact tracing
- Integrated data
- Supporting vulnerable people
- Governance.

2.4 Planning to prevent and respond to cases of Covid-19 in our communities requires a whole system and multi-agency approach, including the NHS Test and Trace programme. A wide range of stakeholders have contributed and commented on the East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan and will continue to shape its development. More detail on operational delivery elements will be added to the Plan as more guidance is produced nationally and as the national Joint Biosecurity Centre becomes fully operational.

2.5 The East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board has been designated as the local accountable body for leading the delivery of the Plan and communicating with the public about the Plan. This reflects the Board's role in providing whole system leadership for the health and wellbeing of the people of East Sussex and its membership drawn from a wide range of stakeholders, including elected councillors from East Sussex County Council, and Borough and District Councils.

2.6 £300m funding has been allocated to support the development of these plans, which will be distributed based on public health grants to local authorities and £2.5m has been allocated to East Sussex.

2.7 Consideration may need to be given, when further guidance is issued by the Government, as to whether the terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board need to be updated to reflect any new responsibilities

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board, as the local accountable body, is recommended to approve the proposed East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan. The Plan will continue to develop as further guidance is received from Government.

3.2 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be updated as further guidance is received from Government and the East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan is developed. It is also proposed that a report providing an update on the Plan is made to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2020.

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Background Documents:

None