

Report to: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 17 September 2020

By: Director of Public Health

Title: East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is recommended to:

- 1) approve the revised East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan (Appendix 1); and**
 - 2) receive a report at its December 2020 meeting on further developments of the Plan and update on the position in East Sussex**
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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 published the first version of the East Sussex COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan (OCP) at the end of June, as required by the Government, to prevent cases of the virus where possible in East Sussex and to respond to any local outbreaks.
- 1.3 At its meeting of 14 July, the Board agreed to receive an update on development of the OCP.
- 1.4 The OCP will continue to be an iterative document, with continuing updates as more learning and guidance is produced, as well as structured reviews every three months.

2 Supporting information

- 2.1 The OCP has been updated in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including the NHS and Borough and District Councils (Appendix 1). The updates reflect:
 - changes to guidance and legislation around the powers given to upper and local tier authorities to prevent transmission of the disease;
 - updates arising from local lessons to ensure that the OCP is dynamic and resonates with stakeholders;
 - national lessons learned, particularly from areas subjected to further lockdown and those where softer measures have been introduced;
 - surveillance reporting and the use of and publication of data to ensure transparency for both stakeholders and the public;
 - the development of an escalation framework which will help to guide our approach in the event of increased transmission in either the community or a particular setting.
- 2.2 Surveillance and interpretation of data is key to determining the action required to contain any increases in transmission. A weekly surveillance report has been developed to provide an accessible overview of cases in East Sussex. This is distributed to key stakeholders and published to the website alongside the OCP.

2.3 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. It has recently been announced that the way Test and Trace is configured nationally may be extended to include local involvement. All Local Authorities in the South East have put themselves forward for training to understand how this can best work in the future.

2.4 An escalation framework (Appendix 2) has been developed to describe the different stages that an area may need to move to as transmission of COVID-19 increases, or manifests in differential distribution across the county with the possibility of localised outbreaks. The framework has been aligned across Sussex. The four stages are:

- Outbreak prevention and containment
- Raised local alertness
- Raised local concern
- National oversight

2.5 There has been a £2.5m grant allocation to ESCC to support the development of its response to the pandemic and this will be used to support Districts and Borough Environmental Health Teams and ESCC Trading Standards, Emergency Planning, Communications and Public Health functions.

2.7 An exercise to test the OCP will be held with key stakeholders on 17th September. The learning from this exercise will be used to update the OCP.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board, as the local accountable body, is recommended to approve the latest version of the OCP.

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 December 2020.

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Background Documents:

None