

Report to: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 8 December 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 further report at its March 2021 meeting 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 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 / guidance is produced, as well as structured whole reviews every 3 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. 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, including from the recent exercise, 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;
- a further development the escalation framework based on the new local COVID-19 alert levels, published nationally.

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 recently 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. From November 2020 East Sussex County Council will be supporting contact tracing where an individual has tested positive but the NHS Test and Trace system has not been successful in making contact with them. This locally supported contact tracing aims to improve the proportion of people successfully followed up.

2.4 The local escalation framework has been superseded by the new local COVID alert levels published by the government in October 2020 and the different actions and interventions required at each level. However, these were subsequently replaced by new national restrictions from the 5th November. It is anticipated once national restrictions are eased that the tiers will resume again. For more information see the national guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>.

2.5 Budget plans for the £2.5m allocated to East Sussex to support the development of its response have been proposed, including an allocation to Districts and Borough Environmental Health Teams, and ESCC Trading Standards, Emergency Planning, Communications and Public Health functions.

2.7 A multi-agency exercise to test the OCP was held with our key stakeholders on 17 September. The learning from this exercise has been 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 March 2020.

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Background Documents:

None