



Northumberland

County Council

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

8th July 2021

Updated Northumberland COVID 19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

Report of: Cath McEvoy-Carr Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Cllr Wendy Pattison - Adult Health and Wellbeing

Purpose of report

1. To present the Council's updated COVID 19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.

Recommendations

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board, in its capacity as the Covid 19 Outbreak Control Board, is invited to:
 - Note the contents of the updated plan and the ongoing approach to COVID 19 prevention and control;
 - Provide any additional proposals for amendment and endorse the plan.

Link to Corporate Plan

3. This report is linked to the 'Living' priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

Key issues

4. Every Local Authority in England was required to have a COVID 19 Outbreak Control Plan published in the public domain by 30th June 2020. In March 2021 Local Authorities were asked to update Local Outbreak Management Plans to respond to:
 - The publication of the Government's Roadmap out of lockdown
 - The refresh of the national [Contain Framework](#)
 - An increasing focus on Variants of Concern (VOC)
5. Northumberland's updated COVID 19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan was submitted for review to the Regional Oversight Group on 14th March 2021. The Regional Oversight Group escalated risks, issues, and opportunities from all plans

submitted from LAs across the region to the national-level Assurance Working Group.

6. A multi-disciplinary group of partners involved in delivery of the plan were invited to contribute to the refresh. Workstream contributions highlighted progress and future plans across key themes and key risks, issues and opportunities were identified through discussion with members of the Health Protection Board. The updated plan outlines how our collective local knowledge, experience and expertise has been utilised in order to control and prevent transmission of COVID-19 in Northumberland, and includes examples of both innovative practice and key challenges. The plan also sets out at a high level our aspirations for developing this programme of work over the coming months, and how this approach will ensure we continue to provide a robust, joined-up response to the pandemic as it evolves and the County transitions out of lockdown restrictions.
7. Following final approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board (Outbreak Control Board), the plan will be published on the NCC website. It will continue to be an iterative document which can be reviewed and adapted to accommodate emerging evidence, thinking and political decision making.

Background

8. The objectives underpinning the refresh of Local Outbreak Management Plans are:
 - To ensure that updated fit for purpose local outbreak management plans are in place
 - To identify what further support LA's need from the national and regional teams, particularly in relation to surge activity
 - To learn how the current response is working in local areas and future opportunities for more to be delivered locally and regionally and nationally supported and enabled
 - To identify good practice – most particularly in respect of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions in responding to non-common problems
 - To use these insights to feed back into national strategy and policy development, including on recovery; to refine the operational response; and

inform the design of the National Institute of Health Protection (NIHP), in particular regional and local teams

- To ensure the governance of and roles/responsibilities on each aspect of the response is clear
- To ensure Local Outbreak Management Plans reflect cross-cutting considerations, such as inequalities
- To provide ongoing assurance and justification of the need for financial support from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and self-isolation funding

9. The refreshed plan highlights work undertaken to date and, where relevant, future aspirations across the thematic areas covered by the original plan:

- Higher-risk settings, communities and locations e.g. care homes, prisons, hospitality, hospitals and educational settings
- Vulnerable and underserved communities
- Compliance and enforcement
- Governance
- Resourcing
- Communications and engagement, including community resilience
- Data integration and information sharing

It outlines the development of core aspects of Northumberland's end-to-end COVID-19 response including community rapid testing, contact tracing, support for self-isolation, outbreak management and surveillance.

10. The plan also includes details of ongoing and planned activity around themes which have emerged since the publication of the original document, these are:

- Responding to Variants of Concern (VOC)
- Action on enduring transmission
- Enhanced Contact Tracing, in partnership with Public Health England Health Protection Teams
- Ongoing role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)
- Interface with vaccines roll out
- Activities to enable 'living with COVID' (COVID secure)

11. The original version of the plan is published on the NCC website; this will be replaced with the refreshed version following its approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Publication of the plan allows partners and residents to understand the system-wide response to Covid-19 in Northumberland and to feed into its delivery where appropriate through the relevant thematic groups and community engagement activities.

12. The Council was allocated funding during FY 20/21 through a Test and Trace Fund as part of £300M made available to Upper Tier Local Authorities to support the development and delivery of local outbreak control plans last year; and additional funding through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund in 20/21 and 21/22. Whilst this funding is welcome, resource to deliver the plan remains a challenge as available health protection and other relevant expertise is stretched to meet demand both in Northumberland and across the region. Health protection is a key aspect of the Public Health team’s role and outbreak management has always formed a significant part of this. The local authority has worked with partners for many years to prevent, detect and manage outbreaks of disease. As such, there are already a number of plans in place which set out how the system responds to outbreaks, and this revised Outbreak Control Plan continues to draw and build upon existing arrangements and experience.

Appendix

Draft Revised Northumberland Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan dated 14th March 21

Implications

Policy	Strategic policy implications have been considered in relation to the Council receiving policies from the Central Government and developing policy locally
Finance and value for money	The Council has robust records relating to financial expenditure for COVID 19 related activities and these are being reported in line with reporting structures locally, regionally and nationally. The Council has received additional funding for COVID-19 and the longer-term financial implications for the Council are under consideration.
Legal	Legal advice has been obtained from the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer throughout the COVID-19 response.
Procurement	Procurement support has been provided by the Council's Shared Procurement Service including support for the sourcing and purchase of additional PPE.
Human Resources	The Council has operated within its existing policies and procedures as part of its COVID-19 response and has worked with trade union colleagues to develop new policies, procedures and protocols where appropriate.
Property	Property regulations have been adhered to throughout the emergency response with additional support provided for Facilities staff in relation to cleaning regimes as per any additional guidance received.
Equalities	The council is undertaking a Covid 19 Inequalities Community Impact Assessment. The pandemic will have exacerbated

(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	existing inequalities within the county and recovery plans will need to reflect the need to address those.
Risk Assessment	Risk Assessments have been undertaken for a wide range of Council related activities and these are held centrally for reference purposes.
Crime & Disorder	The Council has maintained regular contact with Northumbria Police throughout the COVID-19 emergency response, paying particular attention to national policy including lockdown arrangements, travel and any anti-social behaviour/crime issues which have been managed locally.
Customer Consideration	Northumberland Communities Together and our Contact Centre/Customer Services colleagues have worked closely to ensure that we have responsive service available to our residents at all times, particularly those in need and who are vulnerable.
Carbon reduction	The Council has continued with its climate change work during the emergency response and this will be monitored.
Health and Wellbeing	This paper is relevant to the health and wellbeing of our residents and our staff and the Council's Director of Public Health has been involved in the Council's emergency response throughout.
Wards	All

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Helen Lancaster
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Wendy Pattison

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