

## Officer Non Key Executive Decision

<b>Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):</b>	Dr Arif Rajpura, Director Of Public Health
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):</b>	Cllr Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
<b>Report Author (Officer name and title):</b>	Liz Petch, Consultant in Public Health
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	30 June 2020

### GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place to allow local government planning and response systems to be at the centre of a Covid-19 outbreak response. This includes the ability to quickly deploy resources to the most critical areas of need.

#### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the establishment of the Covid-19 Health Protection Board which will be responsible for ensuring Blackpool has adequate planning arrangements to be able to respond effectively and efficiently to outbreak management; ensuring plans and processes are in place. This group will be Chaired by the Director of Public Health or the Consultant in Public Health and if they are absent a deputy.
- 2.2 To agree the establishment of a COVID-19 Outbreak Engagement Board to provide elected member ownership and public facing engagement and communication for outbreak response. This group will be Chaired by the Leader of the Council and if they are absent a deputy.

#### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The legal context for managing outbreaks of communicable disease which present a risk to the health of the public requiring urgent investigation and management sits:
- With Public Health England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
  - With Directors of Public Health under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
  - With Chief Environmental Health Officers under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
  - With NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups to collaborate with Directors of Public

Health and Public Health England to take local action (e.g. testing and treating) to assist the management of outbreaks under the Health and Social Care Act 2012

- With other responders specific responsibilities to respond to major incidents as part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- In the context of COVID-19 there is also the Coronavirus Act 2020.

This underpinning context gives Local Authorities (Public Health and Environmental Health) and Public Health England the primary responsibility for the delivery and management of public health actions to be taken in relation to outbreaks of communicable disease through the local Health Protection Partnerships (sometimes these are Local Health Resilience Partnerships) and local Memoranda of Understanding. These arrangements are clarified in the 2013 guidance *Health Protection in Local Government*<sup>1</sup>.

The Director of Public Health has primary responsibility for the health of their communities. This includes being assured that the arrangements to protect the health of the communities that they serve are robust and are implemented. The primary foundation of developing and deploying local Outbreak Management Plans in response to COVID-19 is the public health expertise of the local Director of Public Health.

Therefore there is a requirement for these governance arrangements to be in place in order to ensure Local Authority leadership and management in the COVID-19 outbreak and to help co-ordinate efforts between national and local governments, the NHS, private and community sectors and residents and communities.

3.2a	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?	No
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3.2b	Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?	No
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3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

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<sup>1</sup> Protecting the health of the local population: the new health protection duty of local authorities under the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 The Department of Health and Social Care Response Plan for Local Government requires Upper Tier Local Authority's and their partners to be able to respond to 7 key themes as part of local Outbreak Management Plans.
- 5.2 An Outbreak Management Plan is currently being drafted for Blackpool and will be presented to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board for approval before being submitted to national Government by the end of June 2020. The Plan addresses each of the below key themes, with the aim to give reassurance that a timely and appropriate response is in place locally in order prevent, detect and manage further incidents and outbreaks of COVID-19 within Blackpool (and the wider Fylde Coast, as appropriate).
- 5.3 This includes the establishment of an Outbreak Management Hub which will act as the single point of contact (SPOC) for access to Level 1 support of the Government's three level NHS Test and Trace programme. The Outbreak Management Hub will be responsible for conducting the initial risk assessment within 24 hours of being notified of a positive result and deploying teams, as appropriate to manage the outbreak.
- 5.4 In many cases, it builds on existing plans to manage outbreaks in specific settings (e.g. care homes) and intends to maximise existing knowledge, skills and expertise in health protection, infection prevention and control, epidemiology and surveillance, contact tracing and evaluation across the system; involving all appropriate agencies and organisations (statutory, voluntary and private sector) in order to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on local communities.

- 1 **Care homes and schools**  
Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response)
- 2 **High risk places, locations and communities**  
Identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities of interest (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies)
- 3 **Local testing capacity**  
Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment, examples may include NHS, pop-up etc).
- 4 **Contact tracing in complex settings**  
Assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities, developing assumptions to estimate demand and options to scale capacity)
- 5 **Data integration**  
Integrating national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook (e.g., data management planning, including data security, NHS data linkages)
- 6 **Vulnerable people**  
Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups etc) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities
- 7 **Local Boards**  
Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### List of Appendices:

Appendix A - Terms of Reference COVID-19 Health Protection Board

Appendix B – Terms of Reference COVID-19 Outbreak Engagement Board

#### 6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 See Item 3.0 above

#### 7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 A number of staff within the Council have been asked to become part of the Outbreak Management Hub and existing Public Health Team staff have been redeployed to manage the SPOC. This will be kept under review in terms of capacity and resources needed adequately manage incidents and outbreaks.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 Additional ring-fenced funding has been awarded to Public Health in Local Authority's in order to help with the response to NHS Test and Trace.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Non-compliance with national guidance  
Inability to respond adequately and efficiently to an outbreak

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 All work undertaken to date has been in line with national Government guidance and in liaison with the Lancashire Resilience Forum and North West Regional Office of Public Health England.

Corporate Leadership Team, Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Members of Parliament have been regularly updated as to the outbreak situation at a nationally, regional and local level by the Director of Public Health.

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

13.1 To agree the establishment of the Covid-19 Health Protection Board which will be responsible for ensuring Blackpool has adequate planning arrangements to be able to respond effectively and efficiently to outbreak management; ensuring plans and processes are in place. This group will be Chaired by the Director of Public Health or the Consultant in Public Health and if they are absent a deputy.

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## 14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The legal context for managing outbreaks of communicable disease which present a risk to the health of the public requiring urgent investigation and management sits:

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