

# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
<b>DATE:</b>	13 August 2020

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Public Health and Wellbeing
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
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<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b> Blackburn with Darwen COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local authorities have a significant role to play in the identification and management of COVID-19 outbreaks. All upper-tier local authorities (UTLAs) were instructed to produce a Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) by the end of June 2020.

The aim of the LOMP is to provide a clear plan setting out the way we will work with the new national NHS test and trace system to provide a fully co-ordinated approach to contain and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19.

The Blackburn with Darwen COVID-19 Health Protection Board is responsible for the LOMP. It will provide oversight on how outbreaks are managed, informed by local intelligence and data.

Blackburn with Darwen Council has been allocated a grant of £1.36 million to fund the implementation of the LOMP.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- a) Approves Issue 1 of the Blackburn with Darwen COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan
- b) Monitors implementation and update of the Plan through the Member-led, Outbreak Engagement Board.

## 3. BACKGROUND

On 31 December 2019 the World Health Organisation (WHO) was informed of a cluster of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China. A novel coronavirus was identified and the disease it causes termed COVID-19. On 31 January 2020 the first cases were detected in the UK, and on 23 March 2020 the UK entered lockdown.

As part of the gradual relaxation of lockdown measures a new NHS test and trace service was launched on 28 May 2020 with the aim to help to identify, contain and control coronavirus, reduce the spread of the virus and save lives.

Local authorities have a significant role to play in the identification and management of COVID-19 outbreaks. All upper-tier local authorities (UTLAs) were instructed to produce a Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) by the end of June 2020.

The aim of the LOMP is to provide a clear plan setting out the way we will work with the new national NHS test and trace system to provide a fully co-ordinated approach to contain and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19.

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a responsibility to ensure that plans are in place, as well as the necessary capacity and capability to quickly deploy resources to the most critical areas, in response to COVID-19 outbreaks, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

a) A national test and trace service has been established which includes 4 key elements:

- Test
- Trace
- Contain
- Enable

There are 3 tiers to the contact tracing operating model:

- **Tier 3:** There are approximately 15,000 national contact tracers who are trained to make initial contact and provide advice to those testing positive and their contacts.
- **Tier 2:** There are approximately 3,000 health care professionals employed nationally who are trained to interview cases and identify contacts.
- **Tier 1:** Where Tier 3 and Tier 2 identify a degree of complexity and a 'context' for concern, for example, a school, health setting, care home or workplace, they will escalate to Tier 1.
- At Tier 1 the Local Health Protection Teams (LHPT) from Public Health England (PHE) will work with local partners, including the Local Authority Public Health Team (LAPHT), to follow up cases and agree action to contain the outbreak.

The expectation is that the vast majority of people requesting tests and/or being contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service will be supported through Tiers 2 and 3.

However, for more complex situations, the knowledge and relationships which local partners have will be invaluable, working in collaboration with PHE (Tier 1), in providing a timely and appropriate response to a local outbreak.

This will include the ability to swiftly mobilise local testing capacity and capability, support local intelligence gathering, provide infection control advice and ensure timely communications to the public.

A key risk identified in mid-July, through local analysis by the BwD public health team, is that the (national) Tiers 2 and 3 appeared to be completing contact tracing for less than half of confirmed cases in a number of local authority areas, including BwD. From the 20<sup>th</sup> July we have been working with PHE & DHSC nationally and regionally to address this issue locally.

b) The LOMP focuses on seven themes:

1. Planning for local outbreaks in **care homes and schools**
2. Identifying and planning how to manage **other high-risk places, locations and communities of interest**
3. Identifying methods for local **testing** to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population.
4. **Contact tracing and infection control capability in complex settings**
5. Integrating national and local **data and scenario planning**, through the Joint Biosecurity Centre
6. **Supporting vulnerable local people** to get help to self-isolate and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.
7. **Establishing governance structures**, including Member-led Boards to communicate with the general public.

In addition to these seven themes the LOMP considers effective communication with the public and local stakeholders

While the plan deals with all local COVID-19 outbreaks, it also identifies and prioritises preventative and early intervention measures for key settings, such as care homes and schools, and high-risk locations and communities to make sure they are supported.

The Blackburn with Darwen COVID-19 Health Protection Board is responsible for the LOMP. It will provide oversight on how outbreaks are managed, informed by local intelligence and data.

Containing local outbreaks, while led by the local DPH, needs to be a coordinated effort working with a range of local, regional and national partners.

The Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) of the Local (Lancashire) Resilience Forum (LRF), which covers the local authority areas of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, has responsibility to agree and co-ordinate strategic actions for the purposes of the Civil Contingencies Act in managing demand on systems, infrastructures and services and protecting human life and welfare.

The SCG provides co-ordination and oversight across larger geographical footprints, however, local areas are responsible for determining how these arrangements will work.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There was a national requirement for Issue 1 of the LOMP to be published by the end of June 2020, which was done and the published document is the supporting document appended.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Blackburn with Darwen Council has been allocated a grant of £1.36 million to fund the implementation of the LOMP, the time period covered by this funding has not been stated. An investment plan to establish robust local arrangements is currently being developed.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The LOMP includes a summary of relevant regulatory powers. The Council has a statutory duty to protect the population's health by responding to and managing communicable disease outbreaks, which requires urgent investigation and presents a public health risk.

The legal context for the Councils' response to COVID-19 sits within the following Acts:

- The Coronavirus Act 2020
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984

In addition to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 that come into force on 18 July increase Council's powers to tackle local outbreaks. The Health Protection ([Coronavirus Restrictions](#)) ([Blackburn with Darwen and Luton](#)) [Regulations 2020](#) further empowers the Council to protect against the risk to public health from COVID -19.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

While the response to a local outbreak is led by public health, the skills and expertise of the local system are required to effectively manage outbreaks. Public health within Local Government and PHE do not have the capacity, skills or expertise alone.

Resources and input will be needed from organisations and professional groups, such as (amongst others):

- Environmental health officers
- Infection prevention and control
- Health and social care
- Communications officers
- Data and intelligence analysts
- Health and safety officers

The precise additional resource required locally will be dependent upon the number and complexity of COVID-19 outbreaks.

We will expand capacity for the management of outbreaks within the local workforce, in particular for those staff directly involved in testing, outbreak and consequence management, provision of specialist advice and guidance, contact tracing or provision of support to vulnerable people who are instructed to self-isolate.

Where appropriate, shared solutions are being explored to help build capacity and resilience across the LRF.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

**Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.**

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Mandated governance of the LOMP includes a Member-led Outbreak Engagement Board which in BwD reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board, membership of which includes all Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

#### **11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

#### **12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Gifford Kerr</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	23.07.20
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	LOMP Issue 1, June 2020
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