

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Public Health
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG): Terms of reference for an LRF Public Health Advice Cell (PHAC) were agreed on 23.4.20, chaired by the DPH with membership from Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council (CCC/PCC), the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and Public Health England (PHE).
- Administration of and provision of public health advice and guidance to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LRF multi-agency COVID-19 Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG)
- Co-chairing the Cambs & Peterborough LRF Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Cell: The LRF PPE cell is now implementing the distribution of PPE sent to the LRF from the national stockpile, to eligible local organisations which require emergency supplies.
- Jointly leading a stocktake of vulnerable/socially excluded population groups and COVID-19 related needs and issues with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, working across LRF partner agencies and reporting to the LRF Community Reference Group, which has highlighted work on housing and Travellers.
- Work with the COVID-19 Community Hub to support implementation of the LRF vulnerable people's protocol
- Public health guidance for volunteers has been developed, working with the COVID-19 Community Hub and districts and is being delivered through a short series of scripted videoblogs recorded by the deputy DPH
- Public health analysts involved in ongoing work with the LRF Intelligence Cell on modelling - including linking to regional Public Health England resources and ONS reports at local authority level.
- Working with CCG, CPFT, Voluntary sector and Communications Team to develop and implement a multi-agency COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing plan and campaign. The public campaign launched 27.4.20, including radio Cambridgeshire and television interviews with the PH mental health lead and leads from other agencies.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council (CCC/PCC) COVID-19 Joint Management Team Gold Group and the Silver Tactical working group on a range of issues.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to CCC/PCC People and Communities Management Team and Service Directors on various issues, e.g. PPE, Public Health England (PHE) guidance. PHE, LA and CCG have agreed joint standard operating procedures for support and advice to care homes.
- Work with the communications team on DPH vlog (two produced last week) and other communication channels including radio interview last week with DPH on social distancing and other queries.
- Provision of public health advice and answering of queries for Council staff through the AskDrLiz e-mail helpline
- Ongoing work with providers of contracted public health programmes to monitor contracts and support with management of COVID-19 related issues and to manage/finalise procurements which were in process when COVID-19 incident started.
- Work with the Director of Customer and Digital Services to start to prepare for the implementation of contact tracing, which is currently in the design stage nationally.
- Maintain regional links with the East of England Public Health England Team and joint Public Health England/NHS England regional incident management. Acting as a conduit for escalation of public health queries and issues to regional PHE team.
- Attend Public Health England led multi-agency incident meetings for specific local COVID-19 outbreaks of concern, as local representative.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Not all population groups may have access to and understanding of public health messages and guidance.
This risk is being mitigated through close working between the Councils' communication team, cohesion lead, and public health to ensure that key public health messages are conveyed through different routes and different languages. Also through the wider LRF 'Warn and Inform' group, which brings in communication leads from district councils, police, and other agencies.
- Vulnerable/socially excluded population groups may find it hard to socially distance/self isolate or their welfare may be impacted by COVID-19 in other ways.
This risk is being mitigated through a variety of measures often taken at a local (district) level. A stocktake of the current needs and issues for vulnerable/socially excluded population groups is now in place, jointly led by public health and the office of the police and crime commissioner. This reports weekly into the LRF Community Reference Group so that appropriate actions can be taken.
- Potential risk of spread within residential institutions with vulnerable populations e.g. care homes, prisons (further national guidance for care homes was provided 3/4/20).
This risk is being mitigated through prisons and care homes reporting COVID-19 cases to the Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team, which provides advice on measures to prevent further spread of the virus. Considerable support to care homes is delivered through the local authority adult social care and commissioning teams, which attend a daily call with the CCG infection control nurses and NHS community services, to ensure that all care homes with outbreaks are supported through the appropriate actions. Standard operating procedures have been agreed across the PHE HPT, local authorities and the CCG.

Challenges

- Ensuring that PPE national stockpile received by the LRF is distributed appropriately when eligible organisations require additional supplies.
This challenge has been mitigated by the work of the LRF PPE cell, including public health staff preparing organisation/service specific summaries of the new national PPE guidance.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- All public health staff now working from home
- Public health consultant workforce has one vacancy with the postholder scheduled to start next week.
- Additional support from two retired public health consultants returned to work

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- Some limited financial impact through extension of public health contracts, where some savings had been planned as part of implementation of new contracts.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Public health attendance at LRF Recovery Group, and participation in discussion on the best arrangements for a health recovery Sub-Group.
- Public health specialist registrar has completed a short literature search/review of recovery planning issues, after other pandemics.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Joint work with Comms team and Cohesion team on public health communications plan and toolkit, including ongoing promotion of the 'Stay at Home' and core hygiene messaging, mental health and wellbeing, and promoting communication with diverse communities.