

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

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NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

The Association of Directors of Public Health, Local Government Association, Public Health England, Society of Local Authority of Chief Executives, Chief Environmental Health Officers Group and Faculty of Public Health have published 'Guiding Principles for Making Outbreak Management Work' for application to Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plans (LOCPs) and arrangements.

A web-based self- assessment assurance framework for LOCPs was published for all local authority areas to complete for review by regional teams.

Examples of best practice and a framework for communications for LOCPs were collated and circulated by Tom Riordan, Local Authority Chief Executive representative on the national Test and Trace team.

The above information and guidance has been used to review our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LOCP and prioritise the next steps for implementation.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan

The Local Outbreak Control Plan covers the following seven workstreams.

- Surveillance - daily review of local Covid-19 epidemiology and trends, using national, regional and local sources of data.
- Testing arrangements and capacity
- Outbreak management plans for complex settings (including care homes, schools, healthcare settings, workplaces, vulnerable groups)
- Additional support for more vulnerable people advised to self isolate as cases or close contacts under 'test and trace' and local community response plans
- Identifying the new workforce required, including for local contact tracing, and the training requirements for existing staff or volunteers. The District/City Council Environmental Health Officer workforce and support staff will form an important part of this plan, and we are working closely with them.
- Communications
- Governance - including the officer led multi-agency Health Protection Board and Member led Local Outbreak Engagement Board.
- The draft LOCP was discussed at a special meeting of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Boards Whole System Joint Sub-Committee on 29th June. The HWB Board members emphasised the contribution that local community groups and volunteers had already made to the Covid-19 response over past months, and the importance of their involvement in delivering the LOCP, together with a wider range of Councillors and community champions.
- Following final amendments to the LOCP in response to HWB Board comments, the LOCP was published on the Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council websites on 30th June, in line with national requirements.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace#local-outbreak-control-plan-7-0>
<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace#local-outbreak-control-plan-7-0>
- The focus is now on LOCP implementation. The Surveillance Group and the Outbreak Management Team described in the LOCP are now meeting daily to deliver the functions described in the LOCP, with on-call arrangements for week-ends. This activity is overseen by the multi-agency Health Protection Board which meets weekly. A detailed action plan to put further capacity and infrastructure in place in line with the LOCP will be overseen by the Programme Delivery Group. The first public meeting of the Member- led Local Outbreak Engagement Board will take place on Friday 10th July.

Publication of 'Pillar 2' testing data

On Thursday 2nd July, Public Health England changed the way it presented its daily data release, to include 'Pillar 2' testing data as well as 'Pillar 1' testing data. Pillar 1 is testing in local laboratories - mainly for hospital patients and care home residents, and only Pillar 1 test results were reported on the national Covid-19 dashboard before July 2nd. Pillar 2 testing is processed in national laboratories and is mainly tests booked by individuals in the community - such as the tests available at the drive through site in Peterborough Showground, the postal tests made available through the national Test and Trace website, and whole care home testing of staff and residents. This meant that all local authorities nationally showed a step change on the national PHE Covid-19 dashboard, with an increase in their total number of confirmed cases due to including both current and historical pillar 2 results. In Peterborough this change was particularly marked, as Peterborough has had a higher than average rate of confirmed Pillar 2 cases. Proactive communications work was carried out with briefings for partners, local media, and all Councillors to ensure that there was good understanding of this change to data reporting. The overall trends for in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at this point are that numbers of confirmed cases and deaths continue to reduce.

Peterborough Prevention Activity

Information about Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 cases in Peterborough was investigated further by the local Surveillance Cell, through analysis of recently supplied anonymised post-code data. Proactive public health messaging had already been increased in Peterborough, and this more detailed information allowed further targeting of prevention activity through the community rapid response team, led by the Communities and Safety Directorate. With the relaxing of the lockdown measures and places such as pubs and restaurants being able to open, efforts were focussed on general prevention messages for all communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and targeted engagement with communities in the city centre, Millfield and New England areas in Peterborough to support communities with advice around social distancing and measures they could take to keep themselves and their friends and family safe.

Outbreak at Princes Factory, Wisbech

An outbreak at Princes Factory, Wisbech received significant media attention with over 20 cases reported. The outbreak has now stabilised and the situation continues to be monitored carefully. Public Health England, Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health and Environmental Health colleagues at Fenland District Council have liaised with and supported the Princes Management Team to control the outbreak.

Ongoing work includes:

- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG): This is done through the Director of Public health being a member of the SCG, and through a multi-agency Public Health Advice Cell (PHAC) which includes membership from the CCG and Public Health England as well as local authority public health.
- 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, for eligible local organisations which require emergency supplies
- Continuing to implement the findings of the stocktake of vulnerable/socially excluded population groups reporting to the LRF Community Reference Group and the LRF Vulnerable People's Recover Sub-Group. This work will be used to support planning for outbreaks of Covid-19 among vulnerable populations, as part of the C&P Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- Public health analysts are involved in ongoing work with the LRF Intelligence Cell on modelling and surveillance, as well as contributing directly to the LOCP Surveillance Cell. They are producing regular Covid-19 overview reports based on publically available data e.g. from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England (PHE) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- Working with CCG, CPFT, Voluntary sector and Communications Team on ongoing delivery of a multi-agency COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing plan and campaign.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council (CCC/PCC) COVID-19 Joint Management Team Gold Group, including updates on most recent Covid-19 data and trends, 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 and wider Public Health England (PHE) guidance to the social care sector. A public health specialist is working closely with Adult Social Care and the NHS on implementation of new Care Homes national guidance, including prioritisation of testing for residents. Advice is also provided for Children’s Services and Education Services.
- 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.
- 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.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

- The LRF Recovery Group Public Health and Prevention sub-group will function as a sub-group of both the LRF and the STP’s Recovery work, ensuring a fully joined up approach.
- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Recovery Sub-Group
- Involvement in arrangements for NHS recovery, which will be led by the NHS Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP).
- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Economic Recovery Sub-Group
- Public Health specialist advice to the LRF Restoration Sub-Group.
- Public Health specialist advice to public transport restoration group
- Public health input to CCC/PCC recovery planning

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- -Publication of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

The Local Authority Test and Trace allocations to support Local Outbreak Control Plan implementation have been published and for Cambridgeshire the allocation is £2,493,304. An overarching financial framework has been agreed by the Health Protection Board, and a Finance Sub-Group will meet to consider and approve business cases within that framework. It is expected the grant will fund a range of services, including additional resource for District/City Council Environmental Health teams.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

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COMMUNICATIONS

Ongoing joint work with the Communications team on promoting preventive public health messages, with a further campaign due to launch this week. Proactive communications about the publications of Pillar 2 Test results.