

	Health and Wellbeing Board 23rd July 2020
Title	Barnet COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP)
Report of	Director of Public Health
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix I: Best Practice Guide for Care settings Appendix II: Best Practice Guide for Places of Worship
Officer Contact Details	Dr Tamara Djuretic, Director of Public Health and Prevention Tamara.djuretic@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

NHS Test and Trace commenced on 28th May 2020 and all local authorities across the country were asked to support the system by developing and publishing Local Outbreak Control Plans by 30th June. In addition, Barnet has been selected to contribute further as part of the Best Practice Group Network. Barnet, together with Camden, Hackney and Newham, represented London. As part of this work, Barnet Public Health Team, working across the Council and London-wide networks, published two Best Practice Guides, as per Appendix I and Appendix II. Barnet's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Plan can be accessed here www.barnet.gov.uk/outbreakcontrolplan.

At present, the Plan covers most areas identified as high-risk for potential spread of the infection (e.g. schools, care settings, workplaces, places of worship etc.) and further details are being worked through to cover settings such as leisure facilities and University settings.

During COVID-19 Pandemic, two HWB Board webinars were held with the main aim to engage wider audience. The first webinar focused on schools and second webinar focused on places of worship. They were very well attended and created a good forum for open and timely engagement in order to prevent potential outbreaks happening at these settings.

Recommendations

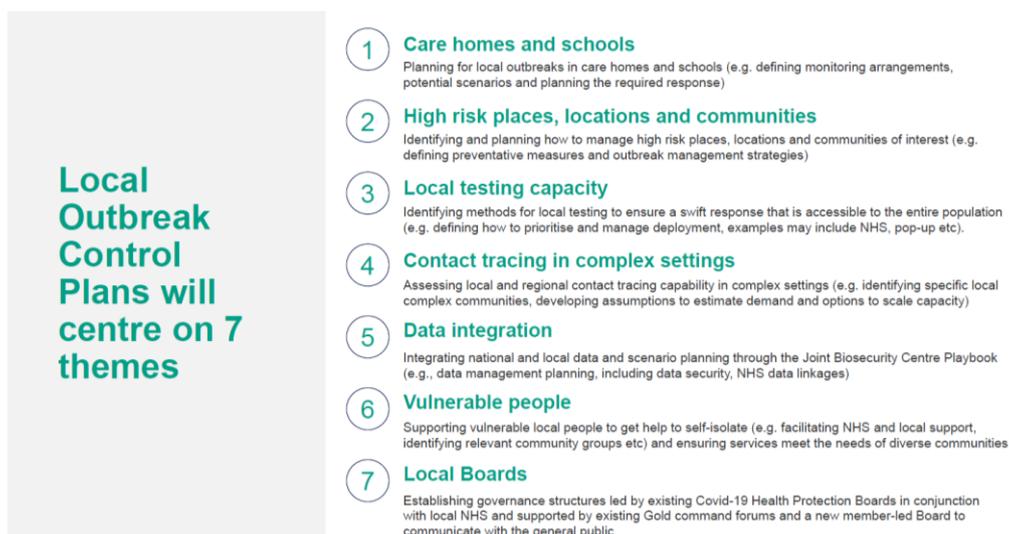
1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note Barnet's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan and the Board's role in management of local outbreaks.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

BACKGROUND

This plan provides a summary of the principles of COVID-19 outbreak management across Barnet including an outline of the key roles and responsibilities across the system, the mechanisms and infrastructure in place to deliver this and appropriate routes of accountability.

The Plan outlines seven themes, as per below, that include local preparedness to prevent, control and manage COVID-19 incidents and outbreaks, if and as when they emerge.



The Plan describes our local whole system response and it has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders and overseen by Barnet COVID-19 Health Protection Board. It has been signed off by Barnet's Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health, Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team and Health Protection Board. This is a live and iterative document and will be regularly updated, as further evidence emerges.

The main aims of the Plan are to:

- Build on the existing plans to prevent and manage outbreaks in specific settings;
- Ensure the challenges of COVID-19 are understood;
- Consider the impact on local communities and
- Ensure the wider system works together to contain the spread of infection locally.

Barnet's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan is guided by the principles and legislative framework specified in the national document named '[Guiding Principles for Effective Management of COVID-19 at a local level](#)' and signed by Association of Directors of Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Public Health England, Local Government Association, Solace and UK Chief Environmental Officers Group.

There are four principles for the design and Operationalisation of LOCPs arrangements, including local contact tracing, if needed. There are stated below:

- Be rooted in public health systems and leadership
- Adopt a whole system approach
- Be delivered through an efficient and locally effective and responsive system including being informed by timely access to data and intelligence
- Be sufficiently resourced

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 As specified in the Guiding Principles, Health and Wellbeing Boards across the country will have crucial role in engagement to prevent and to effectively manage outbreaks, if and when they occur. It is therefore crucial for the Board to be cited on the Plan and to understand accountability and Governance in event of a local outbreak.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Plan will be tested further in a series of events and developed as the new guidelines and details emerge. Its further reiterations will be overseen by COVID-19 Health Protection Board.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

The Outbreak Control Plan describes how we will manage and control COVID-19 in the current phase of the pandemic and will be crucial in enabling our communities to live with COVID-19. Providing this safe approach will be crucial in supporting the system across Barnet to deliver against the corporate plan priorities, particularly considering those residents who are more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The Council has received additional funding of £1,599,177 to support NHS Test and Trace and management of the outbreak of COVID-19.

5.2.2 Members are requested to note this allocation as additional government

funding that will support the local outbreak control plan.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 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.

5.4.2 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 local Health Protection Partnerships. These arrangements are clarified in the 2013 guidance Health Protection in Local Government.

5.4.3 PHE is mandated to fulfil the Secretary of State's duty to protect the public's health from infectious diseases, working with the NHS, local government and other partners. This includes providing surveillance; specialist services, such as diagnostic and reference microbiology; investigation and management of outbreaks of infectious diseases; ensuring effective emergency preparedness, resilience and response for health emergencies.

5.4.4 At a local level PHE's health protection teams and field services work in partnership with DsPH, playing strategic and operational leadership roles both in the development and implementation of outbreak control plans and in the identification and management of outbreaks.

5.4.5 The Director of Public Health has and retains 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 is the public health expertise of the local Director of Public Health.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The challenges posed by Covid-19 present significant risks to the Council and this plan is a mechanism via which we will mitigate direct risks of Covid-19 infection and transmission. This plan outlines the key steps and functions that will ensure emerging risks in the form of outbreaks in the local area are quickly identified, risk assessed and acted upon.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 COVID-19 pandemic has shone a further light on disproportionality of the health outcomes amongst various groups nationally and locally. Barnet's LOCP takes into consideration different vulnerabilities and develops an action set on how to protect those at highest risk as well as support vulnerable to self-isolate, if needed.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Not applicable.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Not applicable.

5.9 Corporate Parenting

5.9.1 Whilst COVID-19 infection locally has not affected many children and young people, the Plan covers planning for outbreaks in early years and schools settings and therefore it supports the Council's role as corporate parent through the prevention interventions of COVID-19 pandemic for children and young people residing in the borough.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 ['Guiding Principles for Effective Management of COVID-19 at a local level'](#)
