

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 July 2020	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health
Report title:		Southwark Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan for Pandemic Coronavirus, 2020	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards; all groups	
From:		Jin Lim, Director of Public Health (Acting)	

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation for the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health:

1. That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health agrees the draft Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan for Southwark.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was first detected in the United Kingdom (UK) in January 2020. A national effort has been underway to mitigate the impact of the disease. Local government has been involved in the acute response since the disease first emerged: providing welfare support and other relief efforts for communities and businesses.
3. Up to the end of June 2020, more than 1,400 cases of COVID-19 had been diagnosed among Southwark residents. With the relaxation of so-called 'lockdown' measures in May and June 2020, transmission and new cases will continue to occur locally – as they will nationally.
4. Since April 2020, efforts have been made by central government to develop local capability and oversight within local authority public health teams. Building on the Director of Public Health's pre-existing statutory responsibility to assure the health of local populations, a number of new responsibilities have been conferred, including to oversee testing in care homes and deliver local support to the national contact tracing programme (NHS Test and Trace).
5. In London, local authorities are working closely with Public Health England specialist health protection services (brought together as the London Coronavirus Response Cell, LCRC) with the latter providing contact tracing services at scale across the capital.
6. Local authority Directors of Public Health have been instructed to develop Local Outbreak Control Plans (LOCP) by the end of June 2020. The outbreak control plan will be a live document that reflects emerging threats and guidance as they arise.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Overview

7. Southwark's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP) sets out Southwark Council's ambition and approach to providing local leadership and support for the pandemic response. This fulfils the obligation to develop a Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP).
8. Led by Public Health, but working closely with many councils, health service, and voluntary sector partners, the OPCP proposes both strategic and operational approaches to the challenge of coronavirus.

Policy implications

Governance

9. Southwark's OPCP will be implemented by the Southwark Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive (OPCE): a multi-agency director-level executive group tasked delivering the plan and making decisions where non-routine incident control measures may be needed. This group will be chaired by the Director of Public Health and accountable to Southwark Gold and Cabinet.
10. Oversight of OPCE will be undertaken by the Pandemic Oversight Sub-Board (POSB) a new sub-board of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will be chaired by the Leader of the Council. Cabinet agreed this sub-board's establishment on 16 June 2020.

Strategy

11. The aim of Southwark's OPCP is to mitigate the impact of novel coronavirus on Southwark's population and communities, provide a robust framework for the delivery of actions, and prepare the way for a safe, healthy and confident return to renewal and post-pandemic life.
12. The strategic response involves three strands of work: *Prevent*, *Identify* and *Control*. 'Engagement & communications', 'Intelligence, evidence & epidemiology', and 'Training & capacity building' are the three strategic enablers.

Operations

13. **Prevent:** Efforts will be focused around an engagement group that will take an asset-based approach to understanding and anticipating community needs in the borough. This engagement board will act in both advisory and information-gathering roles. This recognises that the coronavirus can spread rapidly through communities of geography as well as communities of interest.
14. Working alongside the engagement board will be a technically-led outbreak prevention team comprising health protection, infection prevention and control advice. Its work will be to work with our most vulnerable institutions and communities: building their trust while supporting adherence to national guidance where available.
15. **Identify:** The local implementation of NHS Test and Trace is *Test and Trace*

Southwark (TTS). This will provide a single point of contact with regional and national infrastructure (including with Public Health England and the Joint Biosecurity Centre). This strand will provide coordination across the other elements of the plan, implementing and assuring case management for incidents and outbreaks as they arise.

16. **Control:** Where incidents and outbreaks arise, Incident Management Team(s) will work with Public Health England (PHE), NHS and other partners to institute control measures and manage communications with the public. An agreement is already in place between local authorities across London and PHE (London) with PHE's London Coronavirus Response Cell taking the leadership on management of complex incidents, with local authority leadership in other contexts.
17. Under-pinning all this work is the need to expand capacity and increase capability. A programme of training has already begun to ensure that all staff supporting the OPCP are appropriately aware and capable of providing a safe and effective response. Support will also be provided to protect staff and partner wellbeing.

Community impact statement

18. Across all strands of work, community engagement and communication is critical: an engagement and communications plan with the aim of preventing disease (where possible), and mitigating its effects (where necessary) will be developed and implemented.
19. On a societal level, COVID-19 has made structural inequalities (including racism and poverty) more apparent and more severe. Throughout our work, the Intelligence Group, will appraise and incorporate the latest evidence and epidemiology.
20. The Council is undertaking a baseline Equality Impact Assessment for the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.

Resource implications

21. Under-pinning this work, is the need to expand capacity and increase capability. A programme of training has already begun to ensure that all staff supporting the OPCP are appropriately aware and capable of providing a safe and effective response. Support will also be provided to protect staff and partner wellbeing.

Financial implications

22. On 22 May 2020, the Government announced £300m additional funding for local authorities to support them to develop and action their plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area as part of the launch of the wider NHS Test and Trace Service. This funding will enable local authorities to develop and implement tailored local COVID-19 outbreak plans through for example funding the recruitment of additional staff where required.
23. Southwark Council has been allocated and received £2,521,368 as a fixed grant supplementing the Public Health grant, relating to the local (Southwark) implementation of the Test and Trace function for COVID-19 pandemic response.

Consultation

24. An engagement and communications plan will be developed and implemented.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

25. The Cabinet Member is recommended to agree the draft Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan for Southwark. Under part 3D of the council's constitution, this is a decision the Cabinet Member is empowered to take.
26. The council has the power to do anything that an individual may do (Localism Act 2011). Further, the council may incur expenditure where this is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of its functions.
27. The Cabinet Member is reminded that the council is subject to the public sector equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010. This requires the council, in the exercise of all its functions, to have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- The duty is a continuing one.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL20/016)

28. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Public Health to agree the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan for Southwark dated 30 June 2020.
29. The strategic director also notes that the council has been allocated and received £2,521,368 as a fixed grant supplementing the Public Health grant, relating to the local (Southwark) implementation of the Test and Trace function for COVID-19 pandemic response.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Southwark Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jin Lim, Director of Public Health (Acting)	
Report Author	Richard Pinder, Consultant in Public Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 July 2020	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	7 July 2020	