

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 July 2020	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Southwark Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan for Pandemic Coronavirus	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards; all groups	
From:		Jin Lim, Director of Public Health (Acting)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers and notes the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP) for Southwark [accessed www.southwark.gov.uk/opcp]
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board adopts the member led oversight and public engagement functions as advised in national guidance and as described in para 12.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board meets every 6 – 8 weeks and that some flexibility will be required should there need to be additional meetings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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).
7. In London, local authorities are work closing 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.

8. 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

9. 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).
10. Led by Public Health, but working closely across the council, with the health service, voluntary sector partners and other key stakeholders, the OPCP proposes both strategic and operational approaches to the challenge of coronavirus.

Policy implications

Governance

11. 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.
12. Oversight of OPCE will be undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will be chaired by the Leader of the Council. The Health and Wellbeing Board will meet every 6 – 8 weeks and if necessary more frequently. It will:
 - Receive and review reports on activity and decisions from the Outbreak Prevention and Control Executive (OPCE) relating to the implementation of the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan (OPCP) and key programmes for: Prevent, Identify and Control.
 - Have oversight of the public and stakeholder engagement and through its public meetings have a lead role in the transparent communication of prevention and outbreak control issues.
 - Provide feedback to the OPCE and the work programmes OPCE supervises within the scope of the OPCP.

Strategy

13. 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.

14. 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

15. **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.
16. 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.
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. 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 OPCR 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

20. 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) has been developed and is being implemented. The engagement and

communication programme will agile and shaped by ongoing lessons from the rest of London and elsewhere.

21. 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.
22. The Council is undertaking a baseline Equality Impact Assessment for the Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.

Resource implications

23. 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

24. 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 their tailored local COVID-19 outbreak plans through for example funding the staffing for the local test and trace function, support local testing initiatives, support prevention activities relating to key settings and community engagement and communications.
25. 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. The programme of activities relating to the Southwark Outbreak Prevention Control Plan will be met within this financial envelop.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan www.southwark.gov.uk/opcp

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jin Lim, Director of Public Health (Acting)
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Version	Final
Dated	19 July 2020