

Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan Update
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Related papers	Surrey Local Outbreak Control Plan

2. Executive summary

The national NHS Test and Trace Service was established in May 2020 in order to control the rate of reproduction of COVID-19 by reducing the spread of the infection. Public Health teams and partners are responsible for the development and delivery of Local Outbreak Control Plans. This plan is designed to clarify how local government works with the national Test and Trace service, so that the whole local system works to contain the virus. In Surrey, delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan commenced at the beginning of July 2020. This report details progress on the plan including key outcomes and milestones to date, challenges and next steps going forward.

3. Recommendations

- To note the report.
- To continue to provide political oversight of local delivery of the Test and Trace Service.
- To continue to lead the engagement with local communities and be the public face of the local response in the event of an outbreak.
- To approve the Local Tracing Partnership launch date of 26 November 2020.
- To approve the proposed exit plan for lockdown.
- Members to ensure appropriate information on the programme and on COVID-19 in Surrey is cascaded within their own organisations and areas of influence.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- The recommendations reflect the functions of the LOEB as set out in the Terms of Reference.

5. Detail

Locally Tracing Partnership update

Locally supported contact tracing has been renamed by Public Health England (PHE) to Local Tracing Partnerships.

Surrey County Council Customer Services and Public Health teams are progressing with the arrangements to implement local contact tracing across all parts of Surrey. There are several critical steps that must be in place before the system can go live, namely signed data sharing agreement (DSA) with Public Health England, training of staff on the national CTAS system, and a finalised operational delivery model. While training of staff and signing the DSA has been progressing well, there are delays with aspects of the operational delivery model, such as displaying a local geographic phone number and DSA's with District and Borough Councils. Displaying a local phone number and having a call back facility, which have been shown to have the greatest impact on increasing the number of successful contact tracing calls, is still being worked through with BT so using Microsoft Teams to make outgoing calls is being pursued as an alternative. Where the national test and trace service has been unable to contact individuals due to incomplete contact details, SCC will search for alternative contact numbers including those held on District and Borough Council databases. Work is currently ongoing to develop DSA's with the District and Borough Councils across Surrey to facilitate this process.

Therefore, in agreement with PHE the Go Live date has been postponed until 26 November 2020.

COVID-19 Champions

The COVID-19 champion programme is about community activation, where trusted local people, community leaders are the voice for those around them, sharing information provided by Public Health with their friends, family, schools, workplace, communities and feeding back information to D&Bs about what is working well and what the local issues or worries are. It is intended to compliment all the other measures and communication being taken by empowering communities to help themselves. This will be borough and district led and with SCC support which facilitates management of the programme at a local level.

A review of COVID Champion schemes in other areas has been undertaken by Public Health. Due to the high rates, Surrey has worked with Spelthorne Borough Council in the first instance to develop an approach which can be replicated across the other D&Bs. Spelthorne soft launched their programme successfully on 5 November and officially went live on 12 November. Other D&Bs are closely following, and a Surrey-wide steering group is likely to be established to facilitate other D&Bs initiating their own programmes too.

COVID-19 Marshals

All boroughs and districts have provided delivery plans for COVID Marshal schemes to Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF). The model and scope vary depending on the needs of each individual area. Activity includes employment of part time marshals to undertake proactive physical visits to commercial premises; supporting the Environmental Health COVID education, engagement and enforcement work;

increasing capacity of Joint Enforcement Teams to carry out patrols. Most councils are progressing well with implementing COVID Marshall / COVID compliance schemes, the majority opting for activities which support existing Environmental Health work.

Care Homes

- **Infection control grant:** Surrey received £19.2m of funding in the first round of which almost £13.7 million (71.4%) was distributed to Care homes. The second round of the Infection Control Fund covers the period 1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021. Surrey is due to receive £15.8m of funding, subject to compliance with the grant conditions. 62% of this grant will be ringfenced for Care Homes and will be allocated on a per bed basis.
- **Infection control support:** training and MDT support has been rolled out by Surrey Heartlands and coordinated and delivered to care homes via the ICPs
- **PPE:** The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has expanded the national portal to provide free COVID-related PPE for the majority of care homes and other adult social care providers. Emergency supplies can also be accessed via the Local Resilience Forum PPE Cell should the national portal arrangements fail, and urgent supply is required.
- **Designated settings:** The Department of Health and Social Care has released new requirements that Care Homes must obtain CQC approval as a designated setting before they are able to accept people with a COVID positive diagnosis. We are currently awaiting follow up guidance.
- **Visitors to care homes:** new guidance was released on 4 November by DHSC which states that Care homes, especially those who have not allowed visits since March, will be encouraged and supported to provide safe visiting opportunities as new national restrictions come into effect and that measures put in place should provide COVID-secure opportunities for families to meet using visiting arrangements such as floor to ceiling screens, visiting pods, and window visits.
- **Testing:** All registered care homes should now be able to get tests via the national portal to enable the weekly testing of staff and the testing of residents every 28 days.

Winter pressures

- **Hospital discharge:** new national Discharge to Assess arrangements have been in place since 1 September meaning anyone discharged from hospital will receive up to 6 weeks of care and support funded by the NHS. During the 6-week period an assessment will be completed to determine level of onward need and ongoing funding arrangements. We are working with health partners to embed this approach.
- **Care Market:** work is underway to increase care capacity both in homebased care and residential and nursing care to ensure there is enough availability to meet winter demand/COVID surge.
- **Flu vaccinations:** all Surrey CC staff and staff in the independent social care sector are being actively encouraged to have the vaccine.

Contain Outbreak Management Fund

On the 2 November the new Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) was updated to increase funding for all areas of the country, to the high alert level of £8

per population head. This funding is in addition to the original £3.44m Test & Trace allocation. A plan is currently being drawn up as to how this fund will be spent in Surrey. Once completed this will be reviewed by HPOG (Health Protection Operational Group) / LOEB and submitted to the Regional Convenor for approval.

Testing

Symptomatic testing is available in Surrey from:

Regional Test Sites

- For drive through testing only, available in Guildford, Chessington, Gatwick, Heathrow and Twickenham – these are long term placements.

Mobile Test Units (MTUs)

- These test units are in locations across the county for between 3 to 7 days, ensuring access to testing in more areas. Drive through and walk through depending on location.
- Deployed on rotation to ensure access is available in all B&Ds and in response to increasing rates of infection or to areas of outbreaks.
- Technically 3 MTU's are available to Surrey, although we have been able to deploy as many as 7 or 8.

Local Test Sites (LTS)

- Walk or cycle to semi-permanent test sites in areas of greater population, can also offer more support and some drop in testing – placement 3 to 6 months or longer. We aim to have these available in most Boroughs where possible.
- Currently two operational, Guildford and Egham, more in the pipeline, however, the programme is currently paused by the DHSC, although Elmbridge and Waverley will be deployed as soon as possible outside of the pause.

Home Test Kits

- A test kit for yourself and up to 3 other people you live with.
- Posted to your home and should arrive the day after you order it.

Rapid testing update

Lateral flow devices (LFDs) are a clinically validated swab antigen test that does not require a laboratory for processing and can turnaround results within an hour at the location of the test. Early use of this technology will enable us to provide testing to large numbers of people quickly. These test results will enable Surrey residents to have a greater degree of certainty that they are not infected or can isolate themselves more quickly if they are.

Rapid testing coming to Surrey:

1. **Universities** - All universities have been asked by the government to work in partnership to deliver the LFD testing programme.
2. **Residents** - The government has announced plans to provide Directors of Public Health with access to a supply of LFDs on a weekly basis the number of tests equivalent to 10% of their population. A national webinar is scheduled for Friday 13th November – more details regarding Rapid Testing will follow.

6. Challenges

The following areas have been identified as key challenges which are summarised below. These are documented within the risk and issues logs for the programme:

- There is a potential for multiple and /or complex outbreaks (e.g. a community outbreak). The management and response to these will require significant capacity/resource in key areas of the system.
- The Test & Trace government grant received by SCC was formulated based on the annual PH grant basis, for which Surrey receives the second lowest per population head in the country. Expenditure to cover local outbreak requirements will therefore require careful planning.
- There are challenges associated with winter pressures:
 - Risk to running of Test & Trace programme itself from winter pressures - e.g. staff becoming unavailable because of COVID-19 itself or flu / other winter infections, affecting either themselves or their family, or because of school closures etc.
 - Risk associated with impact on the programme of the interaction with other infections especially flu. This will have an impact on data, contact tracing etc and makes managing situations more difficult. It will also make messaging the public on symptoms more difficult.
 - Risk of increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections. Epidemiology suggests that a second wave will be more prolonged than the first wave, especially as it occurs over the winter period giving rise to additional pressures on the test and trace programme.
- There are several risks associated with establishing Locally Supported Contact Tracing. A separate risk log has been developed which identifies these risks and any mitigating actions.

7. Timescale and delivery plan

- Delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan is ongoing and will be required throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. How is this being communicated?

- The communications strategy to support the LOC Plan is led by Surrey County Council Communications and Engagement Department in conjunction with system partners in the MIG (Local Resilience Forum Multi Information Group).
- A plan for ongoing communications for all Surrey residents, as well as focused communications during outbreaks, is in place. In addition, the process for notifying partners as per the Escalation Framework (internal/external) is outlined in the Communications Plan/Protocol.

9. Next steps

Next steps include:

- Continue to review and update LOC Plan monthly
- Continue to monitor COVID-19 data and surveillance daily

- Continue to drive delivery of LOC Plan through HPOG
- Adapting any local protocols that support the high-risk settings in the LOC Plan to reflect new national guidance and learning
- Continue to assess risks and implement mitigating actions
- Undertake budget planning for new Contain Outbreak Management Fund and submit plans to HPOG/LOEB.
- Continue to monitor the capacity and budget as the external environment changes e.g. changing COVID situation, national policy changes, etc