

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

16 JULY 2020

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Report Title	GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN			
Purpose of Report	To provide Council with details of the proposals to deal with a local outbreak of Covid-19 and to notify it of representatives under the proposed governance arrangements.			
Decision(s)	It is recommended that Council RESOLVES to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appoint Jon Beckett, Head of Health & Wellbeing, as the Councils representative on the Health Protection Board and delegate him authority to make any necessary decisions and to bind the Council in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader b. Note that Councillor Stephen Lydon is the Council’s representative on the Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board and that Councillor Doina Cornell is his substitute. 			
Consultation and Feedback	There has been consultation with all Leaders and Chief Executives and partner organisations in Gloucestershire.			
Report Author	Kathy O’Leary, Chief Executive Tel: 01453 754780 Email: kathy.oleary@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	The Council could decide not to appoint Mr Beckett or provide him with delegated authority to make decisions, but this would not enable the Council to play a proper role in this governance process.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Proposed Terms of Reference			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. BACKGROUND

Local Authorities with Public Health responsibilities (in Gloucestershire, the County Council) were asked by Government to prepare Local Outbreak Management Plans (LOMP) by 30 June 2020 to support the national NHS Test and Trace programme in the

identification and management of Covid-19 outbreaks. They were given Government funding to develop and deliver tailored plans working with the district councils, local NHS, PHE and other stakeholders to identify and contain potential outbreaks in settings such as workplaces, care homes, hospitals and schools.

1.1 Outbreak Management Plans will be the mechanism for local authorities to anticipate, prevent and contain incidents and outbreaks in their local area using their knowledge of and relationship with people and place. These plans will need to be in place for the foreseeable future.

1.2 Plans must address seven key themes, and whilst applicable over wider geographies these should be locally tailored:

1. Care Homes and Schools: Preventing and responding
2. High risk places and communities: Preventing and responding
3. Vulnerable people: Arrangements for supporting people to isolate
4. Testing: Oversight and swift mobilisation of local testing in capability
5. Contact tracing: by PHE with local Public Health in complex situations
6. Data Integration: National, regional and local to inform situational awareness
7. Oversight and Engagement: Establish a Covid-19 health protection board to have technical oversight of the plan and a Covid-19 member led board to lead engagement with the public.

1.3 **Gloucestershire Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)**

The purpose of the LOMP is to give clarity on how local government works with the NHS Test and Trace Service to ensure a whole system approach to managing local outbreaks.

The Gloucestershire plan has been published on the GCC website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2099097/covid-19-local-outbreak-management-plan-first-edition.pdf>

1.4 A public facing summary will be produced. The LOMP seeks to not only provide a framework for the county's local multi-agency response to Covid-19 but also presents an opportunity to work with our local population and to prevent outbreaks.

1.5 **Governance**

The national guidance for the development and governance of LOMP's is very clear. There should be an executive level Covid-19 Health Protection Board Chaired by the Director of Public Health, and a Covid-19 Engagement Board to oversee the LOMP and provide the link back to communities, chaired by the Leader of the Public Health local authority (GCC). Gloucestershire already has a Health Protection Assurance Board (HPAB) that supports the County Council Leader, in his statutory role around health protection and to date districts have been represented by Yvonne Hope from Cheltenham Borough Council.

1.6 The existing Health Protection Assurance Board has been re-purposed to become the Covid-19 Health Protection Board by altering the terms of reference and making some changes to the membership, including representatives from every district. This board will

lead the implementation of the plan and will take over from the LRF Strategic Coordinating Group in overseeing the County's multi-agency response.

- 1.7 The Director of Public Health, Sarah Scott, will be the lead officer for the development and implementation of the LOMP through the Gloucestershire Health Protection Board. The Leader of the County Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, will assume a lead role for engagement with local communities and up to central government on issues relating to Covid-19, through a role as the Chair of the new Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board.
- 1.8 The purpose of the Gloucestershire Health Protection Board is to provide assurance on behalf of the population of Gloucestershire that there are safe and effective plans in place to protect population health, to include communicable disease control, infection prevention and control, emergency planning, environmental health, screening and immunisation programmes.
- 1.9 The role of the group has been expanded to respond to the Covid-19 Test, Trace and Isolate Local Authority Outbreak Management Plan responsibilities. Terms of reference have been agreed alongside the 'South West Contact Tracing Collaboration Outline of Operational & Governance Arrangements' and Gloucestershire 'Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan'.
- 1.10 The first meeting of the Board was on 29th June and the SDC senior officer representative on it is Jon Beckett who has been directly involved in the preparation of the LOMP, is the Council's most senior Environmental Health professional and has the necessary experience in his role as Head of Health and Wellbeing. Weekly meetings of the Board are planned at first. An exercise for the new plan took place on 8 July. Jon Beckett will report regularly to the Council's Strategic Leadership Team (which also meets at least weekly) and to the Strategy & Resources Committee as appropriate.

1.11 Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board

The purpose of the Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board is to provide member and community oversight of the Gloucestershire Local Outbreak Management Plan and communicate appropriately with local communities and settings.

- 1.12 The Board will lead engagement with local communities and leaders to build and ensure understanding of public health actions required to control infection ahead of and during any outbreak management.
- 1.13 The Board will not be a decision-making body or fulfil a scrutiny function. The LOMP details the governance arrangements, specifically decision-making processes. Decisions regarding the implementation of the plan and any enforcement that may be necessary will be taken by the Director of Public Health or the Deputy Director of Public Health in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.14 The Board will enable decisions made via Health Protection Group to be communicated appropriately to local communities.

- 1.15 The specific functions of the Gloucestershire Local Outbreak Engagement Board are to:
- Receive feedback from Gloucestershire communities and different sectors on the impact of implementing the outbreak management plan
 - Ensure wider Member engagement across the County Council and District Councils in the mitigation of outbreaks
 - Provide early information to members on potential and live outbreaks and ensure they are kept informed of progress in managing the outbreak in accordance with the LOMP.
 - Have oversight on the effectiveness of the plan and suggest amendments where they are considered to be appropriate and
 - Take the key communication messages back to communities/sectors as appropriate.
- 1.16 The first Covid-19 Engagement Board meeting was held on Monday 6 July and its agreed Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix A. Councillor Steve Lydon will be the Council's appointed representative on this board. His substitute is the Leader, Councillor Doina Cornell. Cllr Lydon will provide regular updates to the Alliance Group Leaders and Member Reports to Strategy & Resources Committee.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

The Council's role in this process is administrative and as such there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. If any future decisions of the Health Protection Board have the potential for financial consequences for the Council, the Section 151 Officer will be consulted

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer
Tel: 01453 754115 Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

Apart from the delegation to Mr Beckett which is necessary to enable him to carry out his role in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive, there are no other legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Tel: 01453 754369 Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

There may well be equality implications arising from the work to be carried out under any Local Outbreak Management Plan which will most likely be in relation to the protected characteristics of age and disability. However, any implications will be a matter for the County Council in terms of its statutory role. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.