

COVID-19: LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

Recommendation: the Board are requested to note the Local Outbreak Management Plan and the associated (non-statutory) governance arrangements.

~~~~~

### **1. Background**

- 1.1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 the Government announced new arrangements for local authorities to take a lead role in the management of COVID-19 as lockdown was released.
- 1.2. Each Upper Tier Local Authority (County Councils and Unitary Authorities) will publish a Local Outbreak Management Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1. Upper tier Local Authorities (County Councils and Unitary Authorities) will establish COVID-19 Health Protection Boards. These are multi-agency strategic partnerships, non-statutory, working to detect, manage and contain outbreaks of COVID-19, working under the existing statutory duties of the Director of Public Health. The COVID-19 Health Protection Board will be chaired by the Director of Public Health and its role will be:
  - a. Overseeing the Local Outbreak Management Plan and resource deployment via tactical and operational management.
  - b. Data and intelligence (with Joint Biosecurity Centre).
  - c. Leading the local Public Health response with PHE (and NHS Test and Trace).
  - d. Assurance and reporting to other groups as required.
- 2.2. Upper tier Local Authorities (County Councils and Unitary Authorities) will also establish Local Outbreak Engagement Boards which are also non-statutory, and designed to provide:
  - a. Political oversight of the local delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan and the local response.
  - b. Communicating and engaging with residents and communities.
- 2.3. The Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be known as 'Team Devon' and will be chaired by the Council Leader Councillor John Hart.
- 2.4. Local Outbreak Management Plans are dynamic and will be updated according to local need and any change in national requirements.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Local Outbreak Management Plan and the associated governance arrangements, and that these will be developed further as required.

#### **4. Financial considerations**

- 4.1 The Government has allocated £300 million to Upper Tier Local Authorities in the form of a ring-fenced Local Authority Test and Trace grant to support the additional public health capacity to develop and implement plans. Devon County Council's allocation is £2,618,508.

#### **5. Legal considerations**

- 5.1 The governance arrangements and terms of reference for the new COVID-19 Health Protection Board and the 'Team Devon' Local Outbreak Engagement Board have been prepared by the legal team.

#### **6. Environmental impact considerations**

- 6.1 No direct impacts of the governance arrangements on the environment although there are environmental considerations to the management of the pandemic (including tourism, transport and travel) which will be important for both Boards to consider.

#### **7. Equality considerations**

- 7.1 There has been increasing evidence of the differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on certain populations including older people, people from a black and minority ethnic background, and those with learning disability. The emergence of a greater inequality gap in vulnerable groups is of concern as we move into Recovery.

#### **8. Risk assessment considerations**

- 8.1 The development of the new arrangements has involved the County Council's lead manager on risk management, and this is an area that will continue to develop. As these are strategic partnerships, risks will also be held by individual organisations.

**Dr Virginia Pearson**  
**CHIEF OFFICER FOR COMMUNITIES, PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND PROSPERITY/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Electoral Divisions:** All

Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health and Transportation and Environmental Services: Councillor Roger Croad  
Council Leader: Councillor John Hart

#### **Background publications**

Devon COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan