

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Public Health
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KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- Working with the Director of Customer Services to establish a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Covid-19 Health Protection Board (HPB). This is an officer board chaired by the Director of Public Health, in accordance with national guidance on development of Local Outbreak Control Plans alongside the national Test and Trace programme. The first meeting of the HPB was held on 29th May. The HPB will be responsible for development of a Local Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan to be submitted to national government by the end of June.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG): This is done through the Director of Public health being a member of the SCG, and through a multi-agency Public Health Advice Cell (PHAC) which includes membership from the CCG and Public Health England as well as local authority public health.
- Administration of and provision of public health advice and guidance to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LRF multi-agency COVID-19 Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG)
- Co-chairing the Cambs & Peterborough LRF Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Cell: The LRF PPE cell is now implementing the distribution of PPE sent to the LRF from the national stockpile, for eligible local organisations which require emergency supplies. A decision has been taken not to accept further donations of PPE to the LRF PPE hub at this point. While the motivation for donating PPE is much appreciated, considerable capacity is required to assess whether PPE donations meet the required national specifications, which isn't always the case. At the current time this capacity is needed to directly procure PPE.
- Jointly leading a stocktake of vulnerable/socially excluded population groups and COVID-19 related needs and issues with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, working across LRF partner agencies and reporting to the LRF Community Reference Group. This work has progressed and is supporting the multi-agency C&P sub-regional Housing Board, and that of member agencies, to meet national guidance on COVID-19 and homelessness. Work to support implementation of national guidance on Travellers and COVID-19 is also being taken forward.
- Public health analysts are involved in ongoing work with the LRF Intelligence Cell on modelling. They are also producing regular Covid-19 overview reports based on publically available data e.g. from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England (PHE) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- Working with CCG, CPFT, Voluntary sector and Communications Team to develop and implement a multi-agency COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing plan and campaign. The ongoing public campaign launched 27.4.20, including radio Cambridgeshire and television interviews with the PH mental health lead and leads from other agencies. Ongoing work organising training for bereavement support.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council (CCC/PCC) COVID-19 Joint Management Team Gold Group, including updates on most recent Covid-19 data and trends, and the Silver Tactical working group on a range of issues.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to CCC/PCC People and Communities Management Team and Service Directors on various issues, e.g. PPE and wider Public Health England (PHE) guidance to the social care sector. PHE, LA and CCG have agreed joint standard operating procedures for support and advice to Care Homes. A public health specialist is working closely with Adult Social Care and the NHS on implementation of new Care Homes national guidance, including prioritisation of testing for residents and developing a Care Home support plan. Advice for the Director of Education, including input to briefings for school head teachers about schools opening on June 1st and guidance for schools on PPE.
- Provision of public health advice and answering of queries for Council staff through the AskDrLiz e-mail helpline

- Ongoing work with providers of contracted public health programmes to monitor contracts and support with management of COVID-19 related issues and to manage/finalise procurements which were in process when COVID-19 incident started. The outcome of the Integrated Lifestyles procurement across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council has now been announced. Lots 1 and 2 were awarded to Everyone Health (the current provider in Cambridgeshire) and the new service will be implemented from October 1st. Lot 3 – with a focus on community preventive work was won by a consortium of the five District/City Councils in Cambridgeshire and Vivacity in Peterborough, with the contract held by Cambridge City Council.
- Maintain regional links with the East of England Public Health England Team and joint Public Health England/NHS England regional incident management. Acting as a conduit for escalation of public health queries and issues to regional PHE team.
- Attend Public Health England led multi-agency incident meetings for specific local COVID-19 outbreaks of concern, as local representative.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Not all population groups may have access to and understanding of public health messages and guidance
This risk is being mitigated through close working between the Councils' communication team, cohesion lead, and public health to ensure that key public health messages are conveyed through different routes and different languages. Also through the wider LRF 'Warn and Inform' group, which brings in communication leads from district councils, police, and other agencies.
- Vulnerable/socially excluded population groups may find it hard to socially distance/self isolate or their welfare may be impacted by COVID-19 in other ways.
This risk is being mitigated through a variety of measures often taken a local (district) level. A stocktake of the current needs and issues for vulnerable/socially excluded population groups is now in place, jointly led by public health and the office of the police and crime commissioner. This reports weekly into the LRF Community Reference Group so that appropriate actions can be taken.
- Potential risk of spread within residential institutions with vulnerable populations e.g. care homes, prisons (further national guidance for care homes was provided 3/4/20).
- This risk is being mitigated through prisons and care homes reporting COVID-19 cases to the Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team, which provides advice on measures to prevent further spread of the virus. Considerable support to care homes is delivered through the local authority adult social care and commissioning teams, which attend a daily call with the CCG infection control nurses and NHS community services, to ensure that all care homes with outbreaks are supported through the appropriate actions. Standard operating procedures have been agreed across the PHE HPT, local authorities and the CCG. . A public health specialist is working closely with Adult Social Care and the NHS on implementation of new Care Homes national guidance, including prioritisation of testing for residents and staff.

Challenges

- Ensuring that PPE national stockpile received by the LRF is distributed appropriately when eligible organisations require additional supplies.
This challenge has been mitigated by the work of the LRF PPE cell, including public health staff preparing organisation/service specific summaries of the new national PPE guidance.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- All public health staff now working from home
- Public health consultant vacancies are now filled.
- Additional support from two retired public health consultants returned to work

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- Some limited financial impact through extension of public health contracts, where some savings had been planned as part of implementation of new contracts, and some additional requirement for specialist staff.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Recovery Sub-Group
- Involvement in arrangements for NHS recovery, which will be led by the NHS Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP).
- The LRF Recovery Group Public Health and Prevention sub-group will function as a sub-group of both the LRF and the STP's Recovery work, ensuring a fully joined up approach.
- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Economic Recovery Sub-Group
- Public Health specialist advice to the LRF Restoration Sub-Group.
- Public Health specialist advice to public transport restoration group
- Public health input to CCC/PCC recovery planning

COMMUNICATIONS

- Joint work with Comms team and Cohesion team on public health communications plan and toolkit, including ongoing promotion of the 'Stay at Home' and core hygiene messaging, mental health and wellbeing, and promoting communication with diverse communities. DPH vlog, radio interview and BBC Look East interview on Thursday of this week, to communicate with and reassure the public about Covid-19 in Huntingdonshire - while also giving a strong message about the importance of maintaining social distancing and not going beyond the limited relaxations in central government guidance.