

Local Outbreak Control Plans

A briefing note

As you are aware DHSC have written to Directors of Public Health and LG Chief Executives informing them that as part of the recovery strategy (linked to the Test and Trace service), local government should work with national bodies and partners to develop outbreak control plans. The responsibility for producing and leading the activity within public health LAs lies with DsPHs working in partnership and collaboration with PHE, NHS, LRF, SCG, VCS, GPs, Businesses, employers and the public. **The plan is expected in June. No precise date is specified.**

The main objective is to keep the R under control and reduce spread in a coordinated approach at all levels. To support this, the government has taken the following actions:

- £300m in national government funding will be provided to local authorities to develop and roll out their plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area. No detail about this is given.
- work with eleven Beacon Councils (Oxfordshire not selected) to rapidly develop best-practices and capture learnings. Local councils outside these areas will be invited to participate in regular engagement sessions. Presumably these will assist with the detailed content of the plans.
- Set up a National Outbreak Control Plans Advisory Board to advice and share best practice.
- More guidance to follow in June.

What is asked of local government/DPH now?

The ask is to build on existing health protection plans and to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks of COVID-19 once the lock down is eased.

The DPH is responsible for defining these measures and developing a plan supported by SCG, LRF, NHS, Council members etc.

It is expected that the plan should include the following 7 themes / priorities:

1. Care homes and schools (Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools)
2. High risk places, locations and communities (Examples included, sheltered housing, dormitories for migrant workers, detained settings, rough sleepers, ports and airports) – Defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies.
3. Local testing capacity – Ability to deploy local testing to ensure swift response to flare ups and hotspots.
4. Contact tracing in complex settings – Assessing the local and regional needs and the need for mutual aid.
5. Data integration between partners and between national and local interface through the Joint Biosecurity Centre.
6. Vulnerable people – Help for self isolation. (Recognition this cohort will increase)

7. Local Boards (Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold command forums and a member-led stakeholder Board to communicate with the general public)

These will be informed by local knowledge, by the 11 Beacon authorities and the National Advisory Board, however, this should not delay us in taking steps locally based on what we already know.

Next Steps

1. Sign off governance structure (below) at the at the Oxfordshire recovery Gold group.
2. Take the TOR of the COVID19 - HPB to the Oxfordshire Recovery Gold and finalise its membership.
3. Convene the first COVID-19 HPB / Ops Cells meetings as soon as possible.
4. Develop the local Outbreak Plan for Oxfordshire – to be signed off at the System Leadership group

Annex 1: Oxfordshire Recovery Structure

Re-start, Re-cover, Re-new

