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(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)



**Portsmouth**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Title of meeting:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**Subject:** Local Outbreak Engagement Board

**Date of meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September

**Report by:** Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by**

Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board (sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board).

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At the Health and Wellbeing Board in on June 17th 2020, it was reported that national Government had announced the requirement for Local Outbreak Control Plans (CoVid-19) to be developed to reduce local spread of infection and for the establishment of a Member-led Covid-19 Engagement Board for each upper tier Local Authority.
- 3.2 Government guidance required that local plans should be centred on 7 themes:
- Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, identifying potential scenarios and planning the required response).
  - Identifying and planning how to manage other high-risk places, locations and communities of interest including sheltered housing, dormitories for migrant workers, transport access points (e.g., ports, airports), detained settings, rough sleepers etc. (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies).
  - Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population. This could include delivering tests to isolated individuals, establishing local pop-up sites or hosting mobile testing units at high-risk locations (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment).
  - Assessing local and regional contact tracing and infection control capability in complex settings (e.g., Tier 1b) and the need for mutual aid (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities of interest and settings, developing

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assumptions to estimate demand, developing options to scale capacity if needed).

- Integrating national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook (e.g., data management planning including data security, data requirements including NHS linkages).
- Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. encouraging neighbours to offer support, identifying relevant community groups, planning how to co-ordinate and deploy) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.
- Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public.

- 3.3 Terms of reference for a Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) were agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17<sup>th</sup> June, and this was established as sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### **4. Summary of Local Outbreak Engagement Board activity since June**

- 4.1 Since June, the LOEB has met four times. Full minutes of board deliberations are published at <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/coronavirus-covid-19/local-outbreak-control-plan> . Significant business has included:

- Signing off the full Local Outbreak Plan for Portsmouth within the deadline set by Government, and ensuring this was published on the PCC website.
- Regularly receiving a summary of the latest intelligence and data relating to COVID-19 in the local community. This information is updated weekly and is also placed on the Local Outbreak Plan page on the PCC website at the link above.
- Considering the lessons that could be learned from the experience in Leicester, where a spike in infection levels led to local restrictions. The Board considered the need for early sight of data; the importance of clear lines of responsibility between local agencies and central government; and some key operational lessons including implications where there is a low level of digital access or a language barrier.
- Considering changes to powers and regulations and ensuring that proposed responses are appropriate.

- 4.2 The LOEB also receives a regular assurance report which summarises the supporting work of the local Health Protection Board, which is providing the focus for local outbreak prevention activity, and assesses the local preparedness picture. The report is structured around four key areas:

- Local context, looking at local data including the early warning indicators
- Local activity, looking at confidence in a range of local matters such as enforcement, provision of PPE, testing etc.

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- Assurance to PHE, looking at the confidence in the seven areas of the plan required to be included; and
- Risks, looking at what are the issues that may cause Portsmouth to see an increase in infections.

4.3 At the most recent meeting, assurance was provided to the LOEB that there were no significant areas of concern arising from the local intelligence. There was a focus on preparing for the return to schools, and the good relationships between education and schools was noted and the work that has been taking place to ensure effective infection prevention and control measures in schools was outlined. The significant risks noted were in relation to the return of students to the university, and our arrangements for housing our homeless and rough sleeping population to prevent spread of infection in this vulnerable group.

**5. Future working**

- 5.1 The LOEB will continue to meet on a monthly basis, and will receive reports summarising the activity of the Health Protection Board and the resultant assurance levels. The Board is a helpful forum for providing check and challenge around local outbreak arrangements, and for ensuring that the arrangements are fully appropriate to the city and its communities.
- 5.2 Summary reports of LOEB activity will be presented to each Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

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Signed by Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location