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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)

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Subject:</b>	Local Outbreak Engagement Board
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council
<b>Wards affected:</b>	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 on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2020, it was reported that nationally 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 2020, and this was established as a sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board has received regular summaries of the work of the LOEB since it was established.

#### **4. Summary of Local Outbreak Engagement Board activity since November 2021**

4.1 Since November's HWBB meeting, the LOEB will have met three times. Full minutes of board deliberations are published at <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/coronavirus-covid-19/local-outbreak-control-plan>

4.2 Significant business included:

- 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 Management Plan page on the PCC website at the link above.
- Receiving reports relating to Test and Trace payments to support those at risk of hardship through losing income because of a requirement to self-isolate.
- Considering progress in developing a local contact tracing service.
- Considering issues in relation to the vaccination programme locally.
- Considering matters relating to testing.

4.3 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 progress on test, trace and isolate, vaccination, enforcement, provision of PPE, testing etc;
- Consideration of the effectiveness of the plan in addressing high risk groups and settings; and

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- Risks, looking at what are the issues that may cause Portsmouth to see an increase in infections.

4.4 In relation to risks, the highest local risk factors are identified as:

- The 'Omicron variant' of coronavirus is now the dominant strain circulating in Portsmouth as it is across the UK. Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants of Covid-19 but is currently causing less serious illness but due to sheer number of infections will have a greater impact on business continuity.
- We expect to see a difficult winter with covid and other respiratory viruses, including influenza and paediatric RSV, causing pressures in the NHS.

## **5 Future working**

5.1 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. The Board has agreed to continue meeting monthly and this will be reviewed in the Spring, taking into consideration the progress of the pandemic.

5.2 Summary reports of LOEB activity will continue to 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:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>