

	<u>Agenda Item: 14</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	19 May 2021
TITLE:	LOCAL COVID OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Daragh Fahey, Assistant Director of Public Health

Report Type:	Information
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1. Purpose:
To inform the Board of Governance and purpose of the new sub-Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board.

2. Implications:		
BHWB Strategy Priorities	Childhood Obesity	
	Health Inequalities	✓
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		
Creating a Healthy Food City		
Creating a Mentally Healthy City		
Creating an Active City		
Creating a City without Inequality		
Health Protection		✓

3. Recommendation
3.1 The Board is asked to note this update of the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board.

4. Report Body
4.1 The Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board is a new sub-committee of the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board is required by national guidelines for each upper tier local Authority's response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

- 4.2 The purpose of the Board is to provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response to Covid19 in Birmingham.
- 4.3 The Board has been set up to:
- Take an overview of the progress of the local implementation of Test and Trace.
 - Ensure that the Test and Trace response in Birmingham is delivering the right interventions to protect the health and wellbeing of citizens.
 - To influence the development of the local Test and Trace programme.
 - To promote communication and engagement with stakeholders and residents of Birmingham related to Covid 19 and the Test and Trace programme.
- 4.4 The Board is chaired by the Leader of the Council; membership comprises five elected Members, the Director of Public Health, Assistant Director of Public Health, the Birmingham and Solihull and the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Groups, WM Police, BVSC and Birmingham Healthwatch.
- 4.5 The first meeting of the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board (LCOEB) was held on 24 June 2020, with meetings held on a monthly basis.
- 4.6 The LCOEB receives a regular Covid19 situation update – both at the monthly meeting and on a weekly basis to members of the Board. These updates include the latest position in relation to Covid19 cases across the city, testing uptake, the proportion of tests taken that return a positive result. As this is a rapidly changing situation the latest epidemiology is presented to the Board.
- 4.7 Appended to this report are the publicised minutes of the LCOEB subsequent to those reported to the last Health & Wellbeing Board in March 2021.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1 HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

5.1.1 Governance of the LOMP will seek to ensure the following:

- The Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board is responsible for approving the LOMP on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet.
- Implementation of the plan is overseen by the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board.
- The plan is supported by all of the contributing partners through the Birmingham City Incident Management Team.

- There is robust monitoring of progress of the management of outbreaks individually and collectively through BCC's Test and Trace Business Unit under the oversight of the Director of Public Health (DPH) in partnership with PHE.
 - BCC can continually reflect, learn, and improve our response working with partners.
- 5.1.2 The DPH is accountable for delivery of the LOMP to the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board that has been established as a sub-committee of Cabinet and the [Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board](#). The Board meets monthly and the papers are published through the Council CIMS web platform with the meeting being live streamed through this platform.
- 5.1.3 The Birmingham City Incident Management Team (BCIMT) is a regularly meeting of a wider strategic partnership of the city including representatives from WM blue light services, Universities, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Universities and Education sector, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community & Voluntary Sector.
- 5.1.4 BCC has now transitioned from its Emergency Plan structures into a Recovery model whereby Covid-related operational activity is being delivered by the Test and Trace Business Unit, Co-ordination and Response Group (CRG) and the wider Council Directorates. The Test and Trace Business Unit sits within the Council's Public Health Division of the Partnerships, Insight and Prevention (PIP) Directorate; Covid-related delivery within each of the Council's Directorates is monitored by the CRG.
- 5.1.5 In parallel, the Test and Trace Business Unit also feeds into the Birmingham Health Protection Forum, chaired by the Assistant Director of Public Health (Environmental Public Health & Health Protection), which is a sub-Forum of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 5.1.6 These parallel arrangements allow operational oversight whilst providing a sustainable and resilient response to the pandemic.
- 5.1.7 The CRG connects to the West Midlands Conurbation Local Resilience Forum (WMCLRF). The LRF is a statutory multi agency partnership organisation that brings everyone together. WMCLRF is made up of seven metropolitan councils (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton). The conurbation borders three counties; Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The structure of WMCLRF arrangements is illustrated below. The aim of the West Midlands Conurbation LRF is to ensure:
- There is an appropriate level of preparedness to enable an effective multi-agency response to emergency incidents such as COVID-19, which have a significant impact on the communities of the West Midlands Conurbation.
 - All services and organisations work together ensuring the best possible preparations and plans are in place for emergencies. These are regularly tested and updated so that agencies can respond immediately and effectively to any threat.

- 5.1.8 Alongside these formal governance structures there is close collaboration between the West Midlands Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health through a series of weekly information sharing meetings. This provides opportunities for cross-border collaboration beyond the LRF footprint and meetings also involve the Regional Convenors team and NHS Midlands representation.
- 5.1.9 There are also weekly meetings between the Council and the NHS Chief Executives groups and this links through the Council Chief Executive into the Council Strategic Group.
- 5.1.10 There is a battle rhythm to these meetings. The Health and Wellbeing Board meets every two months, the Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board and Health Protection Forum meets every four weeks. This rhythm can be ramped up as necessary with the Test and Trace Business Unit offering a 7-day response.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board Minutes – 24.02.2021

Appendix 2 - Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board Minutes – 24.03.2021

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Daragh Fahey, Assistant Director of Public Health Test and Trace