

---

## **Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board**

**8 October 2020**

### **West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

**Report by Dr Stephen Horsley, Interim Director of Public Health**

---

#### **Summary**

This report provides an update on the establishment of the West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) as part of the Government's requirements for the COVID-19 National Test and Trace Programme.

The Board is accountable to the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, as a sub-group of the Board, providing formal updates at its' quarterly public meetings.

#### **Recommendation(s) to the Board**

##### **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to;**

- (1) Acknowledge and provide feedback on the establishment of the West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) and its important role within the NHS Test and Trace service and the Government's national COVID-19 recovery strategy.

---

#### **Relevance to [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)**

West Sussex Public Health's COVID-19 response aims to minimise the impact of the virus on the population of West Sussex by controlling the COVID-19 rate of reproduction (R), reducing the spread of infection and saving lives. In line with the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities, this preventative approach also aims to improve the overall health outcomes of West Sussex residents and reduce inequalities, supporting our local population during these challenging times.

#### **1 Background and context**

- 1.1 The NHS Test and Trace service was launched at the end of May 2020, forming a central part of the government's COVID-19 recovery strategy. The primary objective of the Test and Trace service is to control the COVID-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives. Achieving these objectives requires a co-ordinated effort from local and national government, the health and care system, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations, community partners and general public.

- 1.2 The NHS Test and Trace service ensures that anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus, including targeted asymptomatic testing of NHS and social care staff and care home residents. It also helps trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus. This service is being introduced to help return life more to normal, in a way that is safe and protects our NHS and social care. It will allow us to trace the spread of the virus and isolate new infections and play a vital role in giving us early warning if the virus is increasing again, locally or nationally.
- 1.3 As part of the Test and Trace Service, each upper tier local authority (LA) is required to have a Local COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan in place to allow improved speed of response. This builds on local knowledge, working with Public Health England (PHE) local Health Protection Team (HPT's). The [West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan was published on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.](#)
- 1.4 The Director of Public Health (DPH) for every upper tier LA drives this local plan through a COVID-19 Health Protection Board (C19 HPB), working in collaboration with WSCC Strategic Management Group (Gold Command) and a member led Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB), which provides political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response. Appendix 1 shows the agreed governance structure for the West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- 1.5 In West Sussex, the member led Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) has been established as a sub-group of the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board to provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response.
- 1.6 The LOEB is chaired by Amanda Jupp, Chair of the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet Member for Adults and Health. Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, has been appointed as Deputy Chair.
- 1.7 The LOEB reports to the quarterly West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.
- 1.8 The West Sussex COVID-19 Health Protection Board will report to the LOEB, and where appropriate, the LOEB will liaise with WSCC Cabinet, WSCC Strategic Management Group (Gold Command), the Health and Social Care Executive Partnership Board, and the West Sussex Health and Care Silver Command.
- 1.9 Membership of the LOEB includes Cabinet Members with portfolio responsibilities for community development, health and adults services, children and families, WSCC directors with commissioning responsibility for

Public Health, Adults Services, Children's Services, Head of Communications and Engagement, and representatives from West Sussex district and borough councils, West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and Healthwatch West Sussex.

The inaugural meeting of the LOEB took place on 27<sup>th</sup> July, with a further meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Meetings will continue on a monthly basis; the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## **2 Proposal details**

2.1 Not applicable

## **3 Consultation, engagement and advice**

3.1 Not applicable.

**Contact:** Dr Stephen Horsley, Interim Director of Public Health, West Sussex County Council. Tel. 0330 222 6065 Email: [stephen.horsley@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.horsley@westsussex.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 Governance structure for the West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

# Appendix 1 Governance Structure for the West Sussex COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

