

Shropshire Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report includes an update on COVID-19 within Shropshire, including the local response to Test and Trace and the publication of the Local Outbreak Control Plan 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee members to:

- note the position to date in Shropshire in relation to COVID-19
- recognise that Shropshire Council, alongside all local authorities in England, has been required by the Department of Health and Social Care to develop and deliver a COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan. The Shropshire Outbreak Control Plan is for local publication and will be one of the Outbreak Control Plans set out to prevent and contain COVID-19 across England.
- recognise that the Shropshire Outbreak Control Plan meets the specifications set out by the Department of Health and Social Care, and meets the outbreak control needs of the Shropshire population and
- recognise that the plan will be updated as new evidence on COVID-19 emerges and as local systems develop including its associated action plans and risk logs.
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3.0 Background

- 3.1 On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organisation announced that COVID-19 spread was had reached the criteria for pandemic to be declared. The WHO advised governments to take national action to prevent spread and contain the disease. Since March 2020 the pandemic has seen COVID-19 spread to the majority of countries in the world including the UK. As a result, Shropshire Council has been supporting government to protect the population against COVID-19 spread.

- 3.2 In late May 2020 the Department of Health & Social Care announced that Local Outbreak Control Plans, would be a key component in the HM Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy. Linking to the establishment of the national NHS Test and Trace programme and Joint Biosecurity Centre, local authorities should play a significant role in the identification and management of infection, using local knowledge, expertise and coordination to improve the speed of response alongside Public Health England's (PHE) regional health protection teams.
- 3.3 At the time of writing the overall picture is an improved one. The numbers of cases diagnosed in Shropshire and deaths with COVID-19 on the certificate, have reduced since a peak in April and May, which is currently our best indicator of the community pandemic. Hospital admissions are also reducing. Furthermore, we can see the epidemic curve of care home outbreaks is now clearly showing a decline. We are however seeing an increased number of outbreaks in workplace settings.
- 3.4 This paper supports the Local Outbreak Support Plan for Shropshire (Attachment 1). The purpose of the plan is to prevent spread and contain the COVID-19 in order to protect the population of Shropshire. This can also be viewed at: https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/local_outbreak_plan
- 3.5 An outbreak of COVID-19, and any transmissible disease, is defined as:
- An 'outbreak' is an incident where two or more persons have the same disease or similar symptoms and are linked in time, place and/or person association.
- An 'incident' has a broader meaning and refers to events or situations which warrant investigation to determine if corrective action or specific management is needed. In some instances, only one case of an infectious disease may prompt the need for incident management and public health measures.
- 3.6 The attached Outbreak Control Plan was written to manage outbreaks across the Shropshire and was written with system partners. It also takes into consideration the crossborder flow of COVID-19.
- 3.7 The Shropshire Outbreak Control Plan is presented with this paper and each Local Authority area in England has been required to write one. The plans are being coordinated across England coordinated through the Department of Health and Social Care.
- 3.8 The Plan and associated standard operating procedures describe in detail how the STP system acts when an outbreak is declared.

- Outbreak planning is key to preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19

- Government has required local authorities to operationalise the public health teams to support the Test and Trace capacity across England
- The Outbreak Control Plan builds on work already done locally to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19
- The Outbreak Control Plan provides a coordinated response to local COVID-19 spread and an associated governance structure to assure the system
- Government has provided additional funding to Shropshire Council to support the development and delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan
- All English COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plans will be published by the Department of Health and Social Care

3.9 The Department of Health and Social Care has distributed financial support to Local Authorities through the Local Authority Covid-19 Test and Trace Service Support Grant 2020/21. The Shropshire Council allocation of this funding is £1.127m and expenditure incurred through the implementation of the Shropshire Outbreak Control Plan will be funded from this allocation in accordance with the conditions attached to the grant.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 An update of the position in Shropshire and the Shropshire COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Prevent, Contain and Recover (Attachment 1) is presented for review.

List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr. Dean Carroll Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Climate Change, Health and Housing

Local Member

All

Appendices

Local Outbreak Control Plan