

BRIEFING	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	10 th June 2020
	LEAD OFFICER	Terri Roche Director of Public Health Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate 07788286974 Authors: Jacqui Wiltschinsky Consultant in Public Health.
	TITLE:	Update on Covid 19 local response.

Background

1.1 A Pandemic coronavirus outbreak was announced by the World Health Organisation and following this notification the Public Health Pandemic Flu Plan was activated and a pandemic influenza co-ordinating group was instigated. The Public Health Pandemic Flu Response Plan sets out the precautionary, proportionate and flexible arrangements for the management of response and recovery to a pandemic. Within this plan is the clarity of roles, responsibilities and response arrangements. Following activation of the plan a Rotherham Covid 19 Silver Command (RCSC) was set up to coordinate the place response to the pandemic. An action plan was devised which outlines the response to the pandemic and the key actions for all partners, please see Appendix 1. The UK is now approaching the next phase of responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as the peak of the current epidemic wave is passed (mid April), and a relaxation of current extreme social distancing measures is being considered. National plans are being devised and communicated for “testing, tracking and tracing”: scaling up testing for the disease, tracking its spread through the population, and tracing contacts of confirmed cases, in order to contain the rate of spread of the disease in a more targeted way.

Key Issues

2.1 Within this complex and rapidly moving situation we are in, the RCSC has a co-ordination role across multi agencies within Rotherham.

The RCSC does not duplicate the discussions and processes within organisations and current arrangements of partners, unless that is widely deemed acceptable and helpful for awareness raising on specific issues.

The purpose of the RCSC is to:
Strategically manage issues regarding Covid 19 that are not raised in the existing system. Partners report their situation and are coping with the current demands. Co-ordinate work necessary to identify, describe and manage cases following declaration of Covid 19.

Continuously monitor the current position to inform communications accordingly.

	Provide a focal point for all partners in the management of Covid 19 to ensure a consistent response and aid a joint response, where appropriate.
2.2	<p>Some of the key issues now in responding to the pandemic is contact tracing, tracking and testing.</p> <p>The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Testing and Contact Tracing Cell is meeting twice weekly with representation from Rotherham Council Public Health Consultants.</p> <p>Rotherham Place-based testing and contact tracing cell established with agreed terms of reference. Membership includes key NHS testing champions and links with the above group.</p> <p>A South Yorkshire/Rotherham model is being developed and discussed regionally. There is a regional testing site at Doncaster airport and one opening shortly at Meadowhall. Mobile testing units will be made increasingly more available, including one currently on a rota which includes days at the AESSEAL Stadium in Rotherham.</p>
2.3	Following national guidance Directors of Public Health will lead the development of Local Outbreak Plans and DsPH with Public Health England's local health protection team will lead the work on contact tracing and managing outbreaks in complex settings and situations: Health Protection Teams will lead at Centre level and DsPH will lead within their Authorities.
2.4	Whilst the death rate is slowing down there are concerns regarding the relaxation of lockdown announced by the government and whether this will effect the death rate and the prevalence of the virus. Public health and the data surveillance cell will be keeping a watching brief on this situation and report accordingly.
2.5	There are other local groups/cells that are co-ordinating the response that report to the RCSC please see Appendix 2.

Key Actions and Relevant Timelines

3.1	<p>The RCSC meets on a weekly basis (each Friday at 1-2pm). Chaired by Terri Roche Director of Public Health.</p> <p>There is telephone and video conference options to enable remote access. The action plan at appendix one outlines the key actions and relevant timelines for RCSC.</p>
3.2	The SYLRF is co-ordinating the South Yorkshire response to testing and contact tracing and the Rotherham Place based cell is co-ordinating Rotherham's response.
3.3	The local Outbreak Control Plan is to be completed by the end of June.

Implications for Health Inequalities

4.1	Working with Public Health England the Yorkshire and Humber Health and Wellbeing team to identify, mitigate and monitor the impact of the response to COVID19 on health inequalities in Rotherham and the region.
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Recommendations

5.1	For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the action plan, the hierarchy and the update of place response.