

Decision Maker: **Leader**

Date: **16th SEPTEMBER 2020**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **RESOURCING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE: COVID
MANAGEMENT**

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Chief Officer: Dr Nada Lemic, Director of Public Health

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

This report is an update on the paper “Resourcing the Covid-19 response: Contact tracing” on 4th June 2020.

At that time the new responsibilities of Public Health in Bromley in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak were:

- Local outbreak management of COVID-19 in key or complex settings
- Local area outreach and engagement with vulnerable, hard-to-reach or disconnected residents, groups and communities
- Establishing regional or area networks to provide sharing of intelligence and mutual support if pressure on the national system
- Specialist Public Health support to Bromley council and key local partners.

Bromley Public Health are now also leading on:

- Development of surge capacity so that support to professionals and residents can be maintained in the event of a second wave of Covid-19
 - Preparations for some of the contact tracing function to be devolved from Public Health England
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- a. That the Leader notes that this assessment of the additional resources needed to execute this function is still subject to change in a highly fluid situation.
- b. That the Leader agrees to continue to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, to incur expenditure as required to undertake the required duties. Currently the sum required is up to £237k (the amount previously agreed was £100k) as detailed in the report, however there is some expenditure that we do not yet

know the cost of (such as surge nurses) , so in addition to the amount outlined in the report, an additional amount of £38,000 is requested as a contingency item.

- c. That the Leader notes that under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Directors of Public Health in local authorities have a duty to prepare for and lead the local authority public health response to incidents that present a threat to the public's health.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Safer Bromley.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost : £275k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-recurring cost.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Health
 4. Total current budget for this head: £14,971k (Public Health Grant for 2020/21); £1,370k (Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant)
 5. Source of funding: Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 12 current staff in Public Health have all or part of their time allocated to Covid 19 work. It is planned that an additional 12 LBB staff will support the local contact tracing. 2.9 WTE additional staff being brought in to support the Public Health response. Additional nursing support ("surge nurses") will be paid an hourly rate when needed.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 8.2 WTE in Public Health. WTE required for local contact tracing unknown.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All residents of Bromley.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Introduction

The Bromley Outbreak Control Plan was published at the end of June 2020 and has been the basis for the local response. Detailed plans have been prepared in the event of an outbreak in a school, care home, workplace and other settings. Several scenario workshops have been held to test out those plans and add local details and contacts

The national Test and Trace service has been functioning well but outbreaks in other areas have found that it works better if it is more of a partnership between the national programme and local authorities. It is expected that around 20% of contact tracing may devolve to the local authority.

Timescale

Additional staff are being recruited or seconded and trained so that they can help in the event of a second wave. Much of this is already in place, and the final details are expected to be completed by mid September.

Objectives

- The primary objectives of the Test and Trace service will be to control the Covid-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives, and in doing so help to return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy.
- A co-ordinated effort from local and national government, the NHS, GPs, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and the general public is anticipated.
- Local planning and response has been identified by the government as essential part of the Test and Trace service, with local government having a central role to play in the identification and management of infection.

Bromley's Local Outbreak Control Plan

The Bromley Local Outbreak Control Plan links to the existing Pandemic Plan developed by the Bromley Resilience Forum. It is supported by and works in collaboration with Gold command emergency planning forum, the Bromley COVID Strategic Response Group, and oversight by the council Executive. Links are in place with Local Resilience Forums and NHS Integrated Care Systems.

Public Health in Bromley has several responsibilities in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak:

- Local outbreak management of COVID-19 in key or complex settings
- Establishing regional or area networks to provide sharing of intelligence and mutual support
- Specialist Public Health support to Bromley council and key local partners
- Local area outreach and engagement with residents and vulnerable, groups and communities

In addition, Public Health is supporting the response of the council and partners in:

- Mitigating the wider impact of the expansion of tracing and testing on local communities, economies and residents
- Supporting residents and settings that may be negatively impacted or at-risk by the expansion of tracing and easing of lockdown
- Responding to local issues and pressure-points generated by the roll-out of tracing and testing.

Bromley Public Health has set up a Health Protection Covid Board chaired by the Director of Public Health, Dr Nada Lemic, and appointed a Contact Tracing Lead, Dr Jenny Selway

Five workstreams groups have been set up to take forward the relevant sections of the Outbreak Control Plan:

- Prevention
- Data and Intelligence
- Communications and engagement

- Test and Trace, and
- Outbreak control

Links with key partners including the hospital, GPs/CCG, and other providers are in place to manage contact tracing. A key link is with the London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC)

Local outbreak plans are a way to build on our strong public health expertise of the DsPH, linked to our Health Protection Covid Board so that there is broader support for the pandemic, with support from the local Bromley COVID Strategic Response Group and the council Executive recognising that public engagement and trust is crucial to keep the R rate down. The local outbreak plan includes 7 key themes:

- 1 - Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools
- 2 - Planning for local outbreaks in other high-risk places, locations and communities of interest including sheltered housing, dormitories for migrant workers, transport access points, detained settings, rough sleepers etc
- 3 - Identify methods for local testing to ensure response that is accessible to the entire population
- 4 - Assessing local and regional contact tracing and infection control capability in complex settings and the need for mutual aid
- 5 - Integrate national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook
- 6 - Supporting vulnerable local people, including to get help to self-isolate
- 7 - Establish governance structures

Bromley Public Health team is providing a local support role to the work of the London Coronavirus Response Centre, which leads the response to most outbreaks as shown in the following table. In the event of a ‘community cluster’ which is defined as ‘a number of positive tests in a locality or a common site or activity’, the Bromley Public Health team will lead the response and the LCRC will provide support and expert guidance. The local authority will be notified by PHE if a community cluster is identified.

	Setting						
	Care settings	School and Early Years	Workplace	Primary care	Prison/ custodial institutions	Homeless and/or hostel	Community cluster
London Coronavirus Response Centre response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive notification from Tier 2 - Gather information and undertake a risk assessment with the setting - Provide advice and manage cases and contacts, testing and infection control - Provide information materials to the setting - Recommend ongoing control measures - Convene IMT if required - Provide information to DsPH and advice/recommendations for ongoing support 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive notification from Tier 2 - Support Local Authority in their risk assessment of and response to an identified community cluster

Local authority response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention work and respond to enquiries - Support vulnerable contacts who are required to self isolate - Liaise with setting to provide ongoing advice and support for testing, communications, infection control and PPE - Participate in IMT if convened by LCRC - Local communications e.g. briefings for Cllrs, local press inquiries, comms with the public - Liaise with CCG, GPs and other healthcare providers to provide ongoing healthcare support to setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receive notification from Tier 2 - Convene IMT - Provide support to community which may include translated materials, support to self-isolate, advice and enforcement - Liaise with the local CCG, GPs and other healthcare providers - Local communications (e.g. Cllr briefing, local press inquiries, comms with public)
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3.2 Resources required

This assessment of the additional resources needed is as accurate as possible at this time and has been informed by local planning and by learning from other areas with large community outbreaks.

3.3 Resources Audit

In order to support the work of engagement around test and trace, investigating outbreaks and offering advice, guidance and training, we have audited our current resources and identified possible gaps which will need to be in place for timely action to be taken in the case of multiple outbreaks in the borough.

LBB staff redeployed to the Contact Tracing work

8.2 WTE staff (12 staff) in the Public Health team have currently been redeployed for part of their role to the Contact Tracing work.

0.1 WTE of the Manager of the Volunteering Programme in Bromley is allocated to this work.

12 LBB staff will be seconded to support the local contact tracing work.

New resources identified to support Contact Tracing work

Additional Public Health Intelligence analyst time will be needed to manage the new contact tracing work (1 WTE).

Additional Public Health resource (0.9 WTE) is needed to expand the prevention work with local care homes, schools and businesses. This will include supporting flu vaccinations in the borough.

The additional Public Health resource taken on in June 2020 (0.6 WTE) to support the work with vulnerable groups is needed to continue to prepare systems and resources to support the most vulnerable in the borough.

Additional nursing capacity will be needed in the event of multiple outbreaks to support settings and also to manage questions from professionals and residents.

Additional admin support will be needed to support the additional staff (0.6 WTE).

Additional support to the Communications team to backfill project work in non-Covid areas of work (0.4 WTE).

Extra capacity, if needed, will come from Environmental Health with Environmental Health Officers increasingly bringing their local expertise should a community cluster occur in the borough.

There are likely to be additional costs to Housing as a result of homeless people being asked to self-isolate:

- Hotel rooms
- Taxi costs to transport people to temporary accommodation

Extra staff have been seconded to support the communications team in LBB.

While we recognise the very welcome input and support from Environmental Health and Housing and other partners in LBB, this paper does not include any additional costs incurred by those divisions as part of the response to Covid 19 as they are not covered by the Public Health grant.

New Responsibility	Bromley Response	Resource implications	Resources required	
Local outbreak management of Covid-19 in key or complex settings	1. Diverted clinical and non-clinical staff within Public Health department	1. 0.6 wte DPH 4.2 wte senior nurse 1.3 wte Public Health Consultant 0.2 wte AD Public Health 0.7 wte Public Health Intelligence analyst 0.6 wte link to volunteering team 0.6 wte Admin support	1. No additional resource required at present	
	2. Diverted staff from other teams	2. Recruiting/co-ordinating volunteers Managing the assistance helpline 0.2 wte volunteer manager	2. No additional resource required at present	
	3. Taken on additional capacity in Public Health for Covid-19 to end March 2021	3. 0.6 wte External Public Health specialist to support vulnerable groups		3. £35,000
		0.6 wte External Public Health specialist to support prevention work, including Flu vaccination		£35,000
		0.4 wte admin support to prevention work		£10,000
		1.0 wte Information analyst/Data processing analyst to set up and manage local Test and Trace team		£45,000
		12 LBB staff planned to be seconded to support local contact tracing		TBC
Set up additional nursing expertise in event of surge in cases/outbreak ("surge nurses")		Set up costs £20,000 Ongoing costs £15,000		
Contingency for hourly paid nurses in event of outbreak		£38,000		
	Environmental Health Officers – training		No additional resource required at	

			present
Local area outreach and engagement with hard-to-reach or disconnected residents, groups and communities	Engagement with VCS, Adult Social Care, housing, volunteering team	Videos, leaflets, and advertising to get the messages to key groups costs. Resource to backfill Communications Executives 0.4 wte until March 2021	£39,000 £25,000
Mitigating the wider impact of the expansion of tracing and testing on local communities, economies and residents	Prevention workstream developed as part of the Health Protection Covid Board	No additional resource required at present	
Supporting residents and settings that may be negatively impacted or at-risk by the expansion of tracing and easing of lockdown	To design the restart of the NHS Health Checks programme, to target those at higher risk of complications of COVID-19, including minimising the impact of obesity	0.3 wte External Public Health specialist to end March 2021	£13,000
Establishing regional or area networks to provide mutual-aid, sharing of intelligence and LA-to-LA support in the instance of pressure on the national system	Mutual aid agreement with other South East London Public Health teams	No additional resource required at present	
Co-ordination of local partners (health, police and others) to mitigate local impact, and to respond to local issues and pressure-points generated by the roll-out of testing and tracing	IPC training offered to Public Health and Environmental Health teams, care homes, GPs, schools	Included within additional Public Health resource outlined above.	
Data hub in place to co-ordinate and establish a single-view of the local intelligence and insight about infection, tracing and testing in their local area. Local protocols for the control, sharing and reporting of that information in place in line with national guidance, and existing statutory information governance duties	Work stream in place	Included within additional Public Health resource outlined above.	

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Authority COVID-19 Test and Trace Service Support Grant allocation was announced on 10th June, with Bromley due to receive the sum of £1,370k. The grant is provided to support the Council in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.
- 5.2 The total resources required to undertake the work detailed in this report amounts to £237k, plus an additional £38,000 amount as a contingency for unknown costs.
- 5.3 It is recommended that the Leader agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to agree this expenditure, plus a contingency of £38,000 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local authorities and PHE will conduct follow up of these settings as outlined on Page 4 and fulfil their statutory duty for safeguarding and protecting the health of their population.

- PHE has responsibility for protecting the health of the population and providing an integrated approach to protecting public health through close working with the NHS, Local Authorities, emergency services and government agencies. This includes specialist advice and support related to management of outbreaks and incidents of infectious diseases
- The health system has a shared responsibility for the management of outbreaks of COVID-19 in London
- Infection control support for each setting will be provided in line with local arrangements
- Under the Care Act 2014, Local Authorities have responsibilities to safeguard adults in their areas. These responsibilities for adult social care include the provision of support and personal care (as opposed to treatment) to meet needs arising from illness, disability or old age
- Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Directors of Public Health in upper tier and unitary local authorities have a duty to prepare for and lead the local authority public health response to incidents that present a threat to the public's health
- Medical practitioners have a statutory duty to notify suspected and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases to PHE under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 and the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2020
- If there are Procurement implications in place, then the Contract can be awarded in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and Government Guidance (Procurement Guidance Note 20_01: Procurement Actions in Relation to Covid 19).

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

The most appropriate option for increasing staffing resources necessary to support the contact tracing work, either on a temporary basis or as a secondment has been identified. Where internal staff are seconded our experience of seconding staff to help with the shielding project will be used to ensure the smooth running of this process within existing budgets.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<p>NHS Test and Trace: How it works https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant Determination (2020/21) [No 31/5075] Resourcing the Covid-19 response: Contact Tracing. June 2020. LDCS10151 GDPR letter: file:///C:/Users/selwaj01/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/SHC5M65L/Coronavirus__COVID-19___notice_under_regulation_3_4_of_the_Health_Service_Control_of_Patient_Information_Regulations_2002.pdf</p>