



The National Test and Trace service – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon

Briefing note to Members, week ending 19 June 2020

Test and Trace – national activity

The national programme has introduced a new 'Convenor' role to work with Beacons to test and strengthen Outbreak Control Plans and processes. Our convenor is Clive Wright, formerly Chief Executive of Shropshire Council.

A meeting took place on 16 June 2020 with the national Chief Executives of the Test and Trace Beacons. We will shortly be receiving some tools to help ensure local processes are robust. 'Action cards' are one such tool, which set out a detailed checklist for working with an outbreak in a range of complex settings. Conversations are also taking place about the approach to and management of the closure of settings where this is necessary to contain and outbreak.

Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, presented to the National Outbreak Advisory Board on 18th June on our Beacon progress and local outbreak arrangements.

Beacon update

The Test & Trace Sub-Regional Advisory Board met for the first time last week. It will meet again on 25 June 2020 and review the Outbreak Control Plan progress ahead of publication.

The Member-led Engagement Boards have made positive starts in the last week, with slightly different approaches in each area, but all coalescing around developing the Outbreak Control Plan and facilitating proactive approaches in the containment and management of COVID-19 outbreaks. Membership is multi-agency, drawing on participation by key partners.

The main focus of operational activity this week has been the preparation of the Sub-regional Outbreak Control Plan and the 3 local outbreak control implementation plans. A series of meetings have also taken place across the sub-region to strengthen local planning mechanisms and review priority actions to drive the Beacon forward. The Health Protection Boards in all 3 areas met: these partnership meetings are the driving force behind the delivery of the local outbreak control implementation plans. PHE and the NHS are part of these meetings to ensure alignment with the regional and national Test and Trace programme.

Directors of Public Health are developing proposals with partners to consider how the funding allocation to the sub-region can best be used. A decision has been taken to pool a proportionate contribution from the 3 areas to cover activity that will benefit the sub-region as a whole, such as media campaigns and community engagement.

CSW Outbreak Control Plan

We are preparing a single Outbreak Control Plan for the Beacon, for publication on 26 June. It will set out our strategic approach to how we will work together, work with regional and national capacity to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and contain and suppress outbreaks. The Plan will be supported by 3 operational 'local outbreak control implementation plans', which will supply the detail in each area on prevention, infection control measures, and the management of outbreaks.

Sub-regional themed groups

A central part of the Beacon approach is the shared ownership of 4 themes that are critical to the overall success of our outbreak control approach. Each theme is being developed through a collaborative effort that intends to deliver sub-regional benefits through greater efficiency.

THEME 1: Epidemiology and Intelligence Cell (Coventry-led)

This cell provides rapid and consistent data and intelligence to support monitoring and management efforts as the sub-region implements the COVID-19 Test and Trace programme. Initially, the cell will be delivering:

- an early warning system;
- providing test and trace data and intelligence; and
- supporting local outbreak management intelligence.

THEME 2: Joint Health Protection Cell (Warwickshire-led)

The three Test and Trace leads for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire have established weekly meetings with PHE to discuss emerging operational and outbreak related issues. Initial work has consisted of:

- Reviewing amendments to Public Health England (PHE)/Local Authority (LA) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) prior to final sign off;
- Streamlining flow of data/information from PHE to LAs to ensure the right people are able to see the data in a timely fashion;
- Discussing recent outbreaks/learning and arising issues (e.g. testing);
- Agreeing joint actions to support finalisation of the draft local outbreak plan and local implementation plans.

THEME 3: Testing Cell (Solihull-led)

This cell will implement focused testing and effective contact tracing using the data and intelligence to keep the reproductive number below 1.

Initially the cell will be:

- Ensuring that outbreaks are being identified early and that effective multi-agency management and response is in place for each geography;
- Identifying the potential hotspots by time, place or person and implementation of measures to minimise this risk;
- Agreeing the deployment of testing capacity and follow up procedures to effect containment.

THEME 4: Communications, Engagement and Participation Cell (Warwickshire-led)

This cell sets out the strategy for communicating prevention, Test and Trace and outbreak management messages at the local, sub-regional and national Beacon level. It will:

- Establish a single, public-facing microsite for the sub-region to host information on Test and Trace, access to testing, infection control and prevention materials and our plans and publications;
- Design and deliver a range of key messages and materials targeted at specific audiences;
- Build community trust and confidence through high quality localised engagement and participation.

Priority actions

- Presentation of Outbreak Control Plan to Test and Trace Sub-Regional Advisory Board
- Completion of local outbreak control implementation plans

Meetings taking place next week (22 to 26 June)

- 22 June 2020 Warwickshire Outbreak Plan Mobilisation Group
- 23 June 2020 Coventry Health Protection Mobilisation Group
- 24 June 2020 Solihull Local Outbreak Management Plan meeting
- 25 June 2020 Warwickshire Health Protection Board
- 25 June 2020 Test and Trace Sub-Regional Advisory Board
- 26 June 2020 Coventry Members' Panel
- 26 June 2020 Solihull Health Protection Board
- 26 June 2020 Solihull Local Outbreak Management Plan meeting