



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

Briefing note to Members, week ending 7 August 2020

A weekly round-up of news, issues and updates from the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon team. Keep up to date and find more background information about our work at www.staysafecsw.info

Test and Trace – national activity

The national Beacon programme is hosting a series of best practice networking events to share learning and ideas. This week's event introduced the Test and Trace App, showcasing its functionality and answering questions ranging from data collection protocols to using the App as a contact mapping tool on entry to registered buildings. It is likely that one or two authority areas might act as early adopters to test full functionality before a wider release.

A new national communication campaign has been launched using the strapline, 'Let's get back to the things we love: let's get tested'. The focus of the campaign is on increasing motivation to take a test when you have symptoms. There has been a slight downward trend in people taking tests, and given that there is a widespread concern about a 'rising tide' of cases almost across the board in terms of geography and demography it's particularly important to maintain public focus on virus containment.



Beacon update

We are beginning to see an increase in incidents and outbreaks across the sub-region. These are broadly in line with our expectations given the relaxation of restrictions and shielding measures and the increased movement of people in general. Our Outbreak Control Plan and local implementation plans are standing up to the increase in activity, and each unique incident or outbreak is being used to inform adaptations to the plans in real time.

Coventry and Warwickshire are working together to procure a case management system that is compatible not only across the areas but also with Solihull's system so that a clearer overall picture can be easily seen across the sub-region.

Responding to intelligence specific to each area, each authority has this week begun to target settings that have been identified as being at a higher risk of virus transmission with tailored information on what to do in the event of an outbreak. Letters have been shared with business networks to assist employers with being clear on what to do when staff test positive, and to emphasise the local support offer. This is part of a proactive campaign to educate and inform leaders

in a variety of settings, to speed up notification and response times. This has been supported by the WMCA Mayor, who has reached out to businesses this week to warn against complacency.

Each authority is working with colleagues in CSW Resilience to develop stress testing scenarios focusing on higher risk settings to further strengthen local implementation plans.

We are collaborating in a number of other areas of work, including the development of localised communication materials. Translated information is available in 12 languages, and short films are being made with faith and community leaders to communicate key health protection messages directly to groups we are particularly keen to reach.

Epidemiology and Intelligence

We are reviewing the data being collected across the sub-region and refining what is presented so that it is both appropriate for the audience and unambiguous in terms of context. Data sharing across the 3 local authority areas is being resolved.

Joint Health Protection

Work this week has focused on refining communications with the national programme to improve data flow and maximise the benefits of aligning resources. Conversations have also progressed to help identify what is needed from a case management system, how analysis of the information might enable improved responses, and how best practice and lessons learned can best be captured and shared.

Testing

Coventry and Warwickshire's joint tender for a testing service has closed, with a number of proposals to be reviewed. Coventry is testing a walk-through model for a mobile testing unit.

Communications, Engagement and Participation

Community groups and champions have been engaged across each of the 3 local authority areas to support grassroots messaging around prevention, testing and contact tracing. Coventry has offered training to its pool of around 160 community champions to enable them to have good quality, informative conversations. Warwickshire has offered a small grant pot to community organisations to enable them to reach out directly to people and groups who may benefit from a different approach to health protection messaging.

Priority actions

- Make further progress on sub-regional trigger points/ thresholds for the contain framework
- Clarify and resolve sub-regional data sharing arrangements
- Progress recruitment campaigns for additional roles to support outbreak control plans
- Continue work with DHSC on CSW Beacon Pilot on hyper local testing

Meetings taking place next week (10 to 14 August)

- 10 August - Solihull COVID-19 HWBB sub-group
- 11 August - Coventry COVID-19 Test and Trace Mobilisation Group
- 13 August - Warwickshire Health Protection Board
- 13 August - Coventry Stress Testing Plans (session 1)
- 14 August - CSW Member Advisory Board