

Agenda Item 7

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Derek Ward, Director of Public Health

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	11 November 2020
Subject:	Covid-19 Update

Summary:

Lincolnshire County Council, as the lead public health authority for Lincolnshire, is responsible for ensuring robust outbreak management and infection control measures are in place to protect the health of the population and minimise the spread of the disease.

This report provides a summary of the outbreak management arrangements in Lincolnshire. An overview of the latest Covid-19 data for Lincolnshire will be provided at the meeting.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is asked to note the content of this report.

1. Background

1.1 Outbreak Management Arrangements

National guidance stresses the key role of local government in identifying and managing infections. The [Contain Framework](#), issued by the government in July 2020, gives clear responsibility to upper tier local authorities to develop leadership and oversight to local plans and measures to contain the further spread of infection. In line with government requirements, Lincolnshire County Council published a local [Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#) (OMP) on 1 July 2020. The plan sets out the local outbreak management system.

Lincolnshire is unusual in the East Midlands in that it has its own well-established Health Protection Team (HPT). This is a small team within Public Health, which works closely with Lincolnshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group HPT, Public Health England East Midlands (PHEEM) and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in the district councils.

The primary objective in the management of an outbreak is to protect public health by identifying the source of an outbreak and implementing necessary control measures to prevent further spread or recurrence of the infection. This should be underpinned by a risk assessment, with regular re-assessment of the risk.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in late January, preventative public health messages have been widely communicated through the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) partnership. These include:

- Frequent hand washing and use of hand gels;
- Staying at home;
- Social distancing;
- Shielding of extremely vulnerable and other vulnerable people;
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Other preventative measures, which have been used to reduce transmission of the disease, are:

- early identification and appropriate management of outbreaks;
- early diagnosis and isolation of suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19.

All districts have been carrying out functions to provide on the ground advice, guidance and support to businesses which can operate under the current restrictions. They have also been carrying out direct enforcement duties to follow up on complaints and, where necessary, will prevent premises from operating to prevent further spread of the disease.

The OMP identifies all the high-risk settings in the county in order to provide these settings with targeted advice to enable them to take steps to prevent infection. This advice has been captured in a series of action cards, one for each of the high-risk settings within Lincolnshire. These actions cards help in guiding the responses of individuals within the setting itself and the various professionals who may be called in to co-ordinate or take part in an outbreak response. In accordance with good health protection practice the main emphasis of the response is to give advice and guidance to settings, thereby assisting them to help contain the outbreak.

1.1.1 Governance

The following governance arrangements have been put in place to oversee the delivery of the OMP

1.2.1 Covid-19 Outbreak Management and Contact Tracing Cell

A Covid-19 outbreak management and contact tracing sub-cell has been set up under Lincolnshire LRF System Coordination Cell (SCC) to oversee the implementation of outbreak management plan; to develop setting-specific action plans and to develop the work plan and risk register. It is chaired by the Public Health lead for outbreak management and contact tracing, and its members are senior officers from relevant public sector organisations. It reports to the SCC Cell of the LRF and to the Covid-19 HPB.

1.2.2 Covid-19 Health Protection Board (HPB)

A Covid-19 Health Protection Board (HPB) for Lincolnshire is made up of senior officers from all relevant partner organisations and is chaired by the DPH. The Covid-19 HPB acts as the advisory board for the Lincolnshire Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB).

1.2.3 Lincolnshire Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB)

The LOEB for Lincolnshire provides political ownership and governance for the local outbreak management response and to ensure consistent messaging and engagement with the public. The LOEB discharges its responsibilities by means of recommendations to appropriate governance boards and relevant partner organisations. It provides progress reports and updates, as required, to the meeting of the Lincolnshire Council Leaders and Chief Executive meeting. The LOEB is chaired by the Leader of LCC. Other members of the Board include District Council Leaders, the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS representatives from CCG and NHS providers, Healthwatch Lincolnshire and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

2. Consultation

This report is for information and noting.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Not applicable

4. Conclusion

Lincolnshire has a robust, well established health protection system, which has forged links with all seven district Environmental Health Departments. A range of proactive and reactive public health measures have been undertaken to save lives and reduce the number of cases. LRF has responded quickly to co-ordinate the functions of all the partner organisations. All these measures have contributed to keeping the level of transmission of the virus low in our county.

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Alison Christie, Programme Manager, who can be contacted at alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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