

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board

DATE: 15th July 2020

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WARD(S) All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

SLOUGH OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek agreement for the terms of reference for the Slough Outbreak Engagement Board.

2. Recommendation

The Slough Wellbeing Board is requested to resolve that the Terms of Reference of the Slough Outbreak Engagement Board as at Appendix A to the report be approved.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24

Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the delivery of all of the Wellbeing Board's priorities:

1. Starting Well
2. Integration
3. Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Building Community Asset Resilience)
4. Workplace Health

However the response to the crisis has demonstrated the strength of community and partnership working.

4. Five Year Plan 2020-24 Outcomes

Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the delivery of all of the Five Year Plan's priority outcomes:

Outcome 1 Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
Outcome 2 Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

Outcome 3 Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
Outcome 4 Our residents will live in good quality homes
Outcome 5 Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

5. **Other Implications**

- (a) **Financial** – The Government is providing local authorities with additional funding to tackle the increased service demands they face in addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic. SBC's share of the £3.2bn of national funding provided for local government's response to COVID-19 is £7.636m There are no foreseen financial implications arising from this report, as it is expected that the work will be contained within existing budgets.
- (b) **Risk Management** – There are no identified risks to the proposed action to establish a board. A COVID-19 risk register has been prepared and forms part of the previous report to Cabinet in May 2020 on COVID-19 response planning. The Communications Plan will address specific risks relating to the engagement and communications response to an outbreak.
- (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** – There are no Human Rights Act or Other Legal Implications arising from the establishment of the an Engagement Board.
- (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to this report, although it should be noted that the Local Outbreak Management Plan itself attends to a number of high risk settings including Care Homes, Faith settings and Homeless communities. In addition, there is a specific pilot being undertaken within Slough understanding the impact and likely interventions for BAME communities.

6. **Supporting information**

- 6.1 We are now seeing the initial wave of COVID-19 cases decline across the country with national lockdown restrictions being gradually lifted. The next phase of the pandemic in England is predicted to be a much more variegated pattern with focussed outbreaks requiring local controls to keep cases and harm from COVID-19 to a minimum.
- 6.2 The Government has announced allocations to each LA of a Test & Trace Grant to support this localised response. SBC was allocated £689,507.
- 6.3 The model proposed for outbreak or incident¹ response locally is detailed in the LA's Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) as endorsed by the Cabinet on 30th June 2020.

¹ An outbreak is one or more cases of Covid-19, an incident has a broader meaning, encompassing events or situations which warrant investigation to determine if action is needed to manage the risk.

- 6.4 The fundamental duties and roles of organisations and teams involved in outbreak control have not changed. The LOMP sets out the roles of the LA: to support the PHE Health Protection Team's (HPT) lead for outbreak response and to ensure their recommendations function locally. This includes prevention of COVID-19 in the first place as well as preventing the spread of infection.
- 6.5 In the event of an outbreak, the Thames Valley HPT are responsible for co-ordinating outbreak management and will work closely with the Public Health team at Slough Borough Council and the Slough Outbreak Cell to facilitate a timely and proportionate outbreak response.
- 6.6 The local response will vary according to the setting of any outbreak and the populations involved. Support will be needed from individual services and the community hubs. SBC's LOMP establishes an Outbreak Management Cell to be stood up to co-ordinate contact tracing and its associate components across Slough. Its members will act as a link to their respective service areas for contact tracing and expertise.
- 6.7 Communication with residents is key aspect of any response. The Outbreak Engagement Boards will be held in public every month and more often if needed, led by local councillors accountable to the public. It is committed to:
- keep our website up to date with the latest guidance
 - use social media to spread the word
 - work with services, businesses and organisations to make sure information is clear and accurate
 - make information available in accessible formats and languages other than English where appropriate and use community engagement as well as traditional broadcast techniques
- 6.8 The role of the Board is as follows:
- Lead engagement with the public regarding Covid risks and prevention
 - Endorse the Local Outbreak Plan and the accompanying communications plan.
 - Provide ongoing oversight of the Plan's implementation.
 - Provide political ownership of the local response.
 - Proactively lead the communications and engagement in the event of a local incident .
 - Coordinate, where appropriate, with neighbouring authorities in the event of cross/near border local outbreaks.
- 6.9 The terms of reference set out the proposed membership and ways of working of the new board.

7. Comments of other committees

- 7.1 This report has not been considered by any other committees. The Cabinet endorsed the Outbreak Management Plan on 30th June 2020.

8. **Conclusion**

8.1 Slough Borough Council has responded swiftly to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

8.2 This report sets out our plans to establish and Outbreak Engagement Board as part of the wider response to potential local outbreaks of COVID-19 as we move into the next phase of the pandemic.

9. **Appendices attached**

A – Draft Terms of Reference, Local Outbreak Engagement Board

10. **Background papers**

None.