

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 8th September 2020

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PART I

FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

SLOUGH LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

1 Purpose of Report

To provide Health Scrutiny Panel with the latest information about:

- Slough's approach to managing the outbreak of Coronavirus
- Progress made with a targeted engagement project working alongside the Black and Minority Ethnic Community

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Panel is requested to consider the report.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Preventing future outbreaks of Coronavirus in Slough is fundamental to our ability to deliver on the Slough Wellbeing Strategy (SWS) priorities, which are:

Priorities:

1. Starting Well
2. Integration (relating to Health & Social Care)
3. Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods
4. Workplace health

Slough's response to the outbreak of Coronavirus was informed by the needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment including the health of the population overall and the health of specific communities.

Five Year Plan Outcomes

Preventing future outbreaks of Coronavirus in Slough is fundamental to our ability to deliver on the Five Year Plan outcomes. The outcomes are:

- 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

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are likely to be significant implications for the council and Slough from Covid 19 impacts together with grants available to support. The full implications are currently being reviewed.

(b) Risk Management

Covid 19 risks are included in the Council Covid 19 Risk register

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications of proposed action. However, the panel will note the positive action taken to support communities adversely affected by COVID 19

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no Equalities Impact Assessment implications of proposed action. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed ahead of a notification of 'direction' under the No. 3 regulations as explained in the supporting information at 5.9

5 **Supporting Information**

Slough's Local Outbreak Management Plan

- 5.1 The council has a number of existing powers and some new specific COVID 19 related powers to respond swiftly and in line with the national 'Contain Framework' to control local COVID19 risks and support the Slough Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP). The emphasis is very much upon an Engage-Educate- Encourage – Enforce Prevent approach. The model proposed for outbreak or incident response locally is detailed in the LA's LOMP as endorsed by the Cabinet on 30th June 2020 (see attached as Appendix A).
- 5.2 The LOMP is currently under review following 7 weeks of operationalising the initial version of the Plan. This action is being coordinated by the Cell. The second version of the LOMP will not be available in full form in time for Health Scrutiny Panel, however a verbal update on learning and proposed changes can be given during the discussion at the panel.

- 5.3 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 and identifies high risk settings in Slough
- 5.4 In the event of an outbreak, the Thames Valley Health Protection Team (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
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 A Slough-focused stress test of procedures was undertaken on 28th July 2020. Further stress tests from a Thames Valley and South East perspective are taking place on 3rd September 2020 and 10th September 2020 respectively. Learning from stress tests are turned into action logs, which are then monitored and implemented through the Daily Cell and Weekly Cell. Lessons learnt are shared with Silver and will be shared with the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.
- 5.7 Information about the pandemic and its impact on the health of people who live and work in Slough is monitored daily and weekly by the Local Outbreak Management Cell (The Cell). The Cell manages the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP). The daily Cell is attended by members of Slough Borough Council with the weekly Cell attended by partners including One Slough, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Children's Service Trust.
- 5.8 The Cell receives a set of information on a daily and weekly basis against a structured agenda, which includes:
- Urgent updates
 - Public health data
 - Testing rates
 - Environmental health action
 - Communications and engagement
- 5.9 The council does have new powers under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2020 that came into force at 12.01 a.m. on Saturday 18 July 2020. These No. 3 Regs give local authorities powers in prescribed circumstances, to give directions (to close or restrict) for individual premises, events and public outdoor places, to curb the incidence and spread of the pandemic.
- 5.10 The public health and testing data received on a daily basis includes:
- Number of people known to be infected by Covid 19, and the rate per 100,000 members of the population

- Number of deaths known to be caused by Covid 19, and the rate per 100,000 members of the population
- Calls to 111 and 999 and online assessments, which are triaged as being relating to Covid 19
- Outbreaks known to have taken place in care homes
- National Test and Trace data

5.11 Communication with residents is key aspect of Slough's response. The *Local Outbreak Engagement Board* was established through approval by the Slough Wellbeing Board and met for the first time on 5th August 2020. The Board 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

5.12 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.

Status update

5.13 The Covid19 status in Slough is monitored daily through a surveillance dashboard prepared by the Berkshire health shared team. It is communicated to the Daily Cell and Weekly Cell meetings by the representative from the public health team and from the Daily Cell a status update is escalated to the Council's Silver /Gold Command structure.

5.14 The latest data available to inform this report was received on 24/08. The incidences of Covid19 had been on a declining trend for a number of days.

5.15 Slough had seen a slight uptick in cases earlier in August, which resulted in Slough exceeding the expected level (based on past daily averages). However, after a slight increase the Borough is now observing a declining trend in cases.

5.16 The driver of cases appears to be at a household level and not a workplace or other external cluster level. This informs the type of response actions put in place by the Outbreak Cell. This information remains incomplete and when local contact tracing is established for Slough we expect enhanced information will inform our targeted local response approach

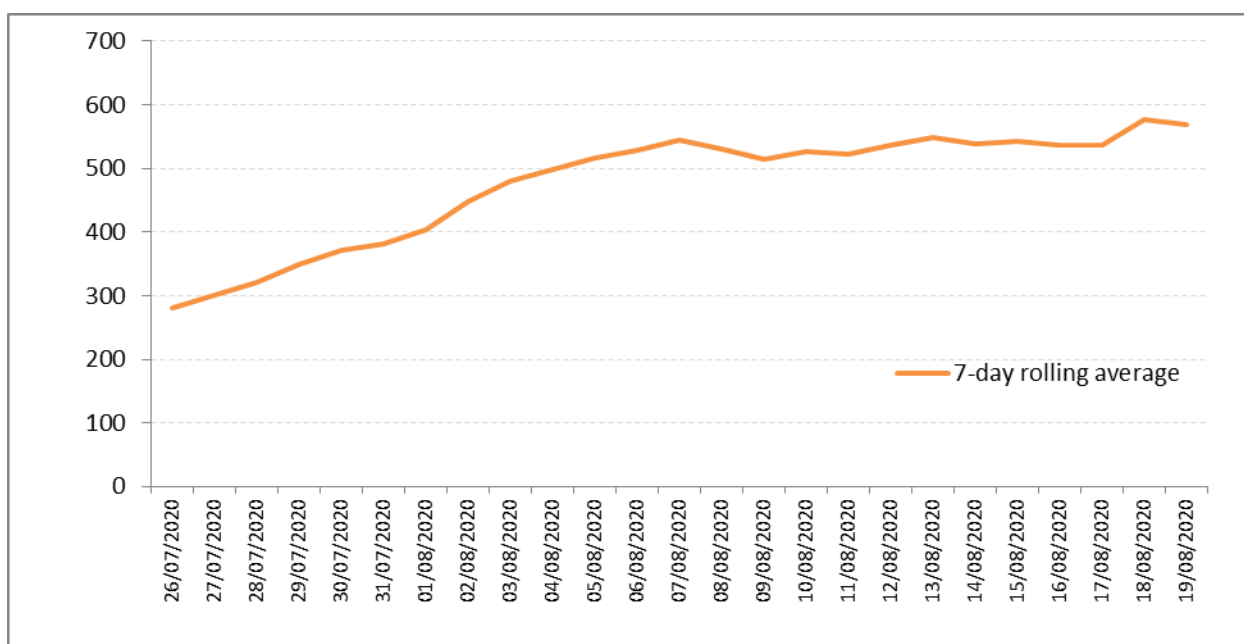
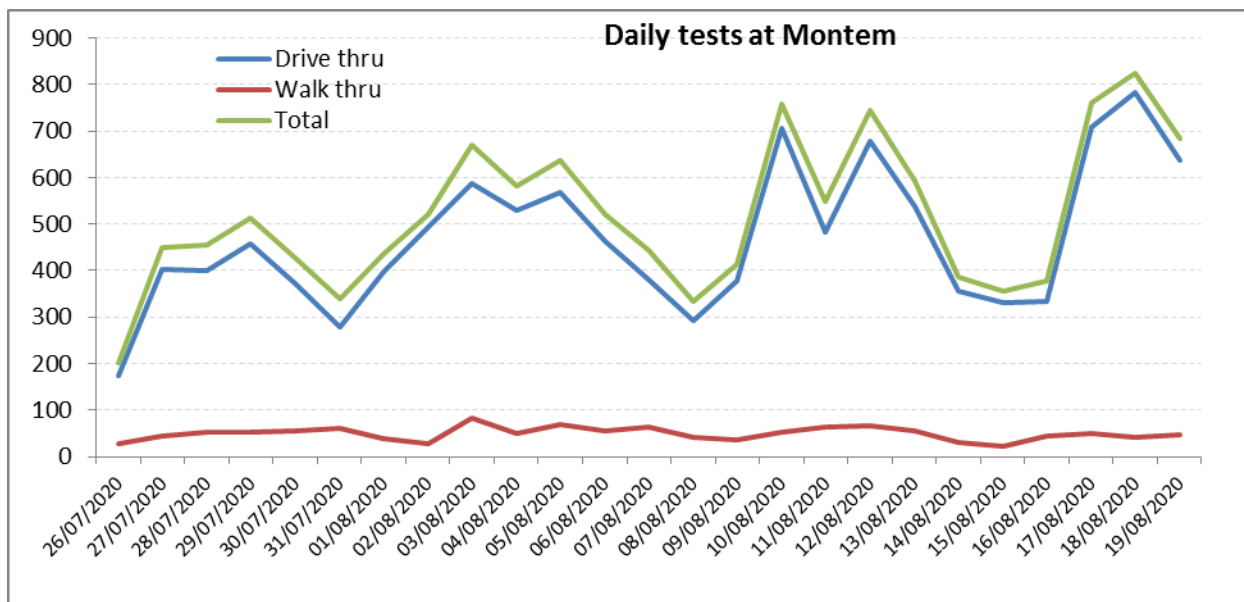
- 5.17 The national contract tracing centre (CTAS) has made contact with people who have tested positive for the virus, and with some people who they had come into contact with, however the rate of contact tracing is below the national average and this is one of the reasons for establishing a Slough local contact tracing approach (see later in this note)

Area of Concern and local contact tracing

- 5.18 Slough was designated an Area of Concern by Public Health England on 20th August 2020. The Area of Concern classification is part of the Contain Framework and it indicates an area where targeted local measures are required to prevent a rise in infections. This classification was given due to a combination of factors including a rise in the number of positive cases within the borough across the last two weeks, though that number is now falling again, the black and minority ethnic population, which is known to be disproportionately affected by covid-19, as well as previous high levels of infection at the beginning of the lockdown, and a low tracing rate achieved by the national tracing centre (CTAS).
- 5.19 It also takes into account the black and minority ethnic population which is known to be disproportionately affected by covid-19, as well as previous high levels of infection at the beginning of the lockdown.
- 5.20 The next two stages of classification are Area of Enhanced Support and Area of Intervention. It is at these levels that the phrase 'local lockdown' would be used by the media to describe the measures, albeit there are significant variations to what that has actually meant for each area. The Full range of classifications is included in Appendix B
- 5.21 Introducing local contact tracing is not mandatory when an area is designated as an Area of Concern, however it is an approach taken by other local area in this position. The Slough Cell has already been considering local contact tracing due to the low tracing rates achieved by the national tracing centre (CTAS) for Slough residents and for people who have come into contact with people who have tested positive who live and work in Slough. Local contact tracing, much like our local approach to supporting residents who were Shielding, would give us a targeted intervention model to prevent further spread of the virus and support vulnerable families. Slough has an effective local community engagement approach and so we are confident that a local contact tracing model would be of benefit

Testing

- 5.22 Slough has a walk-in and drive-thru testing site at Montem with the number of tests each day varying between 300 and 700, with the peak early in the working week and the lowest levels over the weekend. The following charts show the testing levels and the trend.



5.23 The Cell has been proactively looking at options to extend local testing offers and we have been considering three options: 1) a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU), 2) a Local Testing Site (LTS) and 3) a Voluntary Testing Network (VTN). The Cell has been discussing these options with the provider, Deloitte, and assessing the viability of local places to host the testing site.

5.24 Arbor Vale school car park has been identified as a temporary site for an additional testing space and will be mobilised by 26th August 2020. Communications team are leading on developing signage for the site and proactive messages to encourage people to feel confident to attend. One Slough are also involved in promoting these messages.

Communications and Engagement

5.25 Slough Borough Council are using all available channels to communicate and engage with people who live and work in Slough in order to help

everyone stay safe. This has included utilising all communications channels to reach staff, partner agencies, residents, and businesses.

- 5.26 Communications have been driven under the #OneSlough initiative with consistent messaging being given through partner agencies. The weekly Cell meeting includes representatives from SloughCVS, health partners, and the Children's Services Trust.
- 5.27 The Slough Local Outbreak Management Cell receives a daily communications update, and it ensures messages are being sent out and heard consistently across channels. This includes Environmental Health and other regulatory officers who have been running an on-going programme of advice, information, and spot-checks in local businesses.
- 5.28 The EH Duty Desk operates the CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk from 09.00 to 17.00 7 days a week and there is an emergency contact number with the SBC Control Room 24/7. The CV19 e-mail system is the first point of contact for the council for information coming from Public Health England and also for businesses and residents to contact with concerns about COVID 19 risks in the town. The EH Duty Team triages information, escalates urgent issues to Public Health England, relevant internal and partner teams and also completes daily returns to Public Health England
- 5.29 The SBC Safer Public Spaces Task Group co-ordinates council and partner agency response to support social distancing, including targeted operations on areas of the borough that have been identified as potential high footfall areas or 'pinch points' Where risk of transmission of COVID 19 is increased

6 **Comments of Other Committees and Panels**

The Local Outbreak Management Plan was endorsed by Cabinet on 30th June 2020.

An update on the Local Outbreak Management Plan, Covid19 status in Slough, and our approach to communications and engagement were reviewed by the Local Outbreak Engagement Board on 5th August 2020.

7. **Conclusion**

Slough Borough Council are actively managing the Coronavirus outbreak through implementing the Local Outbreak Management Plan in collaboration with public health colleagues in Berkshire, Thames Valley, South East, and nationally., as well as local partners such as the CCG, voluntary partners and Slough Police The Health Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the progress made and current activities.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Slough Local Outbreak Management Plan

'B' - COVID-19 Contain framework: a guide for local decision-makers

9. **Background Papers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-powers-to-impose-restrictions-under-coronavirus-regulations>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>