



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Lorraine Mitchell,  
PH Contingency Planning Officer

**Tel:** 07581455748 / 0114 2734504

**Report of:** *Director of Public Health*  
**Report to:** *Co-operative Executive*  
**Date of Decision:** *23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021*  
**Subject:** *Sheffield Local Outbreak Control Plan*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Which Executive Member Portfolio does this relate to? Deputy Leader		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>		

**Purpose of Report:**

The Sheffield Local Outbreak Control Plan, first produced in June 2020, has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes in circumstances and the Government's Roadmap for exiting national lockdown (*Covid-19 Response: Spring 2021*). This report presents the revised Plan for approval and describes the implications for longer-term planning.

## Recommendations:

### That Co-operative Executive

- Notes that the Outbreak Control Plan has been updated to reflect changes in circumstances, in line with the Government's roadmap for exiting lockdown, since the first iteration of the Plan was published in June 2020
- Approves the Sheffield Local Outbreak Control Plan
- Agrees that the Director of Public Health should continue to lead the direction of the Plan and any review framework or timeframe, and authorises him to update the Plan as necessary in 2021/22
- Notes that the financial impact of the Plan will be considered in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Notes that longer-term planning will be undertaken for the end of the Control Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant in March 2022, linked to corporate emergency planning arrangements, recovery and the response exit strategy

## Background Papers:

*(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)*



Sheffield Local  
Outbreak Control Plan

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: Kayleigh Inman
	Legal: Andrea Simpson
	Equalities: Adele Robinson
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>
	<i>Greg Fell</i>
3	<b>Executive Member consulted:</b>
	<i>Julie Grocutt</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Lorraine Mitchell</i>
	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Contingency Planning Officer – Public Health</i>

## 1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 On 22 May 2020 Government announced that as part of its national strategy to reduce infection from SARS-CoV-2 it would expect every area in England to create a local Outbreak Plan. Sheffield's first Local Outbreak Control Plan was published in June 2020 based on an immediate need and short-term planning.

A review was required following publication of the Government's Roadmap for exiting national lockdown (*Covid-19 Response: Spring 2021*), the accompanying refresh of the Contain Framework guide for local decision makers and an increasing focus on Variants of Concern (VOC). The Plan has been reviewed, updated and feedback/lessons learned provided to DHSC, and remains linked to the Control Outbreak Management Fund grant. Scientific evidence continues to drive the national response, the Sheffield Local Outbreak Control Plan provides the strategy to apply developing scientific evidence. This plan will need to remain iterative as the science develops and is turned into policy and guidance nationally. It should be noted that programme definition documentation underpins themes within the Plan.

The Plan has largely stood the test of time, with this second iteration establishing a more detailed structure for the coordinated response to continue in Sheffield. The Plan will need to continue to evolve as the country comes out of lockdown with the risks that may arise including that further variants may emerge.

Resource for all Plan themes largely come from existing Council staff with other jobs. This continues to have an impact on pre Covid services currently suspended in support of the Plan. Support for future iterations of the Plan will benefit from inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and longer-term planning for post March 2022, when the COMF grant ends.

Sheffield has developed a large Covid Response Hub, some sections of which (in particular Contact Tracing) act as de facto local extensions of the regional PHE health protection team. A number of themes within the Plan have significantly increased partnership working with the VCF sector, in particular, Prevention, Communication, and Support to Isolate reinforcing and improving relationships. This raises the questions of what do we do now to maintain and improve this success? We have the opportunity to identify lessons learned, improve and continue to embed significant best practice across the city.

It is unclear what permanent planning arrangements will be required in relation to SAR-CoV-2 and with long term uncertainty post March 2022, planning required both at central and local government levels will be key. This planning will benefit from linking to existing corporate

emergency planning arrangements, recovery and the response exit strategy to establish the new normal for the city.

The updated Sheffield Outbreak Control Plan is attached to this report.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 The Plan is an accumulation of expertise from pre-existing health protection plans in Sheffield with measures implemented to contain any COVID-19 outbreak and protect the public's health. The Plan includes a set of arrangements for surveillance of and response to local outbreaks and infection rates. Defined workstreams in the Plan are linked directly to Government specific areas of focus and planning themes, supported by programme documentation for each workstream.

The plan provides a coordinated city-wide response to the coronavirus pandemic. It allows subject area specialists to deliver specific elements of the response. Delivery uses local knowledge, existing relationships, area expertise and applies these skills and resource in a coordinated manner. The Plan fulfils the national strategy to reduce the impact of SARS-CoV-2.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 There is no requirement for public consultation on the Sheffield Outbreak Plan. However, the Plan has been developed using the Rapid Health Impact Assessments carried out in summer 2020 and has been shaped by key partners across the city including the VCF sector and has been endorsed by Sheffield's Covid-19 Prevention & Management Board.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications**

- 4.1.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under Section 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010. These are often collectively referred to as the 'general duties to promote equality'. To help us meet the general equality duties, we also have specific duties, as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011. We have considered our obligations under this Duty in this report and in particular those relating to the people most impacted by COVID 19 such as disabled people, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people and older people, and others who share protected characteristics, although not exclusively. The Council is committed to ensuring that all citizens, particularly those who are most vulnerable, have access to the information and support they need in relation to outbreak management and COVID 19 overall.

We undertook a series of rapid health impact assessments and a survey within the last year that helped guide our work. We also set up

and facilitated a weekly group with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities in response to COVID. We will continue to ensure that we support the communities of Sheffield and will undertake further impact analysis on any further activity we undertake either short or longer term.

#### 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 COMF funding is designed to support Local Authorities to deliver the objectives set out in their updated Local Outbreak Management plans.

The specific public health activities that can be funded from the COMF is left to the judgement of Local Authorities (LAs) in conjunction with their Directors of Public Health, as the DHCS recognises that LAs are best placed to determine local priorities that will best meet the needs of their communities.

At the current time, the COMF funding is expected to end by Mar 22; further work is required to determine the longer-term activity and resources required by the Council. This will be informed by Central Government through guidance and/or legislation. Any impact will be fed into the SCC Medium Term Financial Strategy.

#### 4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There is no statutory requirement for a local authority to produce Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan. The Council has various statutory functions in respect of public health, and the Director of Public Health is responsible for the Plan by virtue of his statutory responsibility for the exercise of the local authority's functions that relate to planning for, or responding to, emergencies involving a risk to public health (Part 3 of the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

The Council has enforcement and regulatory powers to support the Plan through regulations made under the Health Protection (Control of Disease) Act 1984 such as the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 and the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) (England) Regulations 2020, or made under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Other relevant statutory roles and responsibilities are described in Appendix 1 of the Plan.

### 5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 There is an expectation under the national strategy to reduce infection from SARS-CoV-2 that every area in England will create a local Outbreak Plan. No other options have been considered.

### 6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 6.1

- To continue to see a reduction in infection rates across the city
- To open Sheffield in line with the Governments Road map, positively impacting the local economy
- To continue monitoring and addressing health inequalities impacted by SARS-CoV-2
- To understand and agree the medium and longer term financial, resourcing and health protection implications for Sheffield.
- To establish clear future governance arrangements and impacts on future Plan iterations
- To continue measure the success of our Plan through
  - Data intelligence,
  - Peer reporting