

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead COVID Control Plan

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the approval in principle of the Health & Wellbeing Board for the Gateshead COVID Control Plan.

Background

2. In late May, Government acknowledged that Local Authorities have a central role to play in the identification and management of COVID-19 infection, in support of the NHS Test and Trace service.
3. Directors of Public Health were required to build on existing local health protection working arrangements and put in place local outbreak control plans in June, in collaboration with local NHS partners, emergency services and others. These plans would enable resources to be deployed quickly to help ensure an effective response to local outbreaks, reducing the risk of further infections and co-ordinating support for those affected.

Proposal

4. A joint planning group chaired by the Director of Public Health, with input from Council services, the Gateshead Housing Company, local NHS partners and the Police, has met and developed the attached draft local plan for Gateshead. This group will continue to meet as the Gateshead COVID-19 Control Board to oversee implementation of the plan.
5. The draft COVID-19 Control Plan for Gateshead is attached. The plan will need to be developed further in the light of experience and testing. Detailed operating procedures will also need to be established in support of some elements. Officers will continue to develop this detail.
6. The Government's proposals included the creation of a member-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) which will challenge, monitor and support the work of the COVID-19 Control Board, providing leadership on communication and engagement with affected communities. This group will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations

7. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
 - a. consider and approve in principle the attached draft COVID control plan for Gateshead
 - b. Agree the proposed governance arrangements for the local COVID-19 Control Board
 - c. Delegate to the Director of Public Health responsibility to update and finalise the plan

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