

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### CABINET

## COVID-19 RESPONSE: Public Health

### 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the Public Health response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of the business continuity governance arrangements described in the COVID-19 response report

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's approach to its business continuity response to the COVID-19 outbreak and actions taken to implement government guidelines have been rooted in the values, principles and ambitions of the council plan, and furthered through the strong partnerships within North Lincolnshire, framed under the following priorities:
  - keeping staff safe and well
  - protecting the vulnerable
  - enabling communities to remain resilient
  - protecting the local economy
- 2.2 Public health national advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response. This has enabled the implementation of preventative measures in a number of key settings to protect the population of North Lincolnshire from COVID-19 transmission.
- 2.3 The most important public health messages with the greatest impact on preventing COVID-19 infections during the response were and continue to be, Social Distancing, Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Hygiene. A vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is in development and providing if it is safe and effective it will protect populations in the future from contracting COVID-19
- 2.4 On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the Government published its scaled up testing programme for COVID-19. The strategy has five pillars:  
  
**Pillar 1 - NHS swab testing:** for acute patients in hospital and where there is additional capacity, NHS and frontline staff

**Pillar 2 - Commercial Swab testing:** end-to-end service for swab testing of priority eligible groups such as essential workers, care homes, symptomatic over 65s and others

**Pillar 3 – Antibody testing:** home based testing to confirm whether people have had the virus and are potentially immune

**Pillar 4 – Monitoring:** national mass population surveillance to improve understanding of the virus including helping to limit the rate and spread of infection

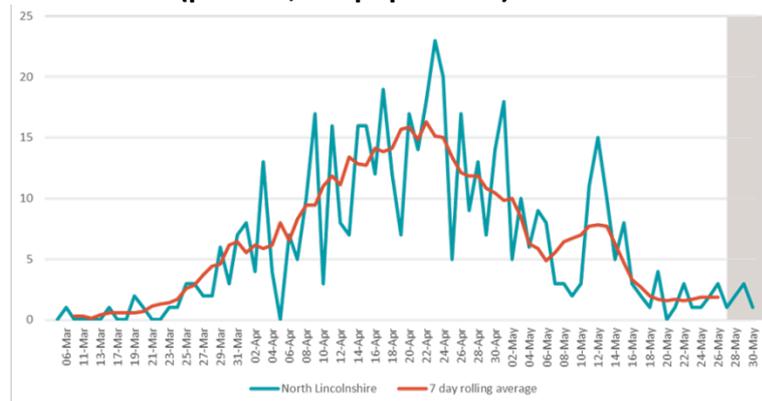
**Pillar 5 – National diagnostics effort:** working with the British diagnostics and the sciences industry to develop UK based diagnostics capabilities at scale

- 2.5 Everyone in England who has COVID-19 symptoms is eligible to book a swab test to find out if they have the virus. The key symptoms for COVID-19 are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or the loss or change in normal sense of smell or taste. Anyone who has these symptoms must isolate immediately. All members of their household must also self-isolate according to current guidelines, unless the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.
- 2.6 There is a test, trace and outbreak control process which aims to prevent and manage COVID-19 outbreaks in populations and settings.

### Information on the Covid-19 situation in North Lincolnshire

- 2.7 Below is a summary of the number of daily-confirmed COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths in North Lincolnshire. The graphs illustrate gradual rise and the general decline in the number of positive cases and deaths.

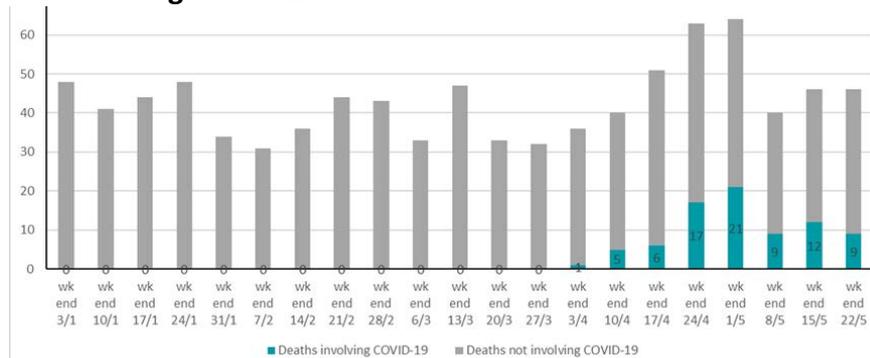
**Number of daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 in North Lincolnshire (per 100,000 population)**



This chart shows the number of daily-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in North Lincolnshire.

The orange line shows the 7 day rolling average, which smooths out the peaks and troughs. The average line shows a peak at 23<sup>rd</sup> April followed by a general decline and more latterly a general plateauing. The shaded area represents the most recent data, which may change when retrospective test results are taken into account.

### North Lincolnshire deaths registered per week 2020 involving / not involving COVID-19



This chart shows the total number of deaths, with those deaths involving COVID-19 shared in teal colour. The highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 were registered during week ending 1 May 2020

## Our response to Covid-19

2.8 Below is a summary of how our commissioned services are innovating to ensure business continuity during COVID-19:

**The 0-19 Wellbeing Service** continues to innovate in order to ensure service continuity and improve outcomes. Examples of innovation include:

- ‘Virtual Friends’ sessions over Microsoft Teams to allow parents to access advice and support.
- Provision of antenatal education sessions are being planned, which will be delivered virtually.
- School nursing service is preparing school readiness digital session to support parents’ carers who have children at key transition points.
- School Nurses have produced a Tik-Tok Video aimed at young people in terms of safe sex advice.

**Northern Lincolnshire’s Integrated Sexual Health Service** continues to innovate in order to ensure service continuity. Examples of innovation include:

- Telephone and video consultations;
- Provision of on-line access to Emergency Hormonal Contraception
- Provision of on-line access to STI home testing kits for symptomatic patients

**We are with you:** In response to COVID and social distancing requirements, the substance misuse service has increasingly used technology to deliver their services. Service users have reported their preference for this new mode of service delivery. Clearly this is something which needs to be considered for the ‘new normal’ service delivery method.

2.9 In addition to the innovations with commissioned services the Public Health Team have been developing new initiatives and worked differently to enable people, families and communities to manage during lockdown. A summary is set out below:

- **New social marketing campaign:** A new marketing campaign is being developed to enable people to stop smoking. The initiative is being developed between North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire council, North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust and Public Health England. The campaign is being implemented through the hospital.
- **Information sharing.** A new information sharing agreement has been established between Humber Coast and Vale partners. The agreement improves real-time surveillance between organisations of those at risk and identification of possible contagions.
- **Youth mental health:** Mental Health first aid training has been enhanced through the Life-Central App to help support young people with low level mental health needs.
- **Around the World –** Building on the COVID-19 daily physical activity, a challenge has commenced to encourage our people to keep active. Colleagues have been invited to log the daily distances they are travelling (walking, running, cycling, swimming, wheelchair travel) using an app. This will provide a total daily walking distance, which will then be aggregated to calculate our theoretical travel around the world. Regular updates on the around the world travel will be provided to participants.
- **Communications -** The Public Health Team has actively promoted positive communications, which include:
  - Promoting ‘five ways to wellbeing’ which includes themed messages aligned with mental health awareness week, suicide prevention awareness and the importance of daily exercise.
  - The Director of Public Health has produced number of YouTube™ videos, to update members of the public, staff and residents on key messages.
  - Providing consistent internal and external communications to enforce the importance of hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and social distancing.
  - Providing updates on the government’s key policy and guidance changes

2.10 The following briefly describes how Public Health is enabling organisations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through:

- **A Specialist Infection, Prevention and Control Nurse** has been appointed to increase capacity for support to care homes and other settings. The post holder is offering dedicated clinical support and works alongside North Lincolnshire CCG and health trust partners.
- **Support to care homes:** A system level coordination of support to North Lincolnshire Care Homes has been provided, to ensure a collaborative approach. This support includes training on infection prevention and control, testing of residents and staff, advice and guidance, outbreak management support, safe staffing, communication and intelligence.
- **Intelligence:** Regular intelligence briefings have been published to aid and guide decision making. In addition, the Public Health Team continues to provide bespoke research to support new and emerging work streams.

## **Moving forward into recovery**

2.11 The Public Health Team has ensured that the immediate needs of staff and residents have been the priority during this period. COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities and the work of public health will continue to ensure that our residents and staff are safe, well and protected. To that end future public health function actions will include:

- An assessment which will include:
  - What we have learnt to date;
  - How we can build on what is working well
  - The future challenges and likely impact on individuals, families and communities.
- Consideration of the next phase as we move into recovery, this will include:
  - How we transition safely into the 'new normal'
  - How we remain focused on prevention and protecting our populations from outbreaks
  - How we enable access to opportunities to effectively address health inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy
  - Involve partners and communities to create a COVID-19 free North Lincolnshire

## **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the report and note the public health response made to date to take preventative measures to reduce the risk of the COVID-19 virus and to acknowledge the ongoing work to prevent COVID-19.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Business continuity will be maintained across Public Health functions

4.2 The learning achieved during the COVID-19 situation will continue to be developed as public health transitions into a 'new normal' with a focus on establishing excellent population outcomes.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 Financial implications associated with the councils Covid-19 response and recovery are being monitored and managed by the finance team

#### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 Implications and risks associated with Covid-19 are being monitored constantly and mitigations being implemented as necessary

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 A council-wide approach to assessing the impact of Covid-19 is being developed

#### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Ongoing consultation with a range of partners and key stakeholders are integral to our local response to Covid-19

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet notes the public Health response to COVID-19 as outlined in the report.

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