

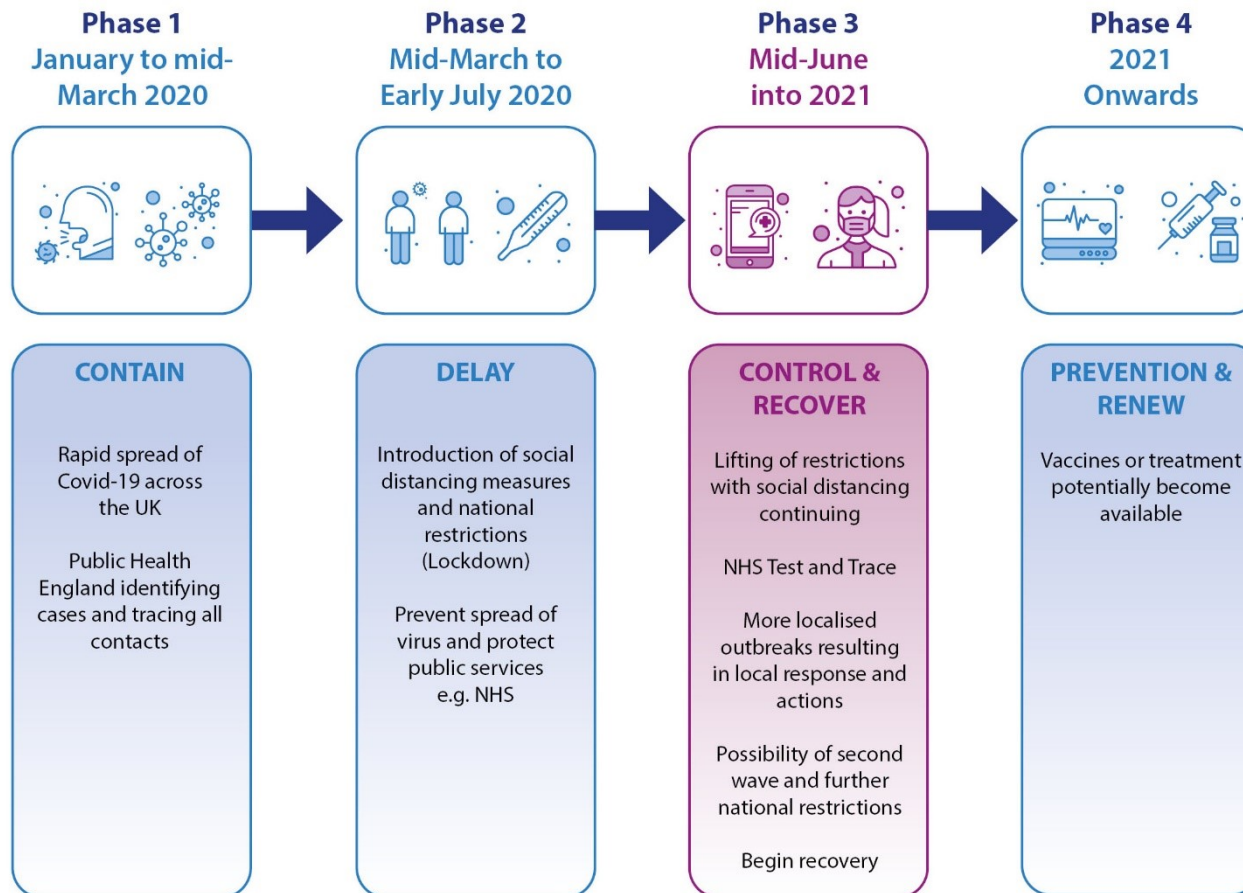
West Berkshire's Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

June 2020

Version 0.1

Where are we?	Why a Plan?	Context	Themes	Risks	Settings	Process	Response
Actions	Engagement	Governance	Contact	Next steps			

Where are we in the Pandemic?



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Why do we need an Outbreak Control Plan?

- ❑ Local Authorities have a duty to produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- ❑ We want to keep our residents as safe as we can from Covid-19 until better treatments and/or a vaccine is available.
- ❑ The initial phase of Covid-19 was countrywide. As national restrictions are lifted, sporadic cases are likely which will need local knowledge and action to prevent spread.
- ❑ Building on local knowledge and trusted partnerships, our local plan adds to national Covid-19 control programmes.
- ❑ Local planning and response will be an essential part of the National Test and Trace service.
- ❑ The purpose of this plan is to set-out how we will control Covid-19 to protect public health and by minimising further spread across the district.

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West Berkshire

- ❑ A resident population of 158,450 (ONS 2019).
- ❑ Mixture of urban and rural areas
- ❑ Residents generally live long healthy lives - average life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are amongst the highest in the country at 81 for men and 84 for women.
- ❑ Levels of deprivation are relatively low, however there are significant health inequalities.
- ❑ West Berkshire Council is part of the Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership that consists of:
 - Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
 - Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Reading Borough Council
 - Royal Berkshire Hospital,
 - South Central Ambulance NHS Trust (SCAS)
 - Voluntary Sector
 - West Berkshire Council
 - Wokingham Borough Council



Figure 1 – Map of West Berkshire

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Key themes to our plan

Outbreak Control Plan focuses on 8 key themes

- 1 Care homes and schools**
Prevent and manage outbreaks in specific individual settings (e.g. schools, care homes)
- 2 High risk places, locations and communities**
Prevent and manage outbreaks in other high-risk locations, workplaces and communities
- 3 Local testing capacity**
Deploy local testing capacity as required
- 4 Contact tracing in complex settings**
Support contact tracing for complex settings and cohorts
- 5 Data integration**
Access to the right local data to enable the other 7 themes and prevent outbreaks
- 6 Vulnerable people**
Support vulnerable people and ensure services meet the needs of diverse communities
- 7 Local Boards including Communication & Engagement**
Take local actions to contain outbreaks and communicate with the general public
- 8 Workforce**
Keeping our workforce safe

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Managing risks locally: Protection

- ❑ COVID-19 is transmitted largely in droplets, coughed out by people who are infected.
- ❑ Key protection measures to prevent spread:
 - Keeping a social distance,
 - Using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes and disposing of them safely
 - Washing hands often
 - Isolating infectious people
- ❑ Some people seem more likely to catch COVID-19 or to become more sick as a result. These people need extra protection and include older people, people with long terms conditions and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals.
- ❑ Some settings are more risky, e.g. where infectious people are being cared for, where social distancing and isolation are more challenging or where there are people at particular risk of harm from COVID-19.
- ❑ It is likely that COVID-19 will be harder to spot and control in the winter and we need to be prepared.

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Supporting local settings

In West Berkshire we are developing focussed outbreak plans for a range of settings and population groups which include:



Nurseries

178 Childcare and Early Education settings



Schools

75 Primary schools
16 Secondary schools
10 Special schools



Workplaces / Retail

8875 Businesses
6 very high risk workplaces



Care Homes

45 CQC registered Care Homes
11 Children's homes



Colleges

1 Further Education College



NHS / Health

1 Community Hospital
12 GP Practices



Leisure / Activity

32 high risk community and leisure settings
7 local authority operated leisure sites
8 libraries and 3 cultural venues



Faith Settings

100 known faith settings



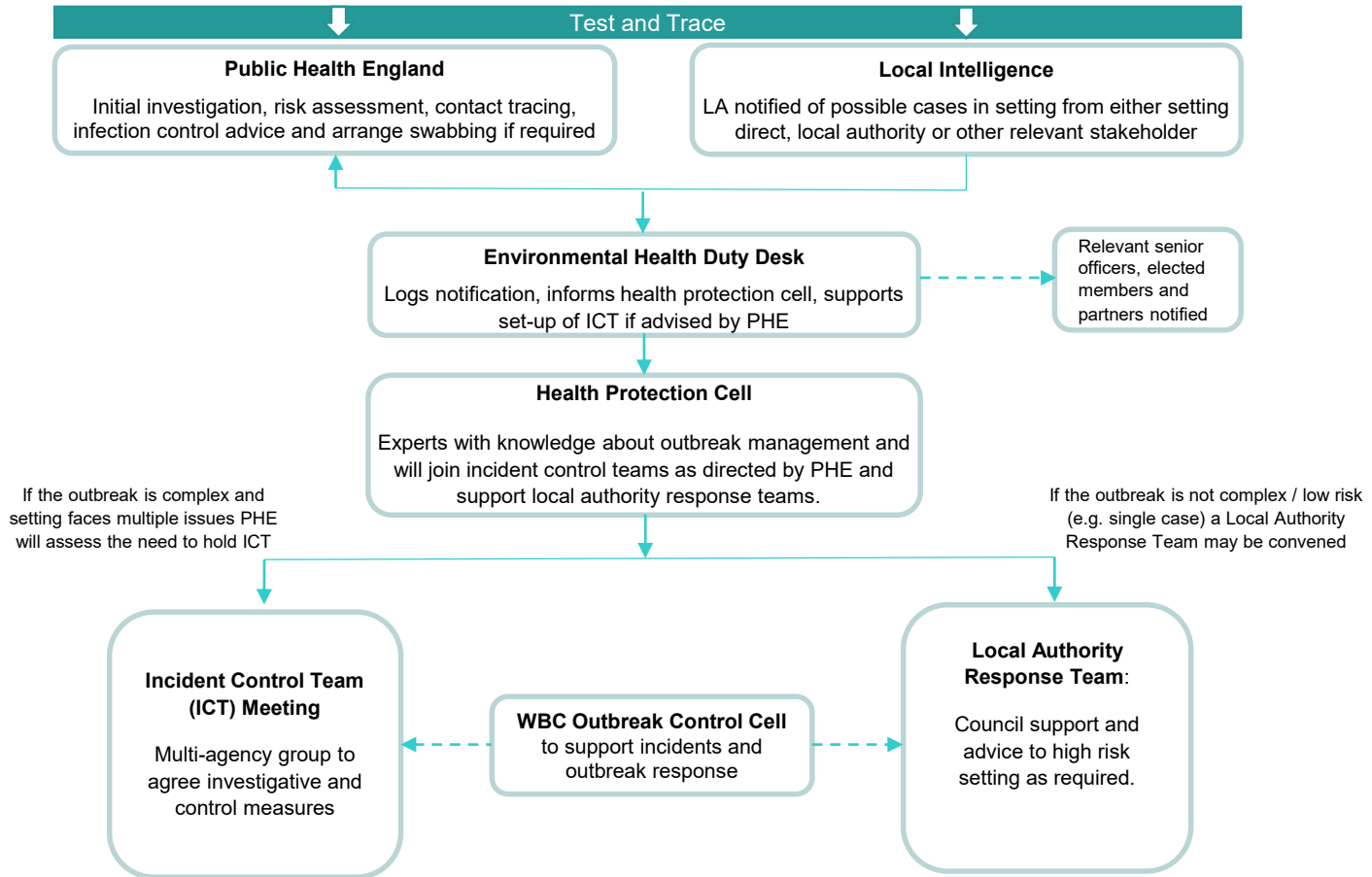
Vulnerable Groups

20,631 adults have one or more long term conditions
7,968 (5.5%) residents are BAME
1530 people living in 20% most deprived areas

Note For illustrative purposes only. Other high risk settings have been identified

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Outbreak Management Process



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Responding to incidents and outbreaks

We will:

- ❑ Watch data on cases and risks closely, so we spot outbreaks early.
- ❑ Support our residents to stay safe, encouraging handwashing, social distancing and isolation and assisting those who need help to comply.
- ❑ Act swiftly to put local actions in place to support Public Health England's recommendations on controlling spread.
- ❑ We will support individuals and high risk settings
- ❑ We will communicate with local people and organisations to help them keep safe.

The actions we take will be:

- ❑ Dependent on the risks identified in the specific situation
- ❑ Those most likely to be effective, based on evidence.

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What actions may be taken?

- ❑ Alert messaging
- ❑ Focussed testing
- ❑ Special testing facilities set up
- ❑ Closure of premises, high risk settings and other facilities
- ❑ Restricting visiting
- ❑ Contact Tracing
- ❑ Providing support to vulnerable people and those self isolating through our Community Support Hub
- ❑ Cancelling events
- ❑ Closing playgrounds or other outdoor space
- ❑ Enhanced monitoring of people isolating
- ❑ Specific advice on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where needed and infection prevention and control measures

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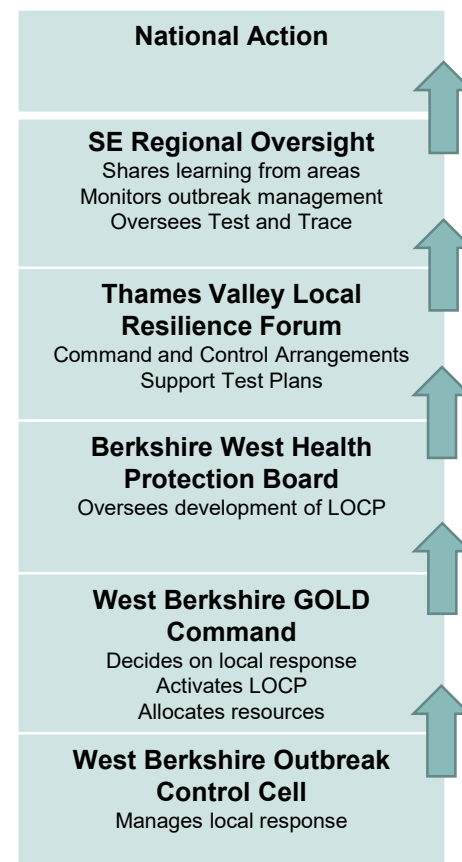
Communication with the public

- ❑ We will ensure that the local voice is heard through active engagement with local communities and effective communications
- ❑ Our Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be held regularly, led by local Councillors accountable to the public.
- ❑ We will keep our website up to date with the latest information and guidance.
- ❑ We will use social media to spread the word.
- ❑ We will work with services, businesses and organisations to make sure information is clear and accurate
- ❑ We will make information available in accessible formats and languages other than English.

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Governance

- ❑ It is likely that Covid-19 outbreaks will extend across local authority boundaries.
- ❑ The Outbreak Plan will be overseen by Berkshire West* Health Protection Board where key partners will work together to control spread locally.
- ❑ The West Berkshire Outbreak Engagement Board will listen and keep the public informed about Covid-19.
- ❑ The Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum will put Command and Control arrangements in place to act across a broader geography if needed.
- ❑ The South East Regional Oversight Group will help us learn from other areas.
- ❑ We will escalate through these groups if needed.



Simplified Governance Diagram

*Berkshire West covers the geography Reading Borough Council, West Berkshire Council and Wokingham Borough Council

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When to get in touch

If you are self-isolating or vulnerable and need help with shopping, medication delivery please contact the Community Support Hub on 01635 503579 or email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk

If you think someone has Covid-19 in your workplace, school or other setting please contact 01635 503242 (9am to 5pm Mon-Fri) or email CV19notifications@westberks.gov.uk

If you have Covid-19 symptoms, stay home and contact NHS www.111.nhs.uk or ring 111

Latest national guidance can be found here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

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Next Steps

Next Steps for West Berkshire's Outbreak Control Plan

Refine

- Refine the plan with partners

Adapt

- Adapt the plan as we learn more about COVID-19 and local outbreaks

Review

- Review our plans alongside new national programmes such as the Joint Biosecurity Centre