

# **Barnsley COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan**

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**#KeepingBarnsleyMoving**



## 1. Introduction

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, alongside multiple organisations and partnerships across the borough, has been working to support a range of settings (e.g. schools, care homes, workplaces) and communities, both proactively and reactively as part of the overall Covid-19 response.

This Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) builds on existing health protection plans and puts in place measures to contain any outbreak and protect the public's health.

Local Authorities were first asked to develop a LOMP by the end of June 2020, focusing on seven themes plus an additional theme on local training:

1. **Care homes and schools** – planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response).
2. **Identification of high-risk places, locations and communities** - e.g. homeless shelters, migrant worker dormitories/accommodation for vulnerable migrants, high-risk workplaces (e.g. meat packing plants, slaughter-houses among others), places of worship, ports and airports. Defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies.
3. **Mobile testing units and local testing approaches** – to prioritise and manage deployment of testing capacity quickly to the places that need it for outbreak management (e.g. NHS, pop-up, mobile testing units etc).
4. **Local contact tracing in complex settings** – predominately led by national Test & Trace, and regionally by PHE. The local authority has well established local responses to support national and regional arrangements, offering support, welfare checks and community engagement to support those who test positive to self-isolate for a period of time.
5. **Data flows and integration** – ongoing work to ensure new ways of collecting and using data to identify hotspots/clusters of cases and respond quickly to minimise spread of infection. This is a fundamental component of enabling the other 6 themes and prevent outbreaks.
6. **Vulnerable people** – supporting vulnerable people to access testing, self-isolate, be vaccinated (e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups etc) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities.
7. **Local Boards** - establishing governance structures led by the existing Health Protection Boards and supported by existing Gold command forums and a member-led Outbreak Control Engagement Board continues to take local action and communicate with the general public.

### Local Theme

8. **Training** – ensuring staff and volunteers who are aligned to supporting the delivery of the LOMP are trained and supported in this role.

## 2. Our Approach

The publication of the [Government's Roadmap for exiting national lockdown on 22 February 2021](#), the accompanying refresh of the Contain Framework and an increasing focus on variants of concern (VOC) highlight the importance of continually reviewing and updating our LOMP aiming to keep the plan current and as up to date as possible.

It is recommended that the basic structure of the plan should remain intact. Broadly the Test, Trace and Isolate priorities remain. Symptomatic testing remains the critical element of our approach and we have set a well-established programme of asymptomatic testing, implemented in line with government announcements. We continue to work with Public Health England (PHE) to manage outbreaks as they occur via routine outbreak management processes. A system wide programme to vaccinations is well developed with NHS partners as the lead body with support from Barnsley Council and other partners. The programme aims to ensure we have as high an uptake as possible, with particular focus on maximising uptake in the most vulnerable groups.

It will be our priority to address instances of enduring transmission, high rates that remain above the national average for a considerable period, in our community. Acting on enduring transmission is also critical to help reduce the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on our most vulnerable communities, who are already at greatest risk of the burden of ill health due to Covid-19. While promoting uptake of the vaccine should have a positive impact, tackling enduring transmission will require a multi-faceted local response with innovative and radical actions.

We continue to work closely with Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield councils as well as partners from health, Sheffield City Region, and South Yorkshire Police to make local decisions that support our residents, communities and businesses, and protect lives.

It's important, though, that we recognise that we are all distinctive communities with different infection drivers and that we need to have our local action plans that complement other South Yorkshire authorities.

## 3. Our Vision

Our Barnsley vision is to prevent, detect, respond to, and reduce the impact of Covid-19 in our population.

Our LOMP will deliver this vision and it covers the key actions, principles and protocols for a proactive and reactive response across the borough.

The LOMP provides the framework for how we work as a system in Barnsley through key organisations: Barnsley Council, Barnsley CCG, Barnsley District General Hospital, South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Barnsley GP Federation, Barnsley Community Voluntary Services, PHE Health Protection Team, and other relevant organisations for dealing with Covid-19 outbreaks in a variety of settings.

This LOMP supports the joint working arrangements that we have in place with organisations across Barnsley and PHE Health Protection Team to help with local situations which would benefit from local input and expertise.

## 4. Key Actions

Our approach; is to focus on:

- Finding and diagnosing symptomatic people, tracing their contacts, and isolating cases and contacts.
- Supporting the Covid-19 vaccination programme in line with the JCVI guidance to protect front line health and care staff, people who are vulnerable and the rest of the population.

- Supporting the Government's asymptomatic testing programme to take a free rapid coronavirus (Covid-19) test twice a week
- Our well established Covid-19 Support Service which provides advice and guidance to residents, schools and businesses on self-isolation. The Service is also following up the contact tracing of confirmed Covid-19 cases that have not successfully been contacted by the national Test and Trace programme.
- Building on the financial support and advice that we've already provided to our local businesses by making plans to further support those who are most affected by the government's new additional measures.
- Prioritising support for Barnsley's care homes and their residents, working with them to ensure they can continue to deliver safe and effective care. We'll do this through financial support, help with guidance and advice from local NHS and social care teams, support with training and help to minimise the risks of increased infections. We'll also do whatever we can to support families to keep in touch with loved ones living in care homes.
- Making sure that residents that need our support the most get it through a range of support via our hardship funds and community assistance.
- Supporting schools, colleges and early years settings to make sure they have robust control measures in places, with updated risk assessments and outbreak control plans to keep children and young people safe. We continue to support them to deal with any positive cases and potential outbreaks quickly.
- Supporting people to self-isolate properly when they have symptoms, test positive or are told to by Test & Trace. We continue to look at how we can ensure compliance and work with South Yorkshire Police to enforce this when people are repeatedly not following the legislation.
- Supporting our local businesses to operate safely, providing advice on how to follow the government's legislation. We are responding to concerns about businesses who are not following the legislation, working with colleagues at South Yorkshire Police to take enforcement action on those that are repeatedly putting people at risk.
- Provide information, so people understand their role in protecting themselves, their families and their communities by adhering to social distancing measures, washing their hands, wearing a face covering, getting a test, and self-isolating if they have symptoms.
- Work closely with Public Health England and our local health partners to share information, resource and best practice so our response is the best it can be.
- Pay very close attention to what the data is telling us about the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19); continuously reviewing our action plan so we can identify high-risk areas, target our support and respond to any changes, trends or potential outbreaks.

Alongside the new additional measures, the basics are more important than ever:

- Don't be a contact – follow social distancing guidance at home, work and when you're out and about.
- Wear a face covering and wear it correctly.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Only travel if it is essential or for work.
- If you have symptoms such as a new continuous cough, a fever or loss of taste or smell isolate straight away and book a test.
- Isolate immediately if you are told to do so.

## 5. **Outbreak Control Engagement Board (OCB)**

Alongside this LOMP, an important element of the response phase of the Covid-19 pandemic was to establish a Barnsley Outbreak Control Engagement Board to help prevent the transmission of Covid-19 within the borough and to effectively manage outbreaks if/when they do happen. The Board is chaired by the Council Leader and its purpose is to:

- Provide oversight, assurance and scrutiny of plans to prevent and manage outbreaks of Covid-19 in Barnsley, and actions taken to prevent and manage outbreaks and their outcomes.
- Lead communication with residents, businesses and stakeholders in the borough generally in relation to outbreak prevention and management.
- Engage with communities and groups where outbreaks may be more likely or where they have occurred.
- Ensure implementation of the LOMP.

The Barnsley Covid-19 Governance arrangements are outlined in Appendix 1.

## 6. **Communications**

The key principle of outbreak communication is to communicate in ways that build, maintain or restore trust between the public and the partners involved in outbreak management. Without this trust, the public will not believe, or act on, the health information that is communicated by partners during an outbreak situation.

An overarching Communications Strategy has been developed which will focus on the three key aims; outbreak, prevention, and management:

- People understand the importance of following all measures, including national or local tier restrictions in helping to reduce the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) in our communities and adapt their behaviour accordingly.
- People follow the Test & Trace guidance and understand the importance of self-isolating and getting tested.
- People are quickly informed about outbreaks and the measures that are in place to prevent further spread in the community.

A detailed Delivery Plan has been developed, using data and intelligence to ensure that our key messages are targeting the right demographics. We continue to use both online and offline channels to reach key stakeholders, focusing on using existing local community channels to both instil behaviour change and warn and inform.

We also have a robust borough wide approach to vaccination communications and engagement with our community. Barnsley Council provide a supportive role to the CCG in delivering the NHS vaccination rollout campaign by sharing key messages, helping to target cohorts, and combatting any vaccine hesitancy.

We are also using behavioural insight information to adapt our messages. Magpie; a marketing agency with expertise in behavioural insights and successful behaviour change campaigns are supporting us to understand the perceptions and views our residents have on key aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our 'Barnsley, let's fight this virus together!' campaign focussed on how we make sure Barnsley comes through Covid-19 stronger, united and ready to thrive. Several conversation workshops have been held and a survey undertaken with the aim to represent everyone living in Barnsley. This work will support a greater insight to ensure our communication messages are relatable, believable and local, around key themes that are particularly significant for the borough such as face covering wearing, vaccination uptake and providing clear and simple messages on guidance and legislation

Barnsley's Strategy and Delivery Plans will also be in line with the wider South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Outbreak Communications Strategy.

## **7. Intelligence**

Barnsley has strong local intelligence support to inform Covid-19 response and recovery work, led by the integrated Barnsley Intelligence Cell. Data from a wide range of sources, including national, regional and local partners, are collated and analysed to improve our understanding of our current position and model future activity. This intelligence is shared, as appropriate, to keep people informed, shape local actions, and predict and monitor demand, activity and outcomes.

Key intelligence activities and outputs include:

- Weekly multi-agency Intelligence Cell meetings with twice weekly Barnsley surveillance reports produced with input from all partners;
- Daily review of new case data, with weekly internal multidisciplinary meetings, a weekly internal report and ad hoc alerting of cases and situations to settings leads and PHE;
- Expansion of Barnsley intelligence capacity through new recruitment to support Covid-19 response;
- Membership and participation in the South Yorkshire Data Cell;
- Provision of regular intelligence updates and analysis to a range of system-level strategic and operational meetings (including healthcare, local authority and integrated partnership meetings);
- Development of multiple internal Power BI dashboards to collate, share and report local intelligence in a meaningful way;
- Interpretation of new and changing local, regional and national intelligence;
- Support responding to intelligence related internal and external enquiries and shaping reactive and proactive communications;
- Liaise with partners at PHE and NHS regarding data sharing, interpretation and access to centrally held intelligence.

## **8. Financial Support**

Each local authority has received an additional ring-fenced public health grant to support the response to local outbreaks. Barnsley Council has been allocated £6.6 million from the Department of Health and Social Care, to be spent on outbreak control work, which must be accounted for in line with the national guidance.

This has been invested in additional capacity in teams within the Council, plus commissioning of additional capacity to mount an effective response outlined in section 9. Options continue to be explored for the most efficient and effective deployment of resources. A more detailed financial plan has been developed and agreed by the Outbreak Engagement Board.

Financial support for people who need to self-isolate is critical to the control the spread of Covid-19. The government announced a hardship fund available to councils supporting individuals and families who've been directly affected by Covid-19. Financial support packages are available to Barnsley residents who are unable to earn their usual level of income because they need to self-isolate.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is administered by local councils. Any Barnsley resident who has tested positive for Covid-19 or identified as a close contact and told to self-isolate could be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 to while they are unable to work. Advice and guidance on this scheme are provided by our Barnsley Covid-19 Support Service and residents can apply direct for the fund via the Council's website.

## 9. Resourcing and Delivery of our LOMP

As the LOMP has been implemented, work programs and additional capacity continue to be fully scaled up. There are named leads for each of the main Covid-19 programmes for prevention, surveillance of and response to local outbreaks and infection rates with actions in place and infrastructure to deliver and coordinate it. This section outlines and updates these programmes with additions to reflect changes since that plan was published on 30 June 2020.

### COVID-19 Outbreak Management

Barnsley Council and partners have been working to support a range of settings (e.g. schools, care homes, workplaces, health-care settings) and communities, both proactively and reactively as part of the overall Covid-19 response.

Outbreak management is the approach to both identifying where there are cases of disease and then putting in place control measures to reduce the spread of the disease. Control measures can include contact tracing to enable speedy isolation of people who are potentially infected to reduce spread. The Public Health team and Regulatory Services work routinely with Public Health England (PHE) and other local partners (for example NHS organisations) to manage Covid-19 outbreaks by following joint PHE/LA Joint Standard Operating Procedures to guide our outbreak management actions.

We have well-established processes and increased our capacity to support PHE in outbreak management via the following mechanisms:

- A Single Point of Contact (SPOC) email for PHE to alert the Public Health team to outbreaks.
- A weekly partnership Outbreak Management Group to review outbreaks by setting, brief on testing, tracing, vaccination and so on and tasking as appropriate.
- Trained Public Health and Regulatory Services staff who are able to lead outbreak management in the specific settings and support Incident Management Team (IMTs) meetings.

Our overarching joint approach to managing complex cases and outbreaks is as follows:

- PHE advise on testing for symptomatic individuals when first advised of an outbreak within a setting, or cohort; this aligns to regional/local arrangements for testing, including Mobile Testing Units (MTUs).
- PHE undertake the initial risk assessment and give advice to the setting and the local system on management of the outbreak.
- The local system follows-up and supports the setting to continue to operate whilst managing the outbreak, including support with infection prevention and control.
- PHE works collaboratively with Barnsley Council, both proactively and reactively to ensure two-way communication about outbreaks as well as enquiries being managed by the Council and wider issues/opportunities and will continue to give advice on complex situations on request from local systems, including advice on closing and opening care homes to admissions, as well as other settings.
- As part of this collaborative role, Barnsley Council continue to support individuals who are shielding and may also support those self-isolating if required.

### Covid-19 Support Service - contact tracing and support to isolate

Our localised Covid-19 Support Service was set up at the beginning of the pandemic initially operating with staff volunteers but has evolved significantly over the months to provide a comprehensive support offer to the residents of Barnsley who test positive with Covid-19 in helping them to be informed and supported to complete self-isolation.

The Covid-19 Support Service is delivered by a team of support staff and provides:

- A local priority follow-up service for residents that have not been successfully contacted by NHS Test and Trace (CTAS).
- A local welfare check service to all residents with a positive Covid-19 test, including house visits if follow up by phone and email have been unsuccessful.
- Welfare calls to Barnsley residents who have been identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV).
- Welfare support can include arranging emergency food parcels, urgent delivery of medication, emergency financial payments, emotional support and signposting to other services.
- Local Zero contact tracing in which the Support Service will ring the person within the hour of receiving a positive test result and will follow up within 5 days, identifying support needs through the calls
- Promote vaccination uptake through positive vaccine conversations during case follow up calls

This service is reaching a high proportion of residents, often reaching successful contact 90% and above. The service is receiving positive feedback from residents who are valuing the welfare calls and the high-quality customer service. The data systems and case management processes are working well and help inform service operation on a day to day basis.

### **Symptomatic Testing**

Rapid and easily accessible testing is key to any pandemic management in order to establish and monitor levels of infection and immunity in the system, plan for service demand, prevent asymptomatic spread of infection to vulnerable cohorts, identify who needs treatment and care, and keep the workforce and services resilient.

Our symptomatic testing offer uses polymerase chain reaction 'PCR' tests and is working well in Barnsley. We have maintained good levels of capacity throughout. We have local testing sites (LTS) at Lower Courthouse Car Park, Summer Lane, Wombwell and Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre Car Park, Cudworth. We also have a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) based at Goldthorpe and a drive through testing site at Burleigh Street.

### **Asymptomatic Testing – Community Testing**

The government has endorsed councils to offer a community testing programme using rapid lateral flow devices (LFDs) to identify people who may be infectious with Covid-19 but have no symptoms ('asymptomatic') and are unaware they might be spreading the disease.

Our community testing programme has been developed to offer large scale testing to asymptomatic individuals in the borough. We have deployed this using several channels.

The Metrodome was set up as an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) for all critical workers who live or work in Barnsley who cannot work from home. This service was launched on 11 January 2021 as a 4 month programme which ended in April 2021. Alongside the ATS we piloted in-setting testing at a large food manufacturing company and several Family Centres across the borough which came to an end in March 2021.

- Under an extension of the Government's testing programme, the Government have now lifted all the eligibility criteria for home testing and are now promoting twice weekly home testing for everyone from 9<sup>th</sup> April. In response to this, Barnsley residents can access these home testing kits through a number of channels including a network of participating community pharmacies, the national online ordering programme, participating workplaces and schools. We are also developing a mobile testing unit that can be located around the borough to respond to specific demands.



## **Community Testing Evaluation**

National government advises evaluation should seek to establish public health and other benefits, and value for money of community testing. We undertook a formal evaluation of the first 6 weeks of the community testing programme, in addition to twice-three times weekly task and finish group meetings to continually review the programme. We have led the way in our approach to formal evaluation across South Yorkshire and regionally across Yorkshire and Humber, with our approach being adopted in many other areas.

## **Operation Eagle - New Variants/Surge Testing**

Emergency plans are in place and we are ready to step up surge testing requests should a new variant be identified in the borough. Standard operating procedures have been developed along with identifying a multi-disciplinary team who are ready to be stood up should the need arise in Barnsley.

## **Vaccinations**

The NHS-led vaccination programme has begun in Barnsley with local delivery via the Acute Trusts and Primary Care Networks (PCN). Roll-out of the programme started in December 2020 and those in the first four JCVI priority groups were offered vaccination by 15 February 2021.

As a partnership we have co-produced a Barnsley Multi-Agency Covid-19 Vaccination Plan. This plan outlines the key issues in the delivery of the vaccination plan as well as the role of different organisations and identifies where we need to particularly work to address inequalities in uptake of vaccination.

Barnsley Council colleagues along with NHS partners are working together to support a greater reach into our local community to support confidence in the vaccine; and most importantly ensure that we can help those in the priority vaccine groups access the vaccine quickly and safely. Our approach to date has been guided by the following aims: -

- Residents understand the risks that COVID-19 poses to themselves, their families and their community.
- Residents have confidence that the vaccine is safe and effective.
- Being vaccinated is made as easy as possible for all residents.
- Communities and residents feel empowered by engagement approaches, lead on, and have participation in shaping communications about the vaccine.
- Information gaps are filled, and misinformation is corrected in an accessible way to all communities.
- The programme reduces inequalities in vaccine coverage.

We know people experience barriers to getting vaccines and/or are hesitant to vaccines or specifically COVID-19 vaccines. Understanding vaccine hesitancy in our local community is essential to address the disparity in Covid-19 vaccine uptake.

As a system, we have worked together to identify and develop agreed processes for engaging with our vulnerable groups and those who are vaccine hesitant to encourage vaccination uptake. This has been shaped by the recently published NHS framework 'Maximising Vaccine uptake in underserved communities. This guides our vaccine engagement response to drive uptake in our local population by understanding the roots causes and designing appropriate interventions, for example supporting communities to book a vaccination appointment, pop-up clinics in areas of low uptake where access may be an issue. Our local insight and intelligence informs our partnership working to engage with our local community to ensure we achieve a high uptake of vaccination.

We are using a variety of community engagement approaches to reach out to our most vulnerable groups. This targeted programme focussed on those who may be hesitant to be vaccinated who experience the greatest health inequalities in our local population in terms of comorbidities and deprivation.

## **Community**

The Stronger Communities Team has played an integral part in providing support to communities across the borough through the work of the Emergency Contact Centre by assisting them to access shopping but also to support those who are socially isolated through the pandemic. This work continues with those who are identified as CEV and those who have tested positive and have been told to self-isolate.

Alongside this services that are commissioned through the Area Councils (such as Children and Young Peoples Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Social Isolation, Environmental, Welfare Advice, Business and Economy) have flexed and adapted their services throughout the pandemic and have been supporting communities to stay safe.

Service providers and partners are supporting the key messages from the Council and are ensuring the work they do is Covid-19 safe and specifically supporting the overall reduction in the rates across the Borough.

Through the Covid-19 Resilience Funding, the Area Teams have supported a wealth of different VCSE organisations to access funding for a variety of uses. Some examples are:

- Access to PPE.
- Rent, utilities, staffing and running costs.
- Signage for community buildings.
- Digital accessibility.
- Adaptations to buildings to become Covid-19 safe.

Our Area Teams are supporting the social media campaign around reducing the rates of Covid-19 and ensuring all key messages are shared through the social media mechanisms in place.

Through the work of our Area Teams and with the support of the Neighbourhood Engagement Officers (NEOs), a wide range of activities has taken place, including but not limited to:

- A Community & Voluntary Covid-19 Guidance Group has been set up to help understand the issues that community centres/groups and support groups are facing under the lockdown restrictions and to provide consistency in guidance and support across Barnsley Council teams to these groups.
- A toolkit for community centres/groups to offer step-by-step guidance on completing a Covid-19 risk assessment and how to put that into practice with practical advice on delivering a Covid-19 secure venue.
- Working with Communications to develop an animation for use on social media channels, for community groups to introduce users to what to expect from a community venue using Covid-19 secure practices.
- Support and guidance around volunteering and support groups.
- Provide Covid-19 support and advice to business and schools to ensure they are fully aware of the guidance and can follow the guidance.
- Working with Enterprise Barnsley to signpost businesses to financial support available.
- Supporting residents through advice and sign posting. Building trusted relationships.
- Community Responder Service – co-ordinate volunteers and assigning those volunteers to deliver shopping to service users that are CEV or self-isolating and facilitating the befriending service for community members that are unable to leave the home, providing wellbeing support.
- Promoting the Community Testing sites to residents and business. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing.

- Working collaboratively with the Covid-19 Marshals, Response Team & Regulatory Services to gather and react to intelligence on businesses breaching Covid-19 regulations and to offer support where they are requiring additional guidance.
- Regular on the ground intelligence gathering on foot in local areas such as high streets and green spaces sharing any relevant intel with Public Health, Regulatory Services and South Yorkshire Police if necessary.
- Investigation of areas of concern identified by Public Health data gaining local insight.
- Supporting Public Health and Regulatory Services in visiting a range of business and workplaces to encourage and support Covid-19 compliance.
- Supportive calls to all licenced premises across the borough, highlight financial grant support and offer well-being checks, as well as Covid-19 safe guidance support.
- Covid-19 information and guidance sharing via social media channels through Area Council Teams and community services/groups.
- All commissioned providers encouraged to share key Covid-19 messages to residents.
- Communicating regularly with Ward Alliances and Elected Members. Provide updates and support on the guidance.

Similarly, our Safer Communities Team and the SNS continue to undertake a range of planned and reactive work to keep our communities safe during the pandemic. Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Deploying 16 Covid-19 Marshals (8 per shift), 7 days per week to provide a high visibility presence, advice, support and encouragement in our communities and to challenge non-compliance where necessary.
- Deploying and directing joint Covid-19 response operations with a case manager from SNS and an officer from South Yorkshire Police.
- Regular multidisciplinary operations in key locations.
- Deploying SNS out of hours officers and a CCTV vehicle.
- Providing Housing Options advice to those homeless or at risk of homelessness including outreach and providing temporary accommodation where required.
- Signposting to available support including the support service and local welfare provision.
- Attending and contributing:
  - South Yorkshire Covid-19 Daily Management meeting facilitated by South Yorkshire Police.
  - Covid-19 Sit Rep.
  - Community Resilience Sub Group.
  - Behavioural insights campaign.
  - Multidisciplinary THRIVE and Tactical Tasking meetings.
- Providing a dedicated Covid-19 response coordinator role.
- Assisting Regulatory Services to ensure commercial premise compliance including observations, support visits and gathering evidence where required.
- Supporting some of the larger employers with Covid-19 compliance for when staff leave site:
  - Providing regular updates and working jointly with NEOs, Markets, Regulatory Services, Parks, Targeted Youth Support, The Youth Association, Berneslai Homes and Area Council.
  - Schools – all head teachers have been contacted and those responding are linked with a Covid-19 Marshal.
  - Established intelligence pathways with South Yorkshire Police Licensing.
- Established radio communications to connect Covid-19 Marshals, markets, CCTV, joint Covid-19 response operations and parking services.
- Established pathways and systems to gather community intelligence relating to Covid-19 response. This includes the [COVIDMarshals@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:COVIDMarshals@barnsley.gov.uk) mailbox for the public and a webform for those with a barnsley.gov.uk email address which has now gathered 1435 observations.
- Using the community intelligence gathered to deploy resources.
- Working with Communications to focus messages in line with the community intelligence.

- Updated signage in areas based upon community intelligence and work with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to support messages displayed on bus shelters in key areas.
- Continuing to provide engagement with the traveller community including unauthorised encampments.
- Identifying and removing anti Covid-19, conspiracy and anti-vaccination graffiti or flyposting.

## **Enforcement and Regulation**

Regulatory Services have been central in engaging, educating and enforcing legislation to reduce the risks of Covid-19 transmission within workplace environments. Workplace clusters and outbreaks are investigated to determine if Incident Management Teams (IMT) meetings are required, advice and support are provided to the business. Where an IMT is required, we work with colleagues at PHE, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the business to identify improvements and prevent further spread.

The Service continue to work closely with our Communications Team and Enterprising Barnsley to ensure key messages are delivered to Barnsley businesses, including new and updated legislation/guidance, information on workplace testing. As part of this work, we have hosted a live Facebook Q&A session and produced guides for safe reopening of businesses and safe shopping for consumers.

Local intelligence from Regulatory Services staff and Enterprising Barnsley staff has been used to identify workplaces likely to be 'highest risk' of Covid-19 transmission and provide prompt advice and support.

We respond to a range of requests from businesses in providing advice and support on safe re-opening/operation. In addition, investigating service requests from members of the public, employees, and elected members about businesses that are not Covid-19 secure. Prohibition Notices were served on businesses who remained open when they were required to close. (1 in the first lockdown, 2 in the current lockdown).

Regulatory Services undertake joint visits to workplaces with a range of partners for example:

- Working with Public Health in providing supportive visits to all licensed premises across Barnsley.
- With Public Health, delivering webinars for licensees.
- Joint visits with the Police and licencing colleagues to licensed premises prior to the current lockdown.
- Partnership working with SNS, Covid-19 marshals, NEOs and markets development officers.
- Supportive visits to gyms carried out by Public Health and Regulation Services, with follow up work as necessary.
- 212 supermarkets, mixed retail, convenience stores and petrol forecourt shops visited to check compliance with the legislation.

## **Barnsley Roadmap**

Following the publication of the Government's Roadmap for exiting lockdown, the accompanying refresh of the Contain Framework and the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Framework (LRF) Roadmap, in conjunction with our local partners we are developing the Barnsley Roadmap. The roadmap is a practical framework to help us to work out the key planning and delivery decisions needed to navigate the uncertainty of living with Covid-19 in 2021. The roadmap is helping us to plan for the re-opening of society and the economy with Covid-19 at some level ever present, managing services and supporting people to develop and live in a new normal, while also ensuring contingency plans are put in place to deal with the unexpected and anticipate setbacks.

The Barnsley Roadmap divides 2021 into three time periods: winter to spring, spring to summer and the third time period we are planning for covers autumn to winter 2021. In each of these roadmap sections we plan for the best and the worst-case scenarios in relation to the key national, regional and local events and changes to restrictions. In this way we can more accurately plan, identify the associated risks and opportunities and ensure we are prepared with effective responses. We know that the situation will change as we progress through the year and so we will adapt accordingly.

## Appendix 1 – Barnsley COVID-19 Governance Arrangement

