Islington Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

FOREWORD FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD WATTS, LEADER OF ISLINGTON COUNCIL

As Leader of Islington Council, my top priority is keeping everyone safe through this crisis and supporting those who need help.

Islington residents have played a crucial role in our response to the coronavirus pandemic so far. They have, by and large, stayed home, stayed safe and protected our vulnerable residents from the virus.

As lockdown measures are eased, more businesses and workplaces reopen and life in Islington begins to look a little more like it did at the start of the year, it is imperative that we have robust local systems and arrangements in place for preventing, rapidly responding to and controlling Covid-19 outbreaks.

As one of the most densely populated boroughs in the country, we are particularly susceptible to any local outbreaks of Covid-19. That is why it is vital that our local outbreak prevention and control arrangements are clear, robust and well understood by everyone, including our residents.

The successful prevention and control of local outbreaks will depend upon our ability to test often and widely, trace recent contacts when a positive test occurs, and identify, investigate and respond to outbreaks rapidly, working together as a system with local, regional and national partners.

Everyone who lives, works or visits the borough also has a critical role to play by following all the necessary measures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission, including isolating if symptoms develop and getting tested, or isolating if identified as a contact of a case. Engaging and communicating effectively with all our residents and those organisations who call Islington home will be crucial to our collective success in containing the virus, and minimizing its impact on health, wellbeing and livelihoods in our borough going forwards. In particular, we will do all that we can to protect and support those communities and population groups that we know have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 during the pandemic, including our older, more vulnerable residents and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups.[i]

As Chair of Islington's Outbreak Control Board, I will work with key partners and community leaders to ensure we continue to prioritise the safety of everyone in our diverse borough and protect them from this virus, effectively manage any local outbreak, and lead communication with local people about how we can all do our bit to keep Islington safe.
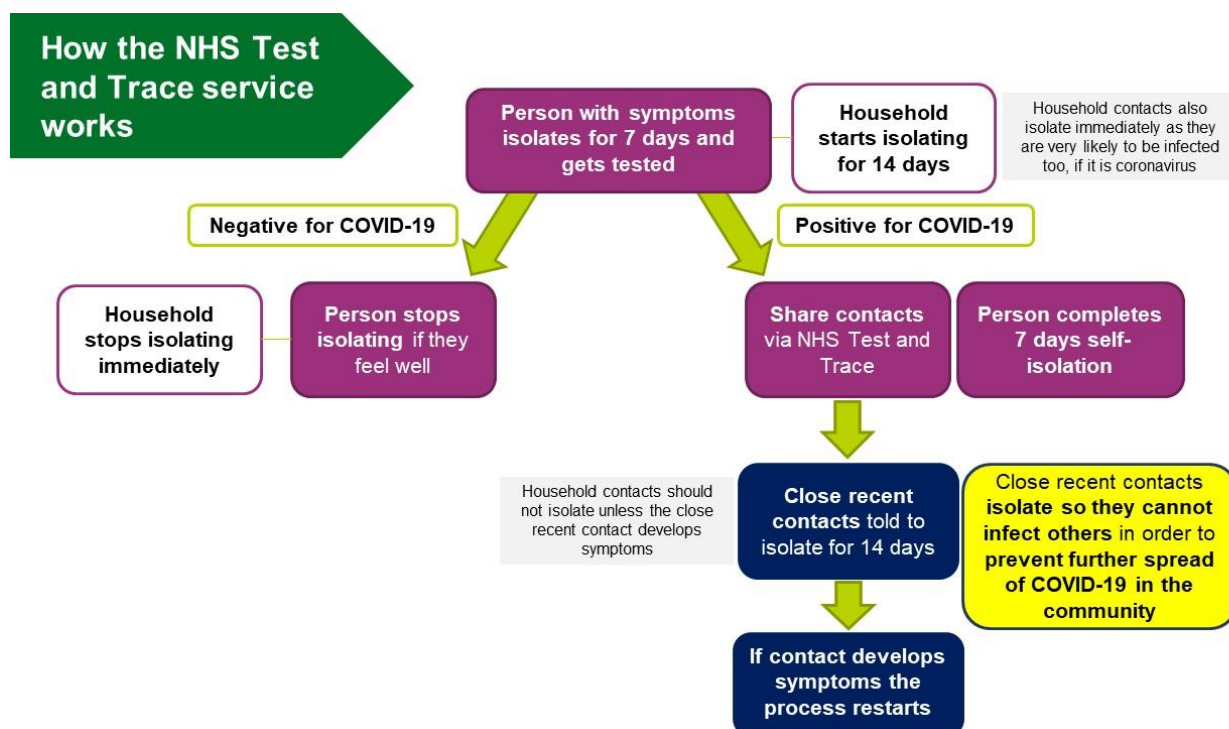
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INTRODUCTION

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the council has and will continue to do everything it can to control the spread of the virus, providing support to those who need it and keeping vital services running. Supporting our communities, local businesses and organisations to put in place measures to prevent infection and follow public health guidance, with a focus on safety first, has been a core principle guiding and underpinning our response to date. Going forward, as lockdown eases and some aspects of life return to a more normal footing, there is inevitably an increased risk of a resurgence of Covid-19.

Prevention will continue to be key to our approach during this next phase, with a focus on supporting everyone who lives, works and visits Islington to put in place the necessary measures and adopt those behaviours that are necessary in order to keep everyone safe. Nationally and locally, we know that Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted on certain population groups, in particular older people and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. We will do all we can to protect these population groups, and prevent and mitigate any further disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 itself and the measures necessary to control its spread.

An effective and timely testing and contract tracing system is a central public health measure during the next phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, helping to reduce transmission of the virus and protecting lives, as some of the other social distancing measures and restrictions on daily life are eased. By testing anyone who develops symptoms of Covid-19, tracing the close, recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 and, if necessary, advising them that they must self-isolate, this will help to stop the spread of the virus. On the 28th May 2020, the government launched a new national NHS Test and Trace service, designed to undertake this function. The figure below provides a high level overview of how the NHS Test and Trace service works to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Figure 1: Overview of how the NHS Test and Trace service works

Local Government continues to play a critical role in the response to and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This plan sets out how Islington Council, together with our local, regional and national partners, will play that role, with a focus on our part in the testing and tracing system, and specifically the prevention, investigation, management and control of local outbreaks.

The subsequent sections of this Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan describe the systems in place to prevent and contain the spread of the virus, including arrangements for controlling and managing local outbreaks should they occur. The following seven themes, as set out in national expectations for Local Outbreak Control Plans, are covered in this plan:

- Schools and care homes*
- Other high-risk locations*
- Deployment of local testing
- Contact tracing in complex settings*
- Data integration
- Supporting vulnerable people
- Establishing local governance, including communications

Reflecting Islington's approach to outbreak management, our plan combines these themes into one over-arching section – see section 2.

Islington's Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan will be tested with partner responding organisations and will continue to be reviewed, updated and improved in line with changes in national, regional or local guidance, best practice and learning from our local experience and that of others.

SECTION 1: PREVENTING AND MITIGATING DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS

From early on in the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has sought to understand, prevent and mitigate disproportionate impacts on our communities. This focus on protecting those individual and communities most at risk of acquiring Covid-19 or of suffering the poorest outcomes, continues to guide all our work in this area, including the development and implementation of Islington's Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.

With respect to the ongoing suppression of Covid-19 and our response to any outbreaks in Islington, we will ensure a consistent and systematic focus on mitigating further disproportionate impacts on our communities. We will seek to understand the barriers faced by our communities to engaging with testing and contact tracing, and to following advice to self-isolate, through ongoing and meaningful engagement. We will also continue to provide appropriate practical support, help and advice to enable our residents, communities, businesses and other organisations in the borough to follow public health guidance and help contain the virus. Further information on how we are communicating and engaging with our diverse communities on Covid-19 is set out in sections 6 and 7.

Beyond this Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, the Council is taking forward a wider programme of work to tackle those underlying inequalities which have been both highlighted and exacerbated by Covid-19. Building on the long standing focus and commitment to fairness and tackling inequality in Islington, a new council-wide programme of work is being established to look at how we challenge inequality and injustice across the

borough, starting with a focus on race equality. As part of this work, we will develop with our partners a programme of action to address the stark health inequalities that affect our BAME communities in Islington.

SECTION 2: OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has been providing advice and support to a range of settings and communities, helping them to put in place measures to both prevent infection and to respond to cases of Covid-19 when they occur, to reduce onward transmission. Islington Council has been actively providing public health advice and infection prevention and control support to care homes, schools, voluntary and community organisations, to other settings and the public. This includes responding to enquiries from settings and organisations, delivering webinars, conducting personal protective equipment (PPE) risk assessments, supplying PPE where appropriate, developing a local Covid-19 guidance library and helping develop and communicate effective prevention messages to the public.

When there have been local cases and outbreaks of the virus to date, the Council's Public Health team has led on the response, in partnership with health protection colleagues at Public Health England (PHE) London. During the period of highest community transmission, when PHE had paused contact tracing, the Public Health team took on some of the tasks usually led by the local Health Protection Team. These included responsibility for advising on exposures and individual cases, as well as supporting PHE in managing ongoing outbreaks in a range of settings, especially in care homes. At every stage, the health and safety of people who live or work in our borough has been our priority.

As rates of community transmission fall, and many of the measures designed to restrict movement, social mixing and maintain physical distancing are eased, contact tracing (NHS Test and Trace) will become a core component of the national response to Covid-19. To play our role in this system of 'test, trace and isolate' requires an expansion of our local outbreak support capacity, working in close collaboration with PHE London. In London, PHE's Health Protection Teams have been working as part of the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) since February 2020 to support a centralised and coordinated response to Covid-19 cases in complex settings and scenarios. LCRC will continue to play a lead role in identifying, investigating and managing outbreaks across London during the ongoing pandemic. The Council will take a lead in supporting local settings or communities with complex outbreaks, where local knowledge and insight is required.

This section gives an overview of how Islington will prevent and manage outbreaks of Covid-19:

- in specific individual settings (e.g. schools and care homes);
- in other high-risk places, locations and communities;
- and through our local contribution to contact tracing in complex settings

How will our role and local response differ in this next phase of the pandemic?

- Enhancing the local Covid-19 Response Team (CRT) – will bring Public Health and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) together to provide the skills, capacity and support necessary for the management of outbreaks and complex situations when they arise.

- <u>The development of a shared case management system</u> – will bring information on complex outbreaks received from local, national and regional sources together in one place, held on a secure system for systematic review by all members of the CRT.
- <u>Increased role advising on exposures to suspected and confirmed cases</u> – The advice to the public has changed as a result of the implementation of the new national NHS Test and Trace service. Local authorities are a key source of information and guidance for all types of organisations across our borough, as well as to our own staff and services, where there are reports of individuals who have been exposed to confirmed or suspected Covid-19 cases.
- <u>Increased role in supporting settings</u> – enhancing our CRT will enable the Council to provide advice and support to those settings identified as having unique support requirements. These include, but are not limited to, the following settings:
  - Care settings
  - Schools and early years settings
  - Workplaces and places of assembly
  - Places of worship
  - Prison/custodial institutions
  - Complex residential settings e.g. homeless and/or hostels, halls of residence
  - Transport and hubs

Role and responsibilities for PHE's London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) and the Council

The table on the following page summarises the respective roles of the LCRC and the Council in managing local outbreaks of Covid-19. These roles and responsibilities mirror and build on the established roles and relationship that already exist between PHE's health protection function and the Council's public health and environmental health teams with respect to the control of other communicable diseases.

Table 1: Roles and responsibilities of LCRC and Islington Council in managing local outbreaks of Covid-19

	LCRC	Islington Council
Setting-specific outbreak	- Receive notification of outbreak from the setting and/or the Test and Trace system - Gather information and undertake a risk assessment with the setting - Provide advice and manage cases and contacts, testing and infection control - Provide information materials to the setting - Recommend ongoing control measures - Convene Incident Management Team (IMT) if required - Contact local authority for information or to request additional support	- Prevention work, such as proactively sharing guidance & supporting with its implementation - Respond to enquiries - Support vulnerable contacts who are required to self-isolate - Liaise with setting to provide ongoing advice and support for testing, communications, infection control and PPE - Participate in IMT, if convened - Local communications - Liaise with CCG, GPs and other healthcare providers to provide ongoing healthcare support to setting and affected individuals, as appropriate
Community cluster	- Identify community cluster through Test and Trace system or other surveillance systems - Support Local Authority in their risk assessment of and response to an identified community cluster	- Receive notification of community cluster from LCRC, or identify community cluster through local data, intelligence and surveillance - Convene IMT - Provide support to community, which may include translated materials, support to self-isolate, advice and enforcement - Liaise with the local CCG, GPs and other healthcare providers, as appropriate - Local communications

The outbreak management summary set out in this plan is supported by a detailed Islington Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan, which sets out how the local authority response will be coordinated. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed which set out how the Council's Covid-19 Response Team and partners will work together to support a range of different settings to manage outbreaks.

The Outbreak Management Plan, and in particular the SOPs, will continue to be reviewed and refined, in light of our learning from managing local outbreaks, and from the learning and experience of others. Building on an internal workshop / tabletop exercise of our Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, we will also undertake a scenario-based tabletop exercise with our partner responding organisations, to test out our plan, SOPs and to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.

The CRT will work closely with We are Islington, our borough-wide helpline and support service set up to assist vulnerable and/or self-isolating residents (see section 5) in order to ensure cases and their contacts face no barriers to following public health advice, and to connect them into other Council advice and services, as required.

Surge Capacity

Further work is needed to develop our surge capacity plan, should there be a significant increase in outbreaks across the borough. It is currently envisaged that specialist surge capacity would be sourced in the first instance from within the Council's Public Health and Environmental Health teams, by re-assigning more staff to work as part of the CRT and away from their normal other duties. If required, wider non-specialist surge capacity to support outbreak management would be sourced internally using the Council's existing resilience arrangements and redeployment processes. Any requirement for further specialist or non-specialist support that could not be met internally would be brokered via mutual aid and through regional resilience arrangements.

Risks and Challenges

Key risks and challenges associated with Covid-19 outbreaks in local settings, as well as actions to mitigate them have been considered and include, but are not limited to, risks associated with residents refusing to self-isolate, and risks associated with cases and close contacts identified to NHS Test and Trace but where contact and successful follow up has not possible.

SECTION 3: LOCAL TESTING CAPACITY

Accessible and timely testing is vital in managing any local outbreaks of Covid-19, and by extension in protecting Islington residents from the virus. This section outlines the arrangements through which local residents or people who study or work in the borough have rapid access to testing should they experience Covid-19 symptoms, and arrangements for the deployment of testing as a critical measure in outbreak investigation and control. In the majority of cases, it is expected that testing will be done through the national testing process, which is set out on the following page.

National testing

People who display any Covid-19 symptoms are able to access testing online through the national testing website (www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119. In addition, essential workers can access priority testing through a dedicated national website, which can be found here.

There are several options for accessing national testing, all of which are booked through the national website or 119 service:

- <u>Drive-through testing</u> - with various sites open across London.
- <u>Mobile units</u> - venues are not fixed and rotate around London. This offer includes capacity for small, strategically placed sites to support local testing priorities.
- <u>Home test kits</u> - delivered to households and then collected by courier once completed.

National testing should offer a 48-72 hour test result turnaround. It is anticipated that the majority of people will access testing through these national routes as part of the Test and Trace service.

In addition, care homes and other residential settings can access testing for symptomatic and non-symptomatic residents through a dedicated national care home testing portal. Islington's Adult Social Care and Public Health teams work together and with the care settings to prioritise those for testing.

When as part of an outbreak response, the need for local testing at scale is identified, the Director of Public Health is able to request and direct the mobilisation of a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) locally, taking into account speed, convenience and accessibility and the site requirements for deployment of an MTU. In such instances, a detailed London framework and protocol for requesting an MTU will be followed.

Additional local testing for NHS, health and social care staff

For those working in NHS settings and other health and social care staff working in face-to-face roles, there are additional local testing hubs across the North Central London Sustainability and Transformation Plan (NCL STP) footprint, in addition to the national offer. This NCL testing capacity has the flexibility to support NHS and care settings to access rapid testing where they are not fully able to meet their testing needs though the national testing offer. For outbreaks in settings such as care homes, NCL STP partners also provide support from local NHS community trust providers to support the administration of swab testing. Further detail on this testing route is available here.

Additional local capacity

The majority of individuals with symptoms of Covid-19 requiring testing should access this through the national testing programme. In response to an outbreak, PHE's LCRC will also organize initial testing and there is the option to request and deploy a MTU to deliver local, accessible testing at scale. NCL STP partners are currently working with local Directors of Public Health to develop a further, locally responsive offer, that would provide results in 24-48 hours and support rapid decision making to support outbreak control. Currently, it is anticipated that there will be capacity for up to 30 tests per week in Islington. However, the availability of tests and turnaround times will vary depending on other NHS demands on testing capacity. Access to these tests will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will require a specific request to be made through the Director of Public Health. NCL is

developing a pathway to support this, including arrangements for getting swabs to those who need to be tested and how this will link into the NHS Test and Trace service.

SECTION 4: DATA INTEGRATION AND SURVEILLANCE

The presence of reliable, accurate and timely data helps to understand the local spread of Covid-19 and to identify any communities or settings that are affected. Monitoring and acting on this data is crucial in protecting residents from Covid-19. The sections below summarise how data will be received, monitored, stored and managed.

Surveillance and monitoring data

Good quality surveillance data is necessary to understand the local spread of Covid-19, including any communities and geographical areas affected. This data also helps to respond to queries and aids in forming responses to local concerns around the spread of Covid-19.

The Council's Head of Health and Care Intelligence takes lead responsibility for receiving and monitoring surveillance data. NHS Test and Trace data are received from the LCRC and the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) will are saved in a secure network. Ahead of any regional or national dashboard being made available, Islington's Public Health Intelligence team is developing an excel dashboard that will contain the information detailed in table 1. The information is monitored on a daily basis, fed into the Covid-19 Response Team, and reported on a weekly basis to the Covid-19 Health Protection Group to enable them to maintain regular oversight of local Covid-19 epidemiology, outbreaks and situations. The dashboard will provide an overview of the current situation and indicate key trends and change from the previous week. The dashboard will also include charts showing daily change and trends for each of the indicators in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed Covid-19 surveillance monitoring indicators

Deaths
Weekly number of Covid19 related deaths
Cases
• Average number of new cases over last 5 days
• Crude rate of cases per 100,000 population
• LA regional rank of crude cases
• LA % of total regional cases
New and cumulative number of situations by setting and type of setting
Contact tracing
• Number of cases via NHS test and trace app
• Proportion of cases successfully contacted
• Number of Contacts via NHS test and trace app
• Proportion of contacts successfully contacted
• NHS 111 calls
• Number and setting of Tier 1 outbreaks

In addition to the above indicators, postcode level data on cases that are received daily are plotted on a map using a geographical information system. The maps show new cases

spread over place and time on a daily/weekly basis. The maps will also plot any key settings such as care homes and schools, supporting effective outbreak management and control.

Depending upon what demographic data are provided to the Council, a profile of cases by age, gender and ethnicity will also be completed periodically to monitor population groups or communities impacted.

Regionally, in addition to using the data and analyses described above to undertake surveillance and monitoring of Covid-19 across the London region, PHE London will use information from wider non-health sources to help in the assessment of the risk of a resurgence of Covid-19. This includes sources of data such as public transport usage. PHE's regional surveillance team will also monitor what is happening in other regions to compare patterns in outbreaks, and to detect any risks or patterns potentially associated with London's commuter population. This intelligence will help support local early alerts.

Data for management of complex outbreaks

The Head of Health and Care Intelligence and the lead consultant for Public Health will receive notifications of any complex outbreaks as and when they arise. All information on these complex outbreaks - including the relevant setting, details of contacts, cases and any actions taken - will be held on a secure system in a systematic way that makes information retrievable. In addition, this information will be shared with teams and services as necessary and in line with Information Governance and GDPR to manage complex outbreaks effectively.

All data will be processed in line with the objectives set out in the data sharing agreement between Public Health England and Islington Council.

SECTION 5: SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS

Supporting and protecting vulnerable residents is an important part of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. For all those residents who have been told to self-isolate, either because they have been confirmed as having Covid-19 or identified as having come into contact with someone with the virus, and who have support needs or face particular barriers to following that advice, we will continue to provide them with the necessary support.

As part of the national NHS Test and Trace service, individuals who self-identify as requiring support will be provided with web resources directing them to their local authority's support offer. In Islington, people contacting the Council with these support needs will be managed within our We Are Islington service, which has been adapted to meet these new requirements associated with Test and Trace. When residents contact We Are Islington, their details will be entered onto the Customer Relationship Management system. The system will capture standard personal data including name, address, age, gender and ethnicity. It will also hold details of other people living in the household and, where relevant, their employment details.

The We Are Islington team will discuss and assess each individual's support needs. It is envisaged that the majority of individuals will be provided with appropriate information to allow them to manage their own needs, such as by accessing online shopping, contacting

local shops that are able to take orders over the phone, and by arranging deliveries and proactive support from pharmacies.

However, where it becomes clear that a resident is unable to manage their own needs, either because of vulnerability or their financial situation, We Are Islington will arrange appropriate support and assistance. This will include for example, delivering a food parcel to last the duration of the isolation period and referrals to colleagues in Adult Social Care and other support services such Children's Services or the Resident Support Service.

We Are Islington will also play a role in managing and responding to other inbound contacts relating to Test and Trace. This may, for example, include providing advice to residents who believe they may have come into contact with someone with Covid-19, and will be guided by scripts which are reviewed by Public Health to ensure accuracy and alignment with the latest guidance.

SECTION 6: CONNECTING AND ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES

Islington has one of the most diverse and vibrant communities in the UK. All people and communities are impacted in some way by Covid-19, but we know now, that some groups are disproportionally impacted. We will employ a range of communications and engagement approaches and tactics to ensure that all our residents feel informed about NHS Test and Trace service and have equal access to key public health prevention information and advice, such as hand-washing, wearing face coverings and social distancing.

Islington's voluntary and community sector (VCS) has consistently demonstrated an ability to reach and engage some of our most vulnerable residents and marginalised communities. Many of these groups have been at the heart of the local response to this pandemic, making a crucial contribution to keep people safe and protecting our most vulnerable residents.

We will use our strong partnerships with the VCS to listen to and engage with all communities to better understand their concerns, experiences and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to help shape our ongoing response to Covid-19 and to any outbreaks. We will also respond to the needs of minority groups by developing locally tailored messaging and formats.

This ongoing dialogue will help us to overcome barriers such as language and literacy, misinformation and lack of digital skills or access to technology and to develop bespoke resources in a range of formats to share with community and mutual aid groups, charities, advocacy and advice groups, community leaders and trusted spokespeople to reach all sections of our community.

The council will utilise a mix of corporate channels to amplify local public health and national Government messages to reach local audiences, including web and social media, e-bulletins, direct mail, local media, poster sites, screens in key locations, and a quarterly-printed Islington Life magazine that is delivered to every household in the borough. We will also utilise a network of frontline staff with strong relationships in the community, local business and schools to cascade information and signpost to local support.

SECTION 7: UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING WIDER COMMUNITY IMPACTS AND LEADING THE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE

This aspect of our response aims to enable a 'whole-community' approach to containing the spread of COVID-19 and to outbreak management, enabling the VCS and local businesses to play a critical role in preventing the spread of Covid-19, supporting the Test and Trace service and mitigating against the impacts on residents as a result of any increases in self-isolation and possible area-based lockdowns.

Work on understanding and mitigating these wider community impacts will ensure that the VCS and local businesses are fully briefed and prepared for engaging with Test and Trace as well as continuing to put in place measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. In addition, work in this area will support and enable the VCS and local businesses to respond to residents' needs in relation to Test and Trace. In order to achieve this, the Council are:

- Ensuring the existence/maintenance of key community/business networks covering diverse communities to enable rapid dissemination of information.
- Engaging with businesses and VCS partners through existing networks (e.g. VCS networks, Town Centre networks, Tenant and Resident Associations and Community Centre Committees).
- Ensuring that the local community understands what they need to do if they develop symptoms, how to engage with the Test and Trace service, using business networks and community networks to be able to access and respond. This involves communicating briefings and holding information sessions for key partners, including in community languages.
- Developing frameworks and tools to enable businesses/VCS to produce resilience and recovery plans – enabling the scaling up and down of services and the offer to residents and businesses.
- Undertaking an ongoing review and development of the Covid-19 community response.
- Developing and maintaining the VCS and business sections of the Council's Covid-19 Directory, ensuring this is linked with the We Are Islington helpline to support those who are self-isolating.
- Horizon scanning including policy updates from Government and national initiatives to support businesses and VCS organisations affected by Test and Trace.
- Supporting businesses in Islington to plan for and mitigate potential impacts. The Council's Emergency Planning team offer a Business Continuity Pack to assist businesses with their planning.

As lockdown restrictions ease, the Council is supporting local organisations and businesses to become 'Covid secure' and operate safely in accordance with Government guidance. This offer of support includes:

- Providing information on our website with links to relevant guidance, and producing and distributing checklists
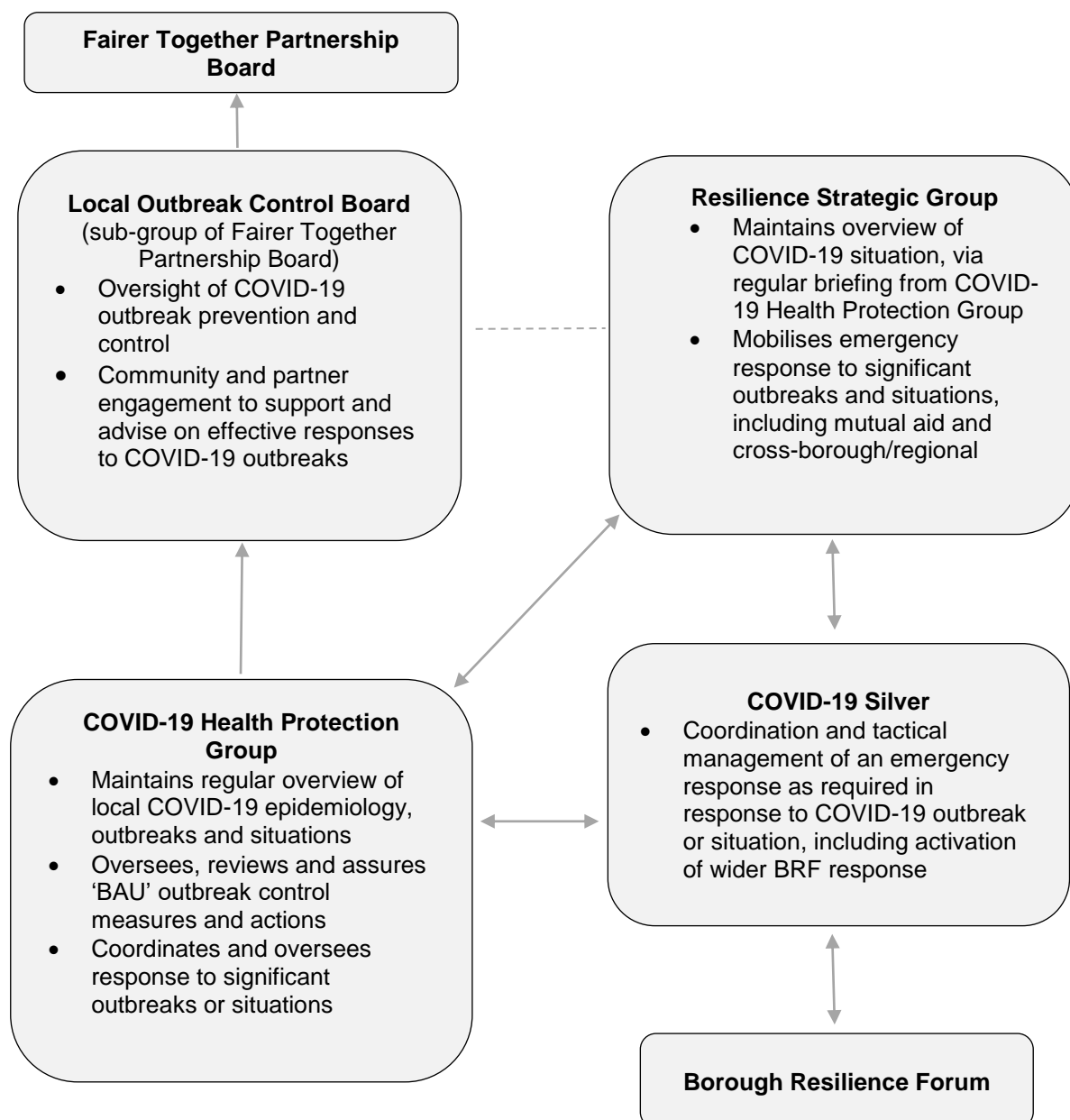
- Daily patrols across the borough to engage with businesses open to the public to provide appropriate advice and support
- Proactive engagement with high risk businesses to undertake a comprehensive review of their 'Covid secure' arrangements
- Providing a telephone and email advice service for specific queries and attending Town Centre and Business meetings.

SECTION 9: LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Having clear and appropriate governance structures for our local outbreak management activities will enable Islington's local leaders to make effective and timely decisions, informed by insights from stakeholders and local communities.

The existing Covid-19 Health Protection Group, chaired by the Director of Public Health, will oversee, review and assure outbreak control measures in Islington. The Covid-19 Health Protection Group will report into and provide regular updates to the Council's Resilience Strategic Group, which determines Islington's overall management and strategic response to Covid-19 and will mobilise an emergency response to significant outbreaks and situations as required. A newly formed Local Outbreak Control Board will be chaired by the Leader of Islington Council, Councillor Richard Watts, and this Board will be a sub-group of the existing Fairer Together Borough Partnership. The Local Outbreak Control Board will play a vital role in engaging, consulting and communicating with key stakeholders, partners and residents on local Covid-19 outbreak prevention and control activities. A summary of this is set out in the figure on the following page.

Figure 2: Overview of Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Governance

Fairer Together Partnership Board

Local Outbreak Control Board
(sub-group of Fairer Together Partnership Board)
- Oversight of COVID-19 outbreak prevention and control
- Community and partner engagement to support and advise on effective responses to COVID-19 outbreaks

Resilience Strategic Group
- Maintains overview of COVID-19 situation, via regular briefing from COVID-19 Health Protection Group
- Mobilises emergency response to significant outbreaks and situations, including mutual aid and cross-borough/regional

COVID-19 Health Protection Group
- Maintains regular overview of local COVID-19 epidemiology, outbreaks and situations
- Oversees, reviews and assures 'BAU' outbreak control measures and actions
- Coordinates and oversees response to significant outbreaks or situations

COVID-19 Silver
- Coordination and tactical management of an emergency response as required in response to COVID-19 outbreak or situation, including activation of wider BRF response

Borough Resilience Forum

Islington's outbreak management governance structures build on our existing Emergency Planning procedures, enabling risk to be escalated and managed appropriately to ensure the safety of our residents. The Council currently have a Crisis Response Plan which, in the event of an emergency, puts an on-call crisis team in place to ensure that the Council can respond to any emergency 24/7, 365 days per year. This process is currently being bolstered by adding additional capacity specifically for Covid-19, including Covid-19 Silver Command. This process has enabled the successful management of several emergencies during the Covid-19 response thus far.

[i] Public Health England (PHE). Disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19 [Online]. June 2020. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf

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Office for National Statistics (ONS). Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation: deaths occurring between 1 March and 31 May 2020 [Online]. 12 June 2020. Available from: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsinvolvingcovid19bylocalareasanddeprivation/deathsoccurringbetween1marchand31may2020