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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	28 May 2020		Agenda Item	2.1 (ii)
Report Title	Implementing the Test, Trace & Protect Programme in Swansea Bay			
Report Author	Joanne Abbott-Davies, Assistant Director of Strategy & Partnerships			
Report Sponsor	Siân Harrop-Griffiths, Executive Director of Strategy			
Presented by	Siân Harrop-Griffiths, Executive Director of Strategy			
Freedom of Information	Open			
Purpose of the Report	This report outlines progress within the Swansea Bay area in implementing the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect Programme.			
Key Issues	<p>The report highlights the integrated partnership approach taken across Swansea Bay, the key milestones achieved and planned and how this will contribute to the aims of the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the Swansea Bay area • Intervening early with cases and contacts to prevent onward transmission • Keeping essential services in Swansea Bay operational 			
Specific Action Required (please choose one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance	Approval
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE the Welsh Government requirements for the Test, Trace and Protect programme • NOTE the progress made across Swansea Bay in implementing the Test, Trace and Protect programme • NOTE the risks associated with implementation of the programme • NOTE that a further verbal update on progress will be given at the Health Board meeting 			

IMPLEMENTING THE TEST, TRACE, PROTECT PROGRAMME IN SWANSEA BAY

1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines progress within the Swansea Bay area in implementing the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) Programme.

The report highlights the integrated partnership approach taken across Swansea Bay, the key milestones achieved and planned and how this will contribute to the aims of the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect Programme:

- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the Swansea Bay area
- Intervening early with cases and contacts to prevent onward transmission
- Keeping essential services in Swansea Bay operational

2. BACKGROUND

Welsh Government published its Test, Trace and Protect Plan on 13th May. This outlined how mass testing and technology would be at the heart of this strategy, which would help Wales move to the next stage of the response to the COVID-19 virus.

The plan included the intentions to:

- Increase testing of critical workers to enable them to return to work;
- Establish a new system for home testing for the public if they have coronavirus symptoms; and
- Roll out a new app to track symptoms in the general population and contact others who have symptoms or have tested positive.

In broad terms the plan requires Health Boards and Local Authorities to work together to:

- Implement a Trace & Protect programme for contact tracing and case management of positive and suspected positive COVID-19 cases.
- Roll out sampling and testing of a wider range of people in the Swansea Bay area (initially core workers in health and social care, then expanded to all critical workers and subsequently to also include all over 5 year olds with coronavirus symptoms)
- Expand our testing capacity (via Drive Through facilities, Mobile Testing Units, Community Testing Teams and Home Testing) including a particular focus on care homes (initially on a targeted basis, subsequently all care homes)
- Introduce blood tests to check whether people have had the disease (once a reliable test is available).

Welsh Government expects all Health Boards and Local Authorities to ensure the Programme will be operational from 1st June 2020. Work has been underway within Swansea Bay since 4th May 2020 to mobilise efforts to ensure this will be achieved.

2.1 Governance for Test, Trace & Protect in Swansea Bay

The responsibility for implementation of the TTP Programme implementation sits with Health Boards and Local Authorities. To ensure this can be implemented at pace and in line with Welsh Government requirements, a governance structure has been agreed and put in place for Swansea Bay, and a plan has also been prepared. This is attached at Appendix 1, however, it should be recognised that this is a live document and being updated on a daily basis.

The Executive lead for the multiagency programme has been agreed as the Executive Director of Strategy, SBUHB, who chairs the Multiagency Test, Trace & Protect Silver Cell, working with the Director of Public Health, who retains Executive Director leadership for testing. Welsh Government has required organisations to identify a regional lead for operational delivery of the Programme and this has been agreed as the Assistant Director of Strategy and Partnerships.

The Multiagency Test, Trace & Protect Silver Cell has been meeting twice a week since 4th May, supported by four workstreams:

- Testing (supported by a Health Board Operational Group) – chaired by Director of Public Health, SBUHB
- Workforce – chaired by Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea LA
- Communications & Public Engagement – chaired by Deputy Chief Executive, NPT CBC
- Trace & Protect – chaired by Director of Place, Swansea LA

2.2 Approach agreed for Test, Trace & Protect in Swansea Bay

(a) Testing

Capacity for testing / swabbing is available at the Margam Drive Through facility (2 lanes) which has been in place since March, and the recently opened Drive Through facility at Liberty Stadium (6 lanes) which was opened on 8th May. In addition Community Testing Teams have also been established (2 or 3 depending on demand) to provide home tests and to carry out swabs at care homes.

Conservatively, each lane of the drive through facilities can test 75 people per day (9am to 7pm) and each Community Testing Team can carry out 200 swabs per day. Military Testing Units have also been deployed in Wales in May, although their operation differs from that in England, due to limitations placed on their ability to carry out swabbing and entering care homes.

Guidance on testing has been rapidly evolving and multiple announcements from Welsh Government regarding changes to eligibility for testing have resulted in equally rapidly changing approaches to testing. However, the approach within Swansea Bay has been agreed as maximising the use of the available capacity in all elements of testing as quickly as possible, based on the wider eligibility announced on 16th and 18th May by Welsh Government.

(b) Trace & Protect

On a multiagency basis the approach agreed across the Swansea Bay area for the Trace and Protect element of the programme is as follows:

- Teams will be organised by each Local Authority, linked to Upper Super Output Areas and will provide a call centre function for trace and protect activity
- Teams will initially be staffed by Health Board and Local Authority staff working to a national standard operating process and to national role descriptors supported by national e-learning
- Call centres will be virtual, utilising staff who can work from home in most cases and operate from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., 7 days a week

In addition, a Regional team for Swansea Bay will be implemented. This will be led by the Director of Public Health and Directors of Public Protection from the Local Authorities to provide advice and support to local teams and oversee the management of outbreaks in the area. The composition and operational arrangements for this team are being confirmed.

2.3 Progress with Implementing Test, Trace & Protect in Swansea Bay

(a) Testing

From Wednesday 20th May 2020 4 lanes of the drive through capacity were operational from 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week. This allows testing of in excess of 300 people per day, on an open access basis for critical workers and anyone over the age of 5 with coronavirus symptoms. A central phone number and call handling hub has been established to take calls and book people in for drive through tests. The aim is to fully utilise all available capacity and if demand exceeds this, the categories of critical workers outlined by Welsh Government will be used to prioritise requests.

People in Wales will also be able to book a drive through test locally or request a home testing kit through a UK based web portal, but at the time of writing it is unclear when this will go live.

From Tuesday 27th May 2020 8 lanes of the drive through capacity will be operational, allowing testing of in excess of 600 people per day, again on an open access basis as outlined above.

Depending on demand there is also the potential to extend the hours of the drive through capacity, so creating additional testing capacity, and usage will be kept under close scrutiny so that if required capacity can be further expanded.

(b) Trace & Protect

Phase 1 of the Trace & Protect programme is underway at the time of writing, with 2 teams in Neath Port Talbot and 3 in Swansea being trained and inducted ready for them to test processes and ways of working from week commencing 27th May 2020. From 1st June these teams will be operational with a second phase of teams planned for following weeks, roll out of which will be linked to take up of services. Laptops and associated equipment have been provided by the Health Board for these teams to ensure they can become operational when required.

2.4 Next Steps

Due to the requirement to implement the Test, Trace and Protect programme so rapidly, since preparing this report significant changes will have already been implemented and so a verbal update will be given at the Health Board meeting.

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

A RAID (risk, action, issues and decisions) log is being maintained for the Test, Trace and Protect programme which identifies the following as the main risks for the programme:

- Identification of appropriate staff, including those with communicable disease skills, to run testing, trace and protection activities, initially from repurposed health and local authority staff, but likely to have to source external staff as business as usual services are increasingly reintroduced.
- Availability of national digital solutions to support test, trace and protect activities, so reducing requirement for phone based contact which impacts on staffing requirements.
- Agreement of funding prospectively by Welsh Government for additional costs of test, trace and protect activities.
- Availability of sufficient laboratory capacity to meet demand from testing activity in a timely manner.

Actions have been identified to mitigate these risks, but currently these are still extant.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be financial impacts for the Health Board of running the additional testing capacity planned as well as for the Local Authorities in running the Trace and Protect arrangements. These are being quantified and discussions planned with Welsh Government to ensure these are met, not only initially, but also when external sources of staffing are required.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- **NOTE** the Welsh Government requirements for the Test, Trace and Protect programme
- **NOTE** the progress made across Swansea Bay in implementing the Test, Trace and Protect programme
- **NOTE** the risks associated with implementation of the programme
- **NOTE** that a further verbal update on progress will be given at the Health Board meeting

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives <i>(please choose)</i>	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
<i>(please choose)</i>	Staying Healthy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
<p>Monitoring will be put in place of people's experience of the Test, Trace and Protect programme so that action can be taken to improve any of the issues raised.</p> <p>Response times are being set for each part of the process so that adherence to these can also be monitored and actions taken if necessary to improve performance.</p>		
Financial Implications		
<p>There will be financial impacts for the Health Board of running the additional testing capacity planned as well as for the Local Authorities in running the Trace and Protect arrangements. These are being quantified and discussions planned with Welsh Government to ensure these are met, not only initially, but also when external sources of staffing are required.</p>		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
<p>The Swansea Bay programme outlined above meets the requirements of the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect Programme.</p>		
Staffing Implications		
<p>Staffing for the Test, Trace and Protect Programme across Swansea Bay will be based on repurposing health and local authority staff in the first instance but as these staff are required to bring core services back on line, there is likely to be a need to recruit staff externally to fulfil these roles.</p>		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
<p>The Swansea Bay Test, Trace and Protect programme aims to prevent the spread of coronavirus, ensure early intervention with cases and contacts to prevent onward transmission and to keep essential services operational, so ensuring that the wellbeing of Future Generations is safeguarded. The programme is aimed to operate initially for 12 months, focused on prevention, integration and collaboration between partner organisations with the involvement of the public in taking required action to reduce risks.</p>		

Report History	No reports have been presented on this topic.
Appendices	Appendix A – Governance Structure

