

NHS Board
30 March 2022

Lanarkshire NHS Board
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SUBJECT: TEST AND PROTECT

1. PURPOSE

This paper is coming to the NHS Board

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Noting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current situation and inform the board of changes being made to the Test & Protect Service in line with recent Scottish Government policy change.

2. ROUTE TO THE NHS BOARD

This paper has been:

Prepared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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by the Test and Protect Management Team and Public Health Tactical Group.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

New daily cases of COVID-19 remain high; the average for March being 1471 per day.

The Test and Protect Transition Plan was published by Scottish Government on 15th March 2022 when the Scottish Government announced that from the end of April all routine population-wide testing will end, including for those who have symptoms and contact tracing will also end then too.

There is a national workforce group which exists as a sub-group of the broader Test and Protect Transition Programme Board and is responsible for considering the impact on the workforce of any changes to overall Test and Protect policy. We have trained and developed a highly skilled team whose members are an asset to NHS Lanarkshire.

The Scottish Government has asked Public Health Scotland to produce a plan which details how to monitor for the development of new variants and mutations of the COVID-19 virus and how best to respond if a new variant of concern is identified.

The Board is asked to note the need to support resourcing of the Public Health Directorate to maintain adequate capacity to deliver effective COVID-19 transmission

mitigation and Outbreak Management across Lanarkshire and consider the use of our skilled staff to address the wider Public Health challenges and those of the wider organisation.

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This paper links to the following:

Corporate objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	AOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government directive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>	AHF/local policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urgent operational issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

5. CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY

This paper aligns to the following elements of safety and quality improvement:

Three Quality Ambitions:

Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Six Quality Outcomes:

Everyone has the best start in life and is able to live longer healthier lives; (Effective)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People are able to live well at home or in the community; (Person Centred)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Everyone has a positive experience of healthcare; (Person Centred)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff feel supported and engaged; (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare is safe for every person, every time; (Safe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Best use is made of available resources. (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

We have implemented cross cover between Test and Protect and Health Protection nurses to increase resilience particularly given the pressures due to increasing number of care home outbreaks in the past few weeks.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial risk - Funding sustainability: we need to plan now, but are as yet, unaware of what funding resource will be available as we move to COVID-19 being endemic in our communities.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Reputational risk - Despite open and transparent communication, there may not be roles available which are suitable for all staff being displaced.

9. FIT WITH BEST VALUE CRITERIA

This paper aligns to the following best value criteria:

Vision and leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance	and	<input type="checkbox"/>
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				accountability	
Use of resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>				

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has an E&D Impact Assessment has been completed?

Yes
No

EDIA is being considered and will be circulated in due course.

11. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

A local partnership group has been established which includes Health Protection and Test and Protect Management, HR and Partnership to manage us through this transitional period and provide reassurance to staff of our intent to support them moving forward through regular communication and engagement.

12. ACTIONS FOR THE NHS BOARD

The NHS Board are asked to:

Approve	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gain Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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- Note the need to support resourcing of the Public Health Directorate to maintain adequate capacity to deliver effective COVID-19 transmission mitigation and Outbreak Management across Lanarkshire and consider the use of our skilled staff to address the wider Public Health challenges and those of the wider organisation; and
- Consider the use of our skilled staff to address the wider Public Health challenges and those of the wider organisation.

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this paper, please contact;

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