



'Twin tracking' Covid-19 response and recovery

This briefing summarises a roundtable discussion on the duality and sustainability of response and recovery structures and the scoping of Local Outbreak Management of Covid-19 hosted on the 28/05/2020. Reflections from the roundtable have been summarised and themed using thematic analysis. Five main findings were identified.

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Findings

One: Structures and 'twin tracking' of response and recovery

A common approach to the 'twin tracking' of structures and their battle rhythms is presented, looking forward over the next 12 months. All delegates agreed that sustainability was a priority concern. Central and Local Government should agree the financing and sustainability arrangements of these structures as soon as possible.

Two: Working with communities for equity not equality

Local strategic decision-makers need to ensure they have practices and resource in place to facilitate knowledge of, and relationships with, their communities. The LRF partnerships have lots of practice and experience to draw from to inform this. Pooling this expertise and practice in community engagement will be required to inform and nuance communication and intervention strategies of outbreak management. Particularly to inform proportionality and to provide legitimacy to the process of local outbreak management structures.

Three: The coordinating value of Local Resilience Forums

Local Resilience Forum partnerships can offer community consultation, public assurance and knowledge of communities to inform proportionality and local nuances in the decision-making relating to NPI and economic interventions. The coordination and consistency of messaging increases public assurance. National work should recognise the value of the LRF in this coordinating role.

Four: Foresight

The C19 National Foresight Group continue to facilitate roundtable focus groups with strategic leaders to inform national thought leadership and facilitate the sharing of insights and practice. The sharing and developing integrated plans between relevant partners on forecasting, identifying and provisioning for this additional need is key to creating a shared understanding.

Five: Learning from local outbreaks

Learning from local community outbreaks so far has identified three learning points:

- 1. Pause to listen to experts and understand the science rather than working on assumptions (narratives and hype circulating the incident) or making decisions without that understanding of the science behind the incident. This will prevent significant work being completed that is not required.*
- 2. The learning brought forward from managing outbreaks such as flu or norovirus has limited application to Covid-19 outbreaks as they are very different, so they operationalise differently. One example is that staff with flu or norovirus are not asymptomatic in great numbers, so staff and workforce management demands a different approach.*
- 3. As the learning is limited (point 2 above) from other outbreak health experiences, the need to learn and share good practice rapidly is crucial to inform and build that experience.*