

APPENDIX TWO**Regional working in relation to the C-19 pandemic****1. Gwent Incident Management Team (IMT)**

It was important to be consistent in our approach when translating WG legislative changes – outlined in Appendix One – across the Gwent region. Gwent IMT was established and consisted of representation from (a) Heads of Public Protection from the five LA's, (b) Public Health Wales (PHW), (c) Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABUHB), (d) Gwent Police, (e) other representatives dependant on circumstances, eg. a regional rep for Social Care, Schools or Emergency Planning.

Gwent IMT met weekly and followed a SBAR process, namely for the region the current position was reported and discussed for **S**ituation, **B**ackground, **A**ssessment and **R**ecommendations. Numbers of cases, notable clusters, compliance visits, latest guidance for specific settings, etc. were discussed and necessary actions agreed. It formed a useful mechanism to ensure WG legislation and guidance was followed consistently, together with proving a way to report back any practical issues that WG needed to be aware of. Each local IMT – Monmouthshire IMT also met weekly and was chaired by the Head of Public Protection – fed their local information into the Gwent IMT. Our meetings were also structured following the SBAR format.

2. Regional Oversight Group (ROG)

This had similar attendance to the Gwent IMT but considered practical matters such as the development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), any difficulties in local compliance, cross border issues, vaccination progress, testing regimes through Mass Vaccination Centres, mobile centres, consistent communications, considering modelling data to anticipate increasing case numbers, prioritisation frameworks, etc. ROG initially (2020) met 10 times a week, tapering down to once or twice a week by mid-2022. ROG was supported by a Regional Operational Planning Group (ROPG) attended by EHO Communicable Disease specialists. ROPG provided practical advice on the implementation of the various legislative and guidance changes, to isolation times, arriving traveller process, etc. and gave the invaluable opportunity to work collectively and consistently across the Aneurin Bevan region.

3. Local Resilience Forum (LRF)

The Gwent LRF were actively engaged throughout the pandemic, with representation from the five LA's, LA Emergency Planning, Gwent Police, ABUHB and PHW. High level decision making was escalated to the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) level if, for example, there were escalating Covid confirmed hospital occupancy levels. Gwent LRF compiled a 'Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan' which laid out roles, responsibilities and

governance arrangements for all the different groups, eg. TTP and local IMT's, Gwent IMT, ROG, Public Health Incident Practitioners (ABUHB), Testing sub-group, Public Service Board, etc. It was important all relevant groups were sighted on who was doing what from where and this was aided by excellent local communications and regular networking by individuals and groups.

4. Regional care home multi-disciplinary team (MDT)

Noting the specific risks associated with care homes across the region (over 100 in Gwent with 20 in Monmouthshire, see Appendix 3, section 12), the care homes MDT met weekly. The MDT's purpose was to seek to protect these vulnerable members of society by ensuring consistent messaging, translating latest WG guidance, working with Infection & Prevention Control (IPC) nurses, working with the providers regarding visiting rules, etc.

5. Gwent Test Trace Protect Service (GTTPS)

Initially there was a 'Coordination Unit' hosted by Torfaen CBC to oversee and report performance, support the 5 local TTP teams, etc. The function was transferred to Caerphilly in summer 2022, shortly after local IMT's were disbanded. From that time, Caerphilly's central GTTPS team picked up the priority track and trace service from the localities. GTTPS was supported by a WG funded EHO for each of the 5 LA's. That arrangement has remained in place until the current time.

Appendix Three provides the detail on how Monmouthshire CC's Track and Trace team operated for the two year period 2020 to summer 2022.