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Public Health Team, North Lincs



Coming in part way through the pandemic, the thing which has stood out in North Lincolnshire is how distributed the public health response to Covid is across the Council.

Early on, the Council knew a whole organisation response would be needed. North Lincolnshire Council sees itself as a public health organisation – it was this one-council ethos which underpinned the Covid response.

Managers across the organisations stepped up to lead on issues and services completely new to them, quickly building expertise in areas like testing and contact tracing. The public health team ran briefing sessions and training on key concepts for senior staff so they felt ready to lead on different aspects of the response.

They wanted an army of armchair epidemiologists - well informed ones, and now everyone in our outbreak management group is very well versed in the logic behind the actions in place to prevent transmission. Even if they had never heard of epidemiology before Covid.

A problem-based approach using case studies helped agree how to respond to different scenarios alongside modelling of different outcomes to understand potential impacts locally. They sourced specialist support for care homes early for infection control running training sessions and conducting site visits. They also got their recording systems up and running to make sure the latest picture at a local level was at their fingertips to enable an agile response as needed.

What are the key points in this story extract?

How does it resonate (or not) with your own experience of the COVID-19 pandemic?



IDEAS
ALLIANCE