

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(29 May 2020, 5.05pm)**

With the slight easing of lockdown restrictions and some lovely weather forecast for the weekend, I'm sure many of us are feeling more optimistic today.

It's been a long road and the journey is not over. For some of our colleagues, the journey began much earlier than 23 March.

I'm sure many of you remember reading in early January about a virus sweeping a Chinese city of 11 million people that many of us had never even heard of before. Little did we know then what a massive impact it would have on all of our lives.

Shortly after this, our Public Health Team began working on COVID-19, back when it was known as Coronavirus. They were at the forefront when we had our first case and led the early contact tracing which we will now see stepped up and rolled out into Test and Protect.

They established systems and testing centres for the testing of symptomatic staff and household contacts, planned systems for Test and Protect and mobilised and trained the first cohort of staff to undertake contact tracing.

They have also been providing expert infection control guidance for care homes and developed systems for testing residents and staff.

This is at the same time as continuing to manage other health protection incidents and many requests for public health advice.

In short, over the past 20 weeks they have shown remarkable professionalism and resilience. Their public health skills and experience have been invaluable and I know that many colleagues share my gratitude for the tremendous work done by the team.

Thank you.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here to check](#)