

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

28 September 2023

Subject: Annual Health Protection report 2022

Executive Summary

- I. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility for strategic leadership and oversight of health protection functions on behalf of the Council. This includes planning and response to threats to public health such as infectious disease, environmental hazards and contamination, and extreme weather. The Health and Wellbeing board, through the DPH, should be assured that arrangements in place locally are sufficient, robust and implemented accordingly to protect public health.
- II. The multi-agency Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group (HPAG) is the forum in which assurance is sought that adequate arrangements are in place for the prevention, surveillance, planning and response required to protect the public's health.
- III. The HPAG produces an annual report for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This provides an overview of health protection monitoring and surveillance, any significant issues with lessons learned, and recommendations for further development of the local health protection system.
- IV. A Health Protection Report 2022 has been prepared for the Board with information on and assurance of the health protection arrangements in Wiltshire. The scope of health protection in this context includes: immunisations, screening programmes, communicable diseases, health emergency planning, environmental hazards and migrant health.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes and acknowledges the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group Annual Report 2022;
- ii) Supports the recommendations of the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group Annual Report 2022

Reason for Proposal

To provide assurance of the local health protection arrangements for the population for Wiltshire, and to continue to develop the local health protection system through recommendations based on previous experience and evidence.

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Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

28 November 2019

Subject: Annual Health Protection Report 2022

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an annual update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the health protection system in Wiltshire in line with the Director of Public Health's statutory responsibility to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for the surveillance, prevention, planning and response required to protect the public's health.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. The health protection assurance group report outlines strategies, recommendations and workstreams to prevent ill-health through screening and immunisation programmes and communicable disease control, adopting a systems approach. Throughout the report there is a strategic focus on inequalities, ensuring all partners are working towards equitable access to health services for all Wiltshire residents and focusing on those groups that may be disproportionately affected by infectious diseases, cancer and other health threats.

Background

3. Health Protection is concerned with preventing and controlling infectious diseases, environmental threats, and protection from hazards. It uses population-wide surveillance and interventions to prevent disease and provide protection from a range of potential hazards and harms. To achieve this requires effective partnership working arrangements across several organisations.
4. Wiltshire has well-established and effective multi-agency working relationships, and a long history of collaborative working to deliver health protection functions. However, there are new and evolving challenges to population health, emerging epidemics and drug resistance, changing environments and demographics, and the ongoing risk of chemical and biological incidents. This clearly demands an ongoing robust health protection system.

5. The Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group is comprised of internal and external stakeholders, with the aim to provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board of Wiltshire Council, that adequate arrangements are in place for the prevention, surveillance, planning and response required to protect the public's health. The scope of the Group is to minimise hazards to human health for Wiltshire, and to ensure that any threats are promptly dealt with.
4. This report builds on the strategy that was developed using the information, recommendations and shared priorities identified in the Wiltshire Health Protection report 2019-21. The report has been agreed upon by the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group and will be used to ensure appropriate and adequate assurance systems are in place, and guide the workplan of the group based on identified gaps and needs, with a particular focus on inequalities.

Main Considerations

5. The report sets out the health protection activities, events and data for the calendar year 2022. Recommendations for continuing work are made with a focus on inequalities to highlight good practice, but also to identify system gaps and needs of the Wiltshire population. This report will further guide the workplan and health protection strategy and gives assurance that the health protection system across Wiltshire is robust and fit for purpose.
6. There is a focus on inequalities in this report and this will continue to be incorporated in all workstreams of health protection and be reported on in future reports.

Next Steps

7. Following sign off, the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group will take forward the recommendations from the report and map these to current workstreams, or initiate new projects. Where gaps in service delivery, data streams or strategy are identified, the Group will determine how best to take this forward and may create task and finish groups as required.
8. This is an annual report and the recommendations and priorities identified in this report will be addressed next year and presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health Protection Assurance Group reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and updates can be provided as felt to be appropriate.

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