

25 July 2019

Subject: Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19

Executive Summary

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.

A Health Protection Report 2018/19 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:

- Health care associated infections
- Prevention and control of infectious diseases
- Control of Environmental Hazards
- Emergency planning and response (including severe weather)
- Sexual Health
- National immunisation and screening programmes
- Substance Misuse

The process on reaching the priorities for our health protection work has been informed through monitoring key performance indicators, and through intelligence, debriefs of outbreaks and incidents and work plans of the Local Health Resilience Partnership & Local Resilience Forum which are based on Community Risk Registers. Through the formation of a Health Protection Committee we will:

- Provide assurance: continue to monitor performance of specialist areas, identify risks, ensure mitigation is in place and escalate as necessary.
- Continue to actively participate in the management of outbreaks and incidents, to slow down and prevent the spread of communicable disease and manage environmental hazards.
- Continue to improve routine immunisations uptake, especially those that haven't met the 95% target
- Support all aspects of the Air Quality Action Plans.
- Improve the uptake of flu vaccinations in at risk groups, pregnant women, health and social care workers, and carers.
- Continue to reduce health inequalities in screening and immunisation programmes.

- Healthcare and other professionals should offer and recommend HIV and HCV tests to any patient who has injected drugs.
- Ensure that population groups at increased risk can access HIV testing online and in community settings

Proposal(s)

The Board notes and acknowledges the Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19 document (see appendix 1) and supports the formation of a multi-agency Health Protection Committee.

Reason for Proposal

The finalised Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19 is required to be sent to the Health and Wellbeing Board for their oversight to provide the Board with information on and assurance of the health protection arrangements in Wiltshire. Through establishing a Health Protection Committee any threats or hazards to human health can be minimized and promptly dealt with.

Presenter name: Tracy Daszkiewicz

Title: Director of Public Health

Organisation: Wiltshire Council

Subject: Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19 (Appendix 1).

Background

2. On 1st April 2013 significant changes took place in the health and social care landscape following implementation of the new NHS and Social Care Act (2012). At this time, the majority of former NHS Public Health responsibilities transferred to upper tier and unitary local authorities including the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Public Health.
3. NHS and Social Care Act (2012) states the Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility for strategic leadership and oversight of health protection functions on behalf of the Council [1]. 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. This is also a requirement following the introduction of the Act.
4. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 brought about a significant change in the commissioning landscape across England. The impact of this transition saw the responsibility for the commissioning of most national screening and immunisation programmes move from a single NHS commissioning body to 2 separate organisations. Locally these organisations are NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England.
5. Ensuring equitable uptake of screening and vaccination remains a priority in the county. Overall uptake is good. Further work is needed to increase and or/maintain the uptake of some preschool immunisations and influenza vaccination in some groups.
6. The consequences of inadequate health protection measures can lead to spread of infections, illness and major incidents. Therefore, assurance reports/plans from partners agencies is required to ensure all health protection risks are mitigated.

7. Certain Blood Borne Viruses remain incurable and can lead to a dramatic reduction in life expectancy. HIV although treatable remains a condition which cannot be completely cured, leading to long term medical implications for anyone infected with the virus, especially if they are diagnosed after the virus has begun to damage their immune system. It is estimated that the lifetime treatment costs for a single person diagnosed with HIV is c.£380,000 but this amount doubles for someone who is diagnosed 'late'.

Link to Corporate Plan

8.
 - a. Growing the economy - Standards of local services need to be high to prevent the spread of infectious disease, for example through infection and prevention control, food hygiene, and clinical governance.
 - b. Strong communities - Emergency preparedness, response and recovery for environmental and chemical hazards, in addition to control and prevention of infectious disease are required to maintain access to work and education.
 - c. Protecting those who are most vulnerable - To ensure residents feel safe and well, robust health protection measures should be in place to both prevent and minimise risks that may harm health.

Main Considerations

9. The Health Protection report recommends actions for Wiltshire Council and partner organisations to reduce ill health from infections, emergencies and environmental hazards. Our vision is that Wiltshire will be a place where individuals and communities are informed, enabled, motivated and empowered to be able to protect themselves and others from health protection risks.
10. For a Health Protection Committee to be set up to enable it to provide health protection assurance in Wiltshire and to consider the needs of residents in respect of the risks and priorities concerning health protection and as such will start the process of bringing together a range of organisations to work together to achieve this.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

11. The Health Protection Committee going forward will agree and set the priorities so that the DPH, on behalf of the local authority, is assured that suitable arrangements are in place in Wiltshire to protect the health of the population.

12. The Health Protection Committee going forward will agree and sign off the Health Protection Assurance report before it is sent to the Health and Wellbeing Board for oversight.

Public Health Implications

13. Health protection is the domain of public health that seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable diseases, and to minimise the health impact of environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation, and extreme weather events. In the context of the DPH function, it is also extended to include national cancer and non-cancer screening programmes.

Conclusions

14. The report has recommended further actions to maintain and improve health protection with a vision to ensure that residents are supported to reduce the risk of infections, have timely access to diagnosis and treatment services should they become infected to improve their health outcomes and prevent further transmission. To help the local communities to continue to be resilient or become so through community engagement with emergency planning.

Next Steps

15. A multi-agency Health Protection Committee will be established to minimise hazards to human health, and to ensure that any threats are promptly dealt with. Geographically, the scope covers the population of Wiltshire resident and non-residents who visit. Governance for Committee will be the Health and Wellbeing Board; updates will be provided periodically and a report will be produced on an annual basis.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018/19

Background Papers

None