

## Wiltshire Council

### Health and Wellbeing Board

8 September 2022

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**Subject: Wiltshire Health Protection Strategy 2022-2026**

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#### **Executive Summary**

The role of the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group is to provide assurance on behalf of the population of Wiltshire that there are safe and effective plans in place to protect local population health. This includes infectious disease control, infection prevention and control, emergency planning, environmental health, and screening and immunisation programmes.

The Group therefore takes a strategic lead for Health Protection, provides a professional forum for discussion/collaboration, ensures plans are tested, reviews risks and outbreaks as appropriate, and seeks assurance that quality improvements and incident 'lessons learnt' are embedded in practice.

The purpose of developing this strategy, is to build on work previously carried out and focus on areas agreed by the Health Protection Assurance Group.

This strategy is structured around the shared priorities highlighted by the Wiltshire Health Protection Report 2019-2021 and agreed by the Health Protection Assurance Group

The key topics that have been agreed for 2022-2026 are:

- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) – including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Immunisation
- Screening
- Infectious Diseases
- Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)
- Environmental hazards to health, safety, and pollution control

Each of the above priorities has further objectives based on local data and requirements. The objectives are as follows:

1. Continue to embed infection control in everyday practice
2. Continue to reduce HCAs and AMR
3. Maintain or increase (as appropriate) uptake across all vaccination and

screening programmes

4. Help to reduce incidences of infectious diseases, whilst raising awareness
5. EPRR objective: contribute to plan writing. Involvement when plans are exercised and training in provided
6. Maintain the good air quality in the county and strive to deliver improvements in areas where air quality fails national objectives in order to protect public health and the environment

The strategy will help create focussed and co-ordinated areas of work for system partners, and strengthen assurance processes. This will maintain and build on the strong relationships made during the COVID-19 pandemic response, address needs identified across a breadth of health protection risks and challenges, and identify new opportunities for shared working between system partners.

### **Proposal(s)**

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes and acknowledges the Wiltshire Health Protection Strategy 2022- 2026 document (see appendix 1) and supports the priorities set out in the document

### **Reason for Proposal**

The Wiltshire Health Protection Strategy 2022- 2026 will provide priorities and key outcomes for the Health Protection Assurance Group, which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Presenter name: Michael Allum**

**Title: Consultant in Public Health**

**Organisation: Wiltshire Council**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Wiltshire Health Protection Strategy (Appendix 1).

#### **Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

2. Prevention - 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.
3. Localisation - 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.
4. Tackling inequalities - To effectively target those immunisation programmes with lower levels of uptake and to increase specific engagement and uptake in communities with lower uptake rates. The Health Protection strategy will facilitate working with partners to help raise awareness of infectious diseases especially in certain groups e.g. rough sleepers/homeless, people who inject drugs, boater/travellers

#### **Background**

5. 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 a quality workforce, educated, and trained to the highest standards and relies on effective working arrangements across several organisations to work well together strengthening areas of the health protection system.
6. 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.

7. 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.
8. The strategy has been developed using the information, recommendations and shared priorities identified in the Wiltshire Health Protection report 2019-21. The strategy 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.

### **Main Considerations**

9. The strategy sets out the partnership approach and specific priorities for Health Protection across Wiltshire for 2022 -2026.It 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.
10. The strategy will help create focussed and co-ordinated areas of work for system partners, and strengthen assurance processes. This will maintain and build on the strong relationships made during the COVID-19 pandemic response, address needs identified across a breadth of health protection risks and challenges, and identify new opportunities for shared working between system partners.

### **Next Steps**

11. Following sign off, the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group will map existing workstreams against the strategy priorities and ensure there is sufficient reporting from those to the Group. Where gaps in strategy delivery are identified, the Group will determine how best to take this forward, and may create task and finish groups as required.
12. The group reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and updates can be provided on the strategy implementation as felt to be appropriate.

**Presenter name: Dr Michael Allum**

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