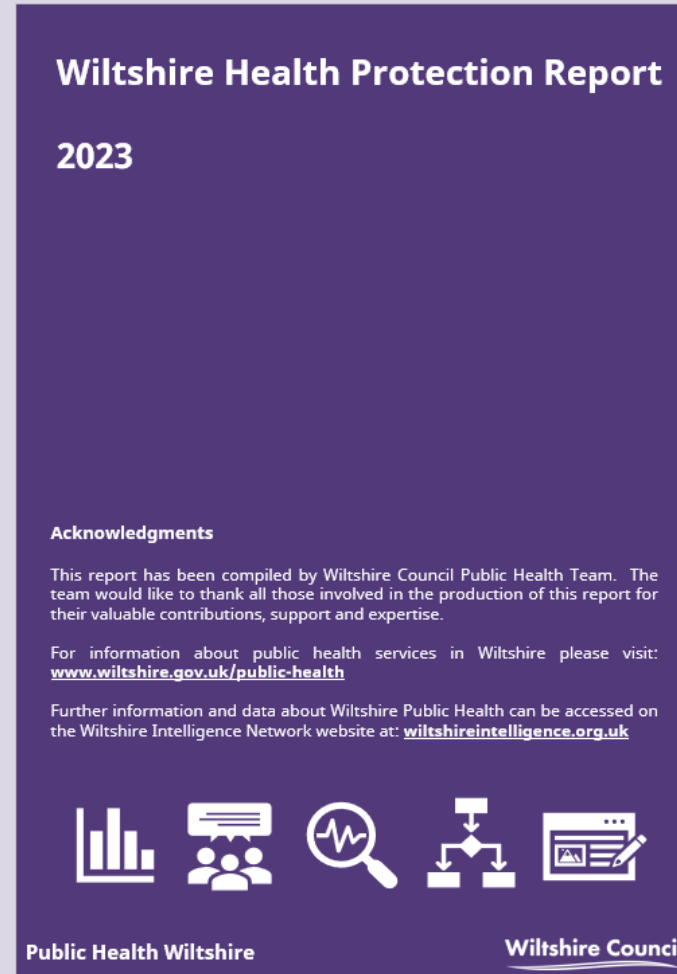


Wiltshire Health Protection Report 2023

Wiltshire Council Health and Wellbeing Board
30th January 2025

Gemma Brinn, Public Health Consultant

- Provides assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board of the systems and measures in place to protect the public's health from threats and hazards, and summarises the year in health protection
- Produced on behalf of the DPH by Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group, a multi-agency partnership
- Supports key areas of the Joint Health and Being Strategy of Prevention, and Tackling Inequalities



Infection Prevention and Management

Concentrating on educational and care providers and medium-term focus will be on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infections (HCAI)

Environmental hazards

A continuing focus with public protection on improving local air quality and raising awareness of the health effects of poor air quality.

Immunisations

Initial focus will be understanding rates of MMR uptake in pre school children and implementing an action plan to improve this. Medium term focus is school provided immunisations, pertussis vaccinations for pregnant women and shingles for 70s and over.

Communicable diseases

The short term focus will be on raising awareness of certain infectious diseases in specific groups .e.g., drugs and alcohol services, and rough sleepers. A medium term focus will be to work on a latent TB screening service for eligible Wiltshire residents.

Health Emergency Planning

Working with health partners and the Wiltshire and Swindon LHRP to continue to update the BSW communicable disease plan, exercising this and having a plan to ensure local teams are aware of the content.

Screening

Short term focus will be on increasing uptake to breast, cervical and bowel screening programmes, with a particular focus on inequities in access to cervical screening. This will then lead on to work looking at non cancer screening programmes such as abdominal aortic aneurysm, diabetic eye and antenatal screening

Migration and Global Events

Throughout 2023 there were a number of conflicts across the world affecting migration and economies.

Conflict in Ukraine and Sudan displaced over 5 million people and Hamas attacked Israel leading to prolonged fighting.

In 2023, 102,283 people were offered a safe and legal route to come to or remain in the UK

Economy

The UK economy grew by just 0.1%.

Private rental prices continued to grow at a record high putting pressure on affordability.

The cost of living crisis in the UK posed threats to health primarily due to greater food and energy insecurity, higher stress levels and reduced provision of health and social care.

Climate Change

2023 was confirmed as the warmest year on record globally and the second warmest for England.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) published the 2023 report 'Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK' outlining the direct and indirect affects including heatwaves, flooding, climate sensitive infectious diseases, air quality and food security.

Infectious Diseases

The WHO ended the public health emergency of international concern on 5th May 2023.

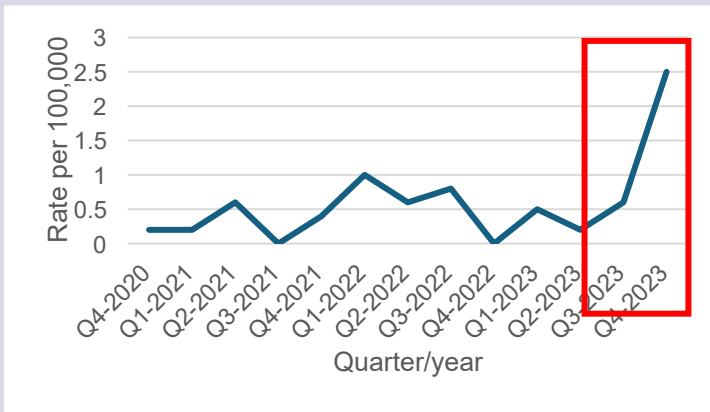
An increase internationally of several infectious diseases including polio, cholera, measles, dengue and mpox. The UK saw the largest annual numbers of cases of gonorrhoea since records began and syphilis since 1948. A fall in vaccination uptake, international travel, increased mixing following pandemic restrictions and a changing climate has contributed to these increases.

Resurgence of infections

In July 2023 UKHSA outlined the risk of measles resurgence due to fall in MMR coverage. The end of the year saw increases in other regions but rates in the South West and Wiltshire at the time remained low.



Pertussis is a cyclical disease which peaks every 3-5 years. In late 2023 cases rose in England and there were a total of 856 cases during the year compared with 68 cases in 2022. This rising pattern was reflected in Wiltshire, the rate notably increasing between Q2 - Q4 (below).



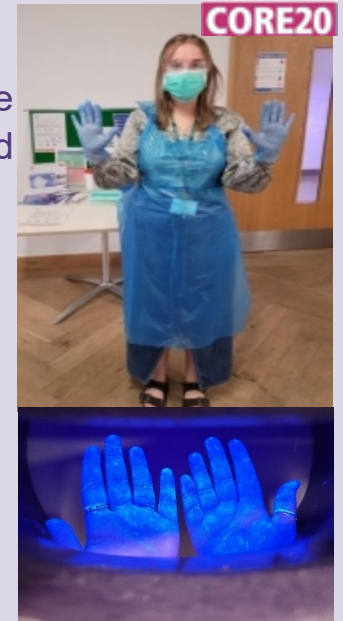
Care worker support

Throughout 2023 the health protection team alongside teams in adult social care and UKHSA continued to support care providers with proactive and reactive advice.

Care provider sharepoint went live allowing quick and easy sharing of information directly with staff in care homes.

Five care worker events were held in the run up to the winter period, with a focus on infection prevention and management, infectious disease outbreak response and staff wellbeing.

These were a series of collaborative events with representatives from a range of teams including health protection, sexual health and wider determinants public health colleagues and the BSW ICB Infection Prevention Control and vaccination hub teams.



Recommendations include building on the engagement with social care staff on IPC messaging, and continued collaborative working across the health protection system to be assured of pathways for early identification of increases in communicable disease incidence.

Immunisation: Pre-School (under 5s)

MMR2 and the pre-school booster uptake are below optimum performance standard of 95% but above national averages (MMR2 85%, pre-school booster 84.1%).

DTaP/IPV primary	96.70%
MMR1	96.40%
Hib MenC	95.80%
MMr2	92.60%
DTaP/IPV	91.50%

Immunisation: School age

When looking at uptake by IMD decile there is a correlation with the highest uptake being in the least deprived areas. There is also a correlation with uptake being lower in those from an ethnic minority.

- lowest uptake of school aged immunisations is classed as IMD 2.
- The area with the highest uptake is classed as IMD 9.

Immunisation: Pregnancy

Pertussis vaccination in pregnancy



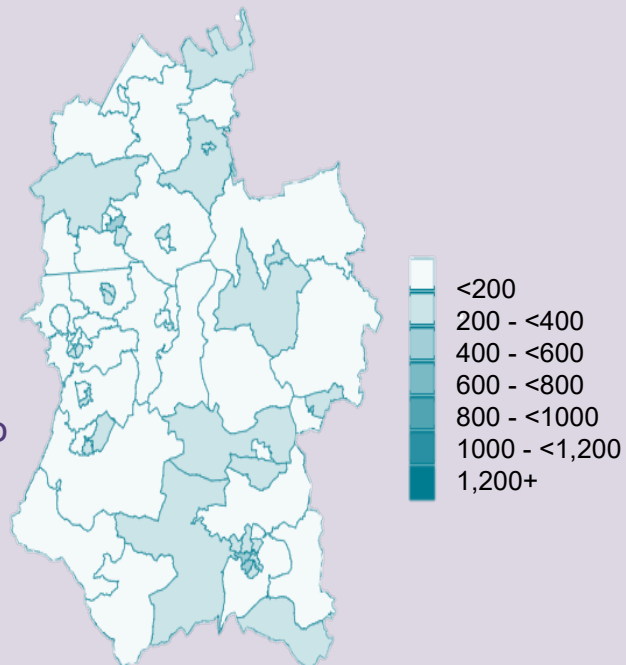
In December 2023, coverage in BSW ICB had fallen to 52.4% from 71.8% in December 2022. This can be partly explained by expanded roll out of the programme into maternity units and records of these vaccinations not appearing on GP records at some sites.

Recommendations include action to investigate and review vaccination confidence in Wiltshire, exploring attitudes and beliefs around childhood immunisation and vaccines given in pregnancy and seeking assurance of availability and data recording of maternal vaccinations to all Wiltshire residents.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

A total of 1,602 new STIs were diagnosed in residents of Wiltshire in 2023. This was a reduction by 208 diagnoses compared to 2022 (1810)

The map shows that new STI diagnoses (excluding Chlamydia in under 25s) mapped by middle super output area. Higher rates seen in Salisbury, Amesbury, Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge, Melksham, Chippenham, Calne, Royal Wooten Bassett and Cricklade. These represent areas with a higher proportion young people aged 15-24 who continue to be disproportionately impacted by STIs.



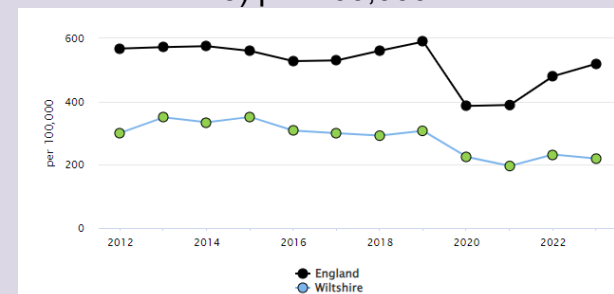
Wiltshire Sexual Health Service (WiSe) run community clinics in Trowbridge, Melksham,

Recommendations include obtaining more detailed data on home testing and opportunistic testing to aim to target testing, with particular focus on those disproportionately affected by STIs, and also to produce a report using STI and HIV data in Wiltshire to inform a refreshed sexual health action plan and strategy.

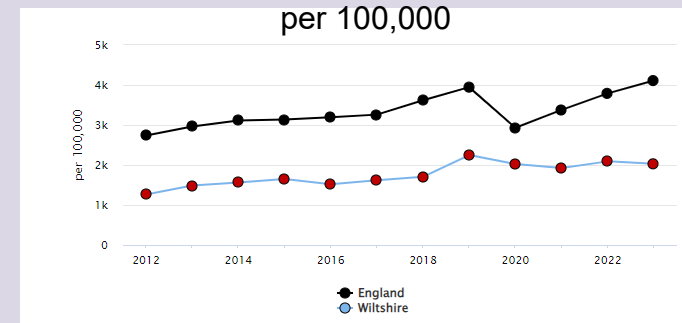
The diagnosis rate for STIs show rates of STIs are lower in Wiltshire than the England average. This needs to be interpreted with caution however as the overall STI testing rate is lower than national and regional averages (and decreased 3% since 2022).

Rates of gonorrhoea and syphilis have followed national trends of increased diagnosis, although Wiltshire have not seen the same sharp rise in cases as England.

New STI diagnoses (excl. Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000



STI testing rate (excl. Chlamydia aged under 25) per 100,000



It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes and acknowledges the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group Annual Report 2023;
- ii) Supports the recommendations of the Wiltshire Health Protection Assurance Group Annual Report 2023.

Next Steps:

- i) Recommendations from the report to be integrated into the Health Protection Strategy Implementation plan to monitor progress and initiate action or collaboration where required
- ii) Health Protection Assurance Group retain focus of delivery of the Health Protection Strategy