

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
MEETING DATE:	<b>Thursday 7 November 2024</b>
TITLE:	<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Health Protection Board Report 2023-24</b>
WARD:	All
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
Appendix 1: B&NES Health Protection Board Annual Report 2023-2024	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

In April 2013 the Health and Social Care Regulations changed the statutory responsibility for health protection arrangements. All Local Authorities (LAs) acquired new responsibilities regarding protecting the health of their population, including infectious disease, environmental hazards, and extreme weather events. The Director of Public Health (DPH) discharges these responsibilities on behalf of the LA and the B&NES Health Protection Board was established in November 2013 to help the LA and DPH fulfil this role.

LAs work with Local Resilience Forums and Local Health Resilience Partnerships to ensure effective and tested plans are in place for the wider health sector to protect the local population from risks to its health.

The DPH should be assured that the planning and preparedness arrangements to protect the health of the communities that they serve are robust and are implemented appropriately to local health needs capturing major communicable disease risks, major incidents involving a health sector response and that there is adequate capacity from relevant partner agencies to plan for and respond to health-related emergencies.

This annual report documents the progress made by the Health Protection Board on the priorities and recommendations made in the 2023-24 report, highlights the key areas of work that have taken place in 2023-24, and sets out the HPB priorities agreed for 2024-25.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The B&NES Health & Wellbeing Board notes this annual report and the following recommended priorities for the Health Protection Board in 2024-25:

- a) Assurance: continue to monitor the performance of specialist areas, identify risks, ensure mitigation is in place and escalate as necessary
- b) Continue to actively participate in the prevention, preparedness and management of outbreaks and incidents with partner agencies to slow down and prevent the spread of communicable disease and manage environmental hazards
- c) Continue to ensure that the public and partner organisations are informed about emerging threats to health
- d) Help improve immunisation uptake and reduce inequalities in uptake, particularly MMR vaccination. Contribute to the development of a new Integrated Vaccine Strategy for BSW and outreach vaccination model for B&NES.
- e) Scope the health protection work that could be undertaken to support prevention of climate change and mitigation of climate change impact and make recommendations for action.
- f) Review B&NES coverage for each NHS screening programme to identify needs/gaps and priorities for action.

## **3. THE REPORT**

The full report is contained in Appendix 1.

The priorities have been agreed by the Health Protection Board, as key issues to be addressed for the DPH, on behalf of the LA, to be further assured that suitable arrangements are in place in B&NES to protect the health of the population. The Health Protection Board is committed to improving all work streams.

The process of reaching the recommended priorities has been informed through discussion at the HPB, monitoring key performance indicators, maintaining a risk log, use of local and national intelligence, and learning from debriefs of outbreaks and incidents. They are also informed by Local Health Resilience Partnership & Local Resilience Forum work plans, which are based on Community Risk Registers. The recommended priorities also align with the UK Health Security Agencies and B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board priorities.

The recommendations contribute to the delivery of the B&NES Council Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 by including priorities that focus on prevention and help to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

### **3 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

Several of the DPH's specific responsibilities and duties arise directly from Acts of Parliament. The National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended) Section 73A (1) gives the DPH responsibility for exercising their local authority's functions in planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to the public's health.

Local authorities also have statutory responsibilities to reduce inequalities, and many of the actions needed to deliver the 2024-25 priorities of the Health Protection Board will contribute towards fulfilling these.

### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

None. The delivery of priorities will be subject to available existing resources.

### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

#### **Risks relating to proposed recommendation(s)**

No significant risks identified

#### **Risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

If the H&WB does not note the work of the Health Protection Board, system assurance for health protection work will not be fully met. If the H&WB notes the recommended future priorities, but recommends that the HPB change any priorities, this can be achieved but could have implications for current projects and resources.

#### **Actions to manage risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

System partners are already engaged in the work of the HPB; both in informing priorities and in delivering against these.

### **6 EQUALITIES**

The paper is largely retrospective and so an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been included. However, the need to ensure equalities are considered and inequalities are reduced, inform all health protection projects.

### **7 CLIMATE CHANGE**

The following two recommendations relate directly to climate change: b) Continue to ensure that the public are informed about emerging threats to health and e) Scope the health protection

work that could be undertaken to support prevention of climate change and mitigation of climate change impact and make recommendations for action.

## 8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

## 9 CONSULTATION

This report has been reviewed and cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer and reviewed and approved by the Director of Public Health and Prevention and the Consultant in Public Health Lead for Health Protection ahead of submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>N/a</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	