

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	Thursday 6 November 2025
TITLE:	Bath & North East Somerset Health Protection Board Report 2024-25
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: B&NES Health Protection Board Annual Report 2024-2025	

1 THE ISSUE

In April 2013 the Health and Social Care Regulations changed the statutory responsibility for health protection arrangements. All Councils acquired new responsibilities with regard to protecting the health of their population. Specifically, the Director of Public Health (DPH), on behalf of the local authority, has to assure themselves that relevant organisations have appropriate plans in place to protect the population against a range of threats and hazards and to ensure that necessary action is being taken. B&NES Health Protection Board was established in November 2013 to help the DPH to fulfil this role.

This annual report documents the progress made by the Health Protection Board on the priorities and recommendations made in the 2024-25 report, highlights the key areas of work that have taken place in 2024-25, and sets out the HPB priorities agreed for 2025-26.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The B&NES Health & Wellbeing Board notes this annual report and endorses the following priorities agreed by the Health Protection Board for 2025-26:

- 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) Contribute to regional planning on the delegation of vaccination responsibilities from NHS England to the ICB, and to local vaccination planning, to support vaccination and inequality outcomes.
- e) Implement actions to support prevention of climate change and mitigation of climate change impact
- f) Improve uptake of NHS screening programmes with a focus on breast and cervical screening programmes.
- g) Support the delivery of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care System Infection Prevention and Management Strategy 2024-2027, to ensure that the local interventions and workplans to progress the purpose, principles and seven ambitions of the Southwest Strategy are implemented.

3. THE REPORT

The full report is contained in Appendix 1.

These priorities have been agreed by the Health Protection Board as key issues to be addressed in order for the DPH, on behalf of the local authority, 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 help to tackle the climate and ecological emergency, and which focus on prevention.

3 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

This is a statutory role of the Director of Public Health acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. A number of the priorities will help to address health inequalities, particularly the focus on screening and immunisation programmes.

Improving air quality in B&NES will directly impact health, inequalities, sustainability and the natural environment.

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) Implement actions to support prevention of climate change and mitigation of climate change impact

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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Background papers	N/a
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