

# North Somerset Council

## REPORT TO THE NORTH SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**DATE OF MEETING: 30.10.2019**

## **SUBJECT OF REPORT: 2018-19 Health Protection Assurance Group Annual Report**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: MATT LENNY DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **REASON:**

This report seeks to provide assurance that all appropriate steps are being taken to meet local health protection needs and is therefore not a key decision.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Health & Wellbeing board:

- are assured that all appropriate steps are being taken to meet local health protection needs
- note progress against the 2018-19 priorities of the Health Protection Assurance Group
- endorse the priorities set for 2019-20 and consider what support and actions the board can take to further strengthen local health protection outcomes

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The attached report supports Elected Members in their role overseeing the effectiveness of local health protection arrangements. It provides a summary of activity reported to the North Somerset Health Protection Assurance Group (HPAG), an update on progress against priorities set during 2018-19 and identifies seven priority work areas for 2019-20.

HPAG considers good progress was made overall against the 2018-19 priorities and is assured that local organisations have appropriate plans in place to protect the population. A small number of risks were identified throughout the year with appropriate mitigation put in place. These are described in the report.

The report is made up of two sections:

- An easy-to-read summary describing key activity delivered (pages 4-5)
- A detailed breakdown under each of the main work areas (page 11 onwards)

## **2. POLICY**

The North Somerset Health Protection Assurance Group (HPAG) was established in September 2013. The HPAG provides a mechanism to assure the People and Communities Board, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Director of Public Health that there are safe, effective and well-tested plans in place and appropriate activity is being delivered to protect the health of the population.

## **3. DETAILS**

The scope of the Health Protection Assurance Group is:

- emergency planning
- environmental health and communicable disease control
- screening and immunisation programmes
- effective management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses
- infection prevention and control

The report provides a multi-agency overview of health protection activity. Key contributors include: Public Health (People and Communities Directorate); Environmental Health (Development & Environment Directorate); Community Safety and Drug Action (Corporate Services Directorate); Emergency Management Unit (Corporate Services Directorate); the Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health England; NHS England Area Team and the Local Health Resilience Partnership.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

This report has been considered by the Health Protection Assurance Group and the Corporate Management Team. It will be shared with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Managing risk effectively will reduce potential costs of health protection issues in North Somerset, for example, a major civic incident or outbreak of communicable disease  
[Click here to enter Financial Implications]

### **Costs**

NA

### **Funding**

NA

## **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

This report provides assurance that there are safe, effective and well-tested plans in place and appropriate activity delivered to protect the health of the local population as required by legislation including the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), the NHS Act (2006) and the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Severe weather events and flooding impact on the environment and are increasing in severity and frequency. This impacts on local health protection response arrangements and resources, the local NSC Climate Change Plan should help mitigate some of these pressures.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The HPAG monitor specialist health protection areas through a risk register that is reviewed and updated with control measures. Risks identified for 2018-19 have been mitigated where possible. They can be summarised as:

- Robust local tested plans to respond and support Communicable Disease Control - the plan is due to be updated and finalised by the end of March 2020.
- Childhood Immunisation rates measles mumps rubella MMR- locally rates remain higher than the England average but are under the 95% uptake target and will continue to be monitored.
- Flu vaccination rates - improved performance across several target population groups
- Infection prevention and control in care homes – training provided, and ongoing needs being addressed

## **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

No

Equality Impact Assessment not relevant for this report as it provides an overview of activity across a range of services. Equality duties are met and reported by individual organisations in the routine commissioning and delivery of local services.

## **10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

Ensuring robust emergency response plans are in place is a key responsibility of the Health Protection Assurance Group. Progress continues to be made this year to ensure emergency response plans of the Council and partner agencies are aligned and can be operationalised when required.

## **11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

## **AUTHOR**

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## **APPENDICES**

North Somerset Health Protection Assurance Group Report 2018-19