

DECISION-MAKER:	Health & Wellbeing Board
SUBJECT:	Health Protection (HP) Annual Report
DATE OF DECISION:	13 December 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR LORNA FIELKER CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH AND CARE

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
N/a

BRIEF SUMMARY
This briefing paper summarises the Health Protection Annual Report (see appendix) which aims to provide assurance on behalf of the Director of Public Health and the Health & Wellbeing Board in respect of delivery of the local health protection function in Southampton.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
(i) To note the contents of this paper and the Health Protection Report (Appendix 1).

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS
1. The HP report is a formal record of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity and developments nationally and locally relating to health protection • Health Protection Board (HPB) activity • Situations and issues relating to health protection over the last year • Work to develop and maintain preparedness, and capacity to respond to future incidents • Priorities for the next year • Highlights of key issues and risks

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
2. N/a

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)
3. Background

	<p>The Director of Public Health has a responsibility under the National Health Service (NHS) Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to provide assurance to the Local Authority on the adequacy of prevention, surveillance, planning and response to reduce the harm from health protection issues that affect Southampton residents.</p>
	<p>Health Protection is a term used to encompass a wide range of activities within public health aimed at protecting the population from both infectious diseases, and non-infectious threats to health, such as chemicals or extreme weather. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Southampton City Council is a Category One responder which places a legal duty on the organisation to respond to major incidents and emergencies. Delivery of the health protection function therefore requires close planning and coordination with multiple internal and external agencies including Emergency Planning, Environmental Health and Port Health, as well as the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who are the lead agency for planning and responding to health protection issues and incidents in the UK. Public Health also work closely with NHS colleagues, early years and educational providers and the voluntary sector.</p>
	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, like many Local Authorities, the Southampton City Council Public Health team rapidly expanded the Health Protection capacity, through fixed-term posts and reprioritisation of existing staff responsibilities to undertake the significant volume of work generated by the pandemic. IN recognition of the crucial role that local authorities play in supporting the delivery of the health protection function, a small amount of this capacity has been retained to help strengthen the organisation’s capability and resilience to respond to future health threats, as well as support and lead other work streams across broader public health portfolios. This also means that some of the learning and expertise gained during the pandemic has been retained within the organisation.</p>
	<p>The health protection annual report draws together work undertaken by the Health Protection team. It is structured around three priority areas: Prepare, Response, Build, which are set out in the UKHSA three year strategic plan, published in August 2023.</p>
4.	<p>Prepare</p> <p>Preparedness involves ensuring that the organisation and its partners are prepared for future health threats, such as emerging infection disease, or increasing threats from climate change and extreme weather. As well as attending several multi-agency scenario-based exercises, several health focussed emergency plans have been updated and developed in partnership with colleagues in Emergency Planning, and work has been undertaken to capture learning from the COVID response.</p> <p>Partnership working: a key mechanism for facilitating partnership working is the Health Protection Board (HPB). This multi-agency forum meets quarterly to consider local health protection issues. The HPB is chaired and facilitated by the Consultant lead for Health Protection. Meetings follow a standard agenda with a focussed item each time. IN the last year these have included: the renewed Air Quality Action Plan, Childhood Immunisations and Adverse Weather and Health Plan (SWHP).</p>

	Communications Campaigns: the HP team together with Communications colleague support and input into multiple campaigns, in conjunction with other agencies, in an effort to get public health messages out to residents and raise awareness of specific issues. These have included World TB Day, tick awareness, summer awareness campaign, scarlet fever and measles.
5.	Respond
	A significant element of health protection involves response to situations and incidents when they happen. Whilst UKHSA regional Health Protection Teams (HPTs) lead on the response to outbreaks, Southampton City Council's Health Protection team provide additional support including local intelligence and insights. Over the last 12 months the team has supported numerous incidents, situations and enquiries.
6.	Build
	The health protection capability continues to be built through improved data and intelligence (such as the development of a Southampton Health Protection dashboard), strengthening relationships through the Health Protection Board, and with key City Council services such as Emergency Planning, Port Health & Environmental Health, and by EPRR Training, and continuous professional development opportunities for the health protection and broader public health team. Quarterly monitoring of the health protection function takes places part of the public health performance and monitoring reviews.
7.	Links with the Southampton Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	Objectives relevant to health protection within the current Health & Wellbeing Strategy include the promotion of immunisation, focus on clean air, and through reducing avoidable deaths linked to fuel poverty (excess winter deaths). These outcomes can be measured through population vaccination coverage (such as MMR at 1 and 5 years), fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution, and excess winter deaths index.
8.	The appendix to this paper forms the Health Protection Report.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
	There are no financial implications for Southampton City Council in relation to maintenance of this function over the Public Health Grant-funded officer costs.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	N/a
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	National Health Service (NHS) Act 2006
	Health and Social Care Act 2012
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
	N/a

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
	N/a
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
	N/a

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Health Protection Report (PowerPoint presentation)

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	
2.	