

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

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Report for Information

Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	7. 01.19
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Christine Lawrence (Cabinet Member)	17.12.18
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	17.12.18

Summary:	<p>The Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report documents the progress made during the last 12 months and the identified priorities for the next year.</p> <p>In summary the Director of Public Health is assured that systems are in place to protect the health of the population, however there are opportunities during 2019 to strengthen these.</p> <p>Throughout 2018 there have been significant challenges within and affecting Somerset that required a system wide response, while these challenges were met there were questions raised regarding capacity and opportunities identified for improvement through planning, prevention and mitigation.</p> <p>These lessons are captured throughout this document and reflected within the 2019 strategic priorities, which are:</p> <p>4.1 Communicable Diseases Ensure robust communicable disease incident and outbreak response arrangements are in place and embedded across the Somerset system.</p> <p>Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support Public Health England to finalise the Incident and Outbreak Response Framework across the South West;• Work across the partnership to ensure actions required for local implementation; and• Review and agree the Somerset Health Protection
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Memorandum of Understanding.

4.2 Environmental Hazards

Ensure initiatives to reduce or mitigate the impacts of environmental hazards on population health are supported and prioritised.

Building on existing organisational priorities, key actions include:

- Support targeted projects to review and improve water quality in vulnerable institutions such as educational establishments;
- Support adoption of the Somerset Air Quality Strategy and projects identified to improve air quality; and
- Raise awareness of the impact on health from housing standards and support local initiatives to address significant hazards such as Legionella.

4.3 Infection Prevention and Control

Ensure infection prevention and control priorities address local need and reflect national ambition. Recognising areas for improvement identified during 2018 and the context surrounding infection prevention and control, key actions include:

- Identify initiatives to improve community infection prevention and control amongst vulnerable populations, specifically intravenous drug users and the homeless;
- Raise awareness of the national strategy to address antimicrobial resistance and support / develop local initiatives as appropriate; and
- Support the CCG to reduce the burden of disease associated with Gram Negative Blood Stream Infections

4.4 Resilience

Ensure local and regional emergency response arrangements are in place to protect the health of the population.

Working closely with local and regional forums, key actions include:

- Maintain a system wide understanding of priorities and challenges within the emergency planning, resilience and response community and ensure that lessons identified in major incidents (such as Salisbury / Amesbury) are embedded in local system response;
- Support activity and coordination between local groups and regional forums; and
- Consider the role of communities in reducing the impact of winter pressures on primary and emergency / urgent care.

	<p>4.5 Screening and immunisation Ensure screening and immunisation programmes meet national standards and where work is required to increase uptake, reflect local priorities to achieve national standards. In support of the existing screening and immunisation programme in Somerset, key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a health equity audit on uptake of one specific screening programme to be determined; • Secure access to uptake data on screening and immunisation programmes at lower geographical levels in order to identify where remedial action is required to improve overall coverage, as this has fallen across all immunisation programmes during 2017/18; and • Improve uptake of the seasonal flu vaccination for those working directly with vulnerable service users.
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the report, and endorses the priorities proposed for 2018/19 covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicable Diseases; 2. Environmental Hazards; 3. Infection Prevention and Control; 4. Resilience; and 5. Screening and Immunisations.
<p>Reasons for recommendations:</p>	<p>The Somerset Health Protection Forum and Director of Public Health have identified actions within these priorities as key issues to address in order to be assured that suitable arrangements are in place to protect the health of the Somerset population and reaches vulnerable populations within Somerset .</p>
<p>Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>	<p>This report supports the following Improving Lives in Somerset Strategy priorities: Priority 2. Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment. Priority 4. Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer.</p>
<p>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</p>	<p>This is a statutory role of the Director of Public Health acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Equalities Implications:</p>	<p>There are no equalities implications arising directly from accepting this report. The identified priorities for the coming</p>

	<p>year will help to address health inequalities.</p> <p>The recommendation to undertake a health equity audit on the uptake on one adult screening programme during 2019, will give insight into uptake of programmes among different groups that make up our local population.</p>
Risk Assessment:	<p>Failure to address the identified priorities could lead to the Director of Public Health being unable to be assured about arrangements in place to protect public health in the county.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1. The Director of Public Health (DPH) of Somerset County Council has a statutory duty to seek assurance that measures are in place to protect the health of the Somerset population. In order to make sure that the DPH is fully informed about the work of partners and can be so assured, the Somerset Health Protection Forum was created in March 2013.

2. Options Considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. Considered and not relevant.

3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1 No consultations have been undertaken, this is an assurance report

4. Implications

- 4.1. The Somerset Health Protection Forum needs the endorsement of the Health & Well-being board on the recommendations proposed, including work priorities for next year, to ensure partners can commit resources (staff time) to working to address these priorities

5. Background papers

- 5.1 Somerset Health Protection, Strategic Action Plan. 2017-18