

## Somerset Health Protection Annual Assurance Report 2021

Lead Officer: *Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health*

Author: *Alison Bell, Consultant in Public Health/ Jessica Bishop, Health Protection Manager*

Contact Details: 07890581023

<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	<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 2022 to strengthen the health protection system.</p> <p>2021 has been another year dominated by the COVID19 pandemic which continues to impact the residents and businesses of Somerset. There has been a notable move to ensure workstreams placed on the back burner during the height of the Pandemic are picked up again as part of a system wide catch-up programme.</p> <p>This report documents the progress against the 2021 priorities which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Communicable Diseases</b></li></ol> <p>Ensure robust communicable disease incident and outbreak response arrangements are in place and embedded across the Somerset system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>2. Environmental Hazards</b></li></ol> <p>Ensure initiatives to reduce or mitigate the impacts of environmental hazards on population health are supported and prioritised.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>3. Infection Prevention and Control</b></li></ol> <p>Recognise the impact on other infectious disease of having effective infection control measures in place, such as enhanced</p>
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	<p>handwashing and social distancing and see how these measures can remain with us beyond COVID-19.</p> <p><b>4. Resilience</b></p> <p>Working closely with local and regional forums, ensure local and regional emergency response arrangements are in place to protect the health of the population.</p> <p><b>5. Screening and immunisation</b></p> <p>Ensure screening and immunisation programmes meet national standards and where work is required to increase uptake, reflect local priorities to achieve national standards.</p> <p>The report details the progress made in each of these areas.</p>								
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>That the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Board notes the report, and is minded to endorse the priorities proposed for 2022/23 to ensure the strengthening of health protection as Somerset goes through several crucial transitions</b></p>								
<p><b>Reasons for recommendations:</b></p>	<p>The Somerset Health Protection Forum and Director of Public Health have identified this priority 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><b>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 1435 1465 1901"> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1435 1289 1563"> <p><b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1435 1465 1563"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1563 1289 1691"> <p><b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1563 1465 1691"> <p><i>Yes</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1691 1289 1771"> <p><b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1691 1465 1771"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1771 1289 1901"> <p><b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1771 1465 1901"> <p><i>Yes</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b></p>		<p><b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b></p>	<p><i>Yes</i></p>	<p><b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b></p>		<p><b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b></p>	<p><i>Yes</i></p>
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<p><b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b></p>	<p><i>Yes</i></p>								
<p><b>Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:</b></p>	<p>This is a statutory role of the Director of Public Health acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.</p>								

	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
<b>Equalities Implications:</b>	There are no equalities implications arising directly from accepting this report. The identified priorities for the coming year will help to address health inequalities.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	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.

## 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. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes

- 2.1.** By protecting the health of the population of Somerset we 'improve the lives' of Somerset's residents, by ensuring partners work together for the benefit of our residents and that we work to reduce health inequalities.

## 3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1.** As this is an assurance report, no consultations have been undertaken.

## 4. Request of the Board and Board members

- 4.1.** To consider the information presented within the Health Protection Annual Report
- 4.2.** Recommend that the HWBB are in agreement that the Director of Public Health is assured that systems are in place to protect the health of the population in Somerset during a time of transition.

## 5. Background papers

- 5.1.** [Protecting the health of the local population: the new health protection duty of local authorities under the Local Authorities \(Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives\) regulations 2013](#)

[\(Department of Health, Public Health England & Local Government Association, May 2013\);](#)

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

## 6. **Report Sign-Off**

### 6.1

	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Report Sign off</b>	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	27/01/22
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Clare Paul	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	Click or tap to enter a date.