

Somerset Health Protection Annual Assurance Report 2020

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<p>Summary:</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 2021 to strengthen these.</p> <p>During 2020 the Somerset response to COVID-19 was prioritised as a matter of urgency and a full major incident response launched nationally and locally. This response impacted delivery of previously agreed health protection priorities.</p> <p>These impacts and lessons are captured throughout this document and reflected within the 2021 strategic priorities, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicable Diseases <p>Ensure robust communicable disease incident and outbreak response arrangements are in place and embedded across the Somerset system.</p> <p>Carrying this priority forward into 2021, key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Translate the TB service specification into the clinical service delivery- Ensure the recommendations for action from the Blood Borne Virus needs assessment and strategy are progressed.- Ensure that learning from the COVID-19 response is incorporated into the Somerset outbreak response arrangements. <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Environmental Hazards
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Ensure initiatives to reduce or mitigate the impacts of environmental hazards on population health are supported and prioritised.

Actions include:

- Respond to Climate Change Emergency and deliver the Somerset air quality strategy. Link in with the JSNA that is focused on Climate Change
- The Somerset Climate Change Emergency Strategy will be requested to take forward work on environmental hazards relating to housing and build on progress from the COVID-19 response to establish a task and finish group to identify work around minimising the health impact of cold homes, improving housing standards and messages specific to infectious disease threats.

3. Infection Prevention and Control

The CCG Infection Prevention and Control Team will co-ordinate, monitor and address infection prevention and control priorities and local needs and reflect national ambition. Areas for improvement identified during 2020 and the context surrounding infection prevention and control will be reported on, monitored and reviewed in the SIPAAC through a detailed workplan.

Additionally, recognise the impact on other infectious disease of having effective infection control measures in place, such as enhanced handwashing and social distancing and see how these measures can remain with us beyond COVID-19.

Key action:

As part of the Integrated Care System development ensure system wide infection, prevention and control support, regardless of organisational boundaries or funding streams, to effectively tackle infections.

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:

- Design a solution to ensure Radiation Monitoring capacity in place, should an incident occur
- Mass Casualty Planning
- Embed learning from COVID-19 major incident response into future plans

	<p>5. Screening and immunisation</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>In support of the existing screening and immunisation programme in Somerset, key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the recovery programme to catch up from immunisations missed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. - To work with screening and immunisations teams to ensure that the pandemic does not increase health inequalities in access to screening.
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the report, and endorses the priorities proposed for 2021 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>The health and well-being board has oversight of how learning from the Somerset pandemic response is used to strengthen the Somerset health and care system and inform the development of the integrated health and care system where appropriate.</p> <p>The membership of the Health Protection Forum is revisited based on learning from COVID-19, to ensure sustained improvement in the system approach to protecting the populations' health.</p>
<p>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</p>	<p>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</p>

	<p>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</p>	
	<p>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</p>	<i>Yes</i>
	<p>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</p>	
	<p>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</p>	<i>Yes</i>
<p>Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership 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 year will help to address health inequalities.</p>	
<p>Risk Assessment:</p>	<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. 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. No consultations have been undertaken, this is an assurance report

4. Request of the Board and Board members

- 4.1.**
- To consider the information presented within the Health Protection Annual Report
 - 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, across: communicable disease control, environmental hazards, infection prevention and control, resilience and Screening and Immunisation programmes.
 - The membership of the health protection forum is revisited based on learning from covid19, to ensure sustained improvement in the system approach to protecting the populations' health
 - Agree the proposed priorities for work in 2021

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

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