

Health Protection Forum Assurance Report 2020

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Health Protection Forum



Public Health
England



Somerset



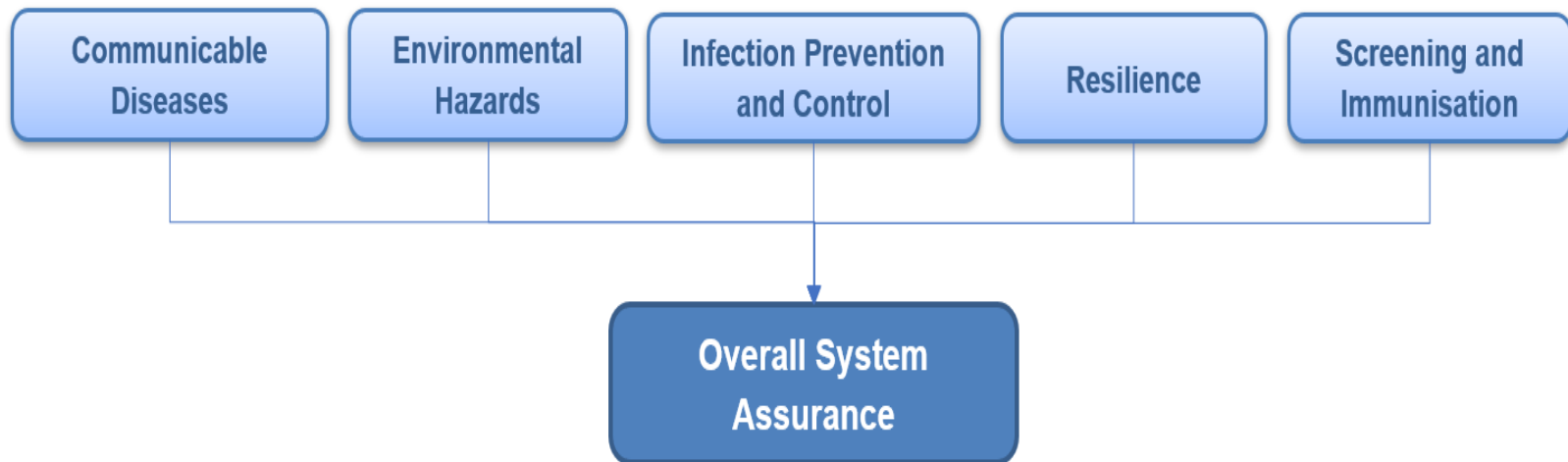
Somerset West
and Taunton



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Health Protection Priorities



2020 – didn't quite go to plan

- The SARS CoV-2 virus emerged last in 2019 and cases of COVID-19 started to appear in the UK in early 2020 with Somerset having its first confirmed case in March.
- 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.

However...

- A strong system response to COVID-19 has led to enhanced outbreak management processes
- COVID-19 has required the health and care system to respond to the outbreak across organisational boundaries. This has been a huge strength of the Somerset COVID-19 response
- Blood borne virus screening programme for those accommodated through “Everyone in” was launched
- Personal behaviour change needed to respond to the Climate Change emergency and will be a building block to take forward the climate change strategy
- This year saw some of the most impressive flu vaccination statistics ever in Somerset

Focus for 2021

- Catching up on the priority health protection work not undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Catch up campaign for screening and immunisations programme to be implemented by NHS E and report back to HP forum
- Incorporate learning from the past year to inform the development of the integrated health and care system where appropriate.
- Revisit the membership of the Health Protection Forum based on learning from COVID-19, to ensure sustained improvement in the system approach to protecting the populations' health

QUESTIONS

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Priorities for 2020

Communicable Diseases

- 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.

Priorities for 2020

Environmental Hazards

- 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.

Priorities for 2020

Infection Prevention and Control

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.

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Priorities for 2020

Resilience

- 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

Priorities for 2020

Screening and immunisation

- 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