

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership

30th January 2023
Report for approval

Somerset Health Protection Annual Assurance Report 2022

Lead Officer: Trudi Grant / Director of Public Health

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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 2023 to strengthen the health protection system.</p> <p>2022 has seen the Health Protection function move to business as usual, following the Covid pandemic. Catch up programmes are in place for workstreams that were not prioritised during the pandemic. There is a maintained response to other non COVID-19 Health Protection incidents/outbreak.</p> <p>This report documents the progress against the 2022 priorities which include:</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Environmental Hazards <p>Ensure initiatives to reduce or mitigate the impacts of environmental hazards on population health are supported and prioritised.</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">3. Infection Prevention and Control</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4. Resilience</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 style="text-align: center;">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>The report details the progress made in each of these areas.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>To agree the priorities for next year:</p> <p>It is proposed that the focus of 2023/24 is to ensure the strengthening of a whole system approach to health protection.</p> <p>Local priorities identified are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximizing immunization uptake 2. Filling health protection commissioning gaps 3. Updating the Somerset Communicable disease framework 4. Refresh the Memorandum of Understanding among Somerset, regional and national partners around roles and responsibilities when outbreaks occur 5. Transform system wide communication of outbreaks to cover all outbreaks, not just Covid 6. Undertake a needs assessment (JSNA) for health protection 7. Refresh the Somerset Infection, Prevention

	Reduce Inequalities – Value all people alike, target our resources and attention to where it is most needed, giving equal priority to physical and mental health.	Yes
	Respond well to complex needs – Improve outcomes for children and adults with complex needs through personalised, co-ordinated support.	
Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:	<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>	
Equalities Implications:	<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>	
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. Improving Lives and Fit for my Future 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 Joint Committee and its 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 \(Department of Health, Public Health England & Local Government Association, May 2013\);](#)

6. Report Sign-Off

6.1

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	Click or tap to enter a date.
	HWBB chair & Leader of the Council	Bill Revans	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Executive Member (if applicable)	Adam Dance	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	Click or tap to enter a date.
	Somerset Integrated Care Partnership Chair	Paul Von Der Heyde	Click or tap to enter a date.