



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

Author: Alison Bell / Consultant in Public Health & Meg Coakeley / Health Protection Manager

Contact Details: <a>alison.bell@somerset.gov.uk

Summary:	The Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report documents the progress made during the last 12 months and the identified priorities for the next year.
	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.
	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.
	This report documents the progress against the 2022 priorities which include:
	1. Communicable Diseases
	Ensure robust communicable disease incident and outbreak response arrangements are in place and embedded across the Somerset system.
	2. Environmental Hazards
	Ensure initiatives to reduce or mitigate the impacts of environmental hazards on population health are supported and prioritised.

	3. Infection Prevention and Control				
	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.				
	4. Resilience				
	Working closely with local and regional forums, ensure local a regional emergency response arrangements are in place to protect the health of the population.				
	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. The report details the progress made in each of these areas.				
	To agree the priorities for next year:				
	It is proposed that the focus of 2023/24 is to ensure the				
	strengthening of a whole system approach to health protection.				
	Local priorities identified are:				
	1. Maximizing immunization uptake				
	2. Filling health protection commissioning gaps				
	3. Updating the Somerset Communicable				
	disease framework				
Recommendations:	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				

	and Control strategy			
	and Control strategy			
	8. Translate the Tuberculosis ((TB) service		
	specification into the clinical service delivery			
	9. Improve migrants newly arrived in Somerset			
	health & well-being			
	To approve the report's conclusion that the Director of Public			
	Health is assured and suitable arrangements are in place to			
	protect the health of Somerset's population			
Reasons for	Priorities identified by the Health Protection Forum a	nd Health		
recommendations:	Protection Board			
Links to The	Please tick the Improving Lives and Fit For My Future			
Improving Lives in	priorities influenced by the delivery of this work			
Somerset Strategy	A County infrastructure that drives			
	productivity, supports economic prosperity			
	and sustainable public services	N		
	Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communitiesYesable to enjoy and benefit from the natural environmentFairer life chances and opportunity for all			
	Improved health and wellbeing and more	Yes		
	people living healthy and independent lives for			
	longer			
Links to Fit For My Future Strategy				
	Improve the health and wellbeing of the	Yes		
	population – Enable people to live socially			
	connected, healthy, independent lives, promote early intervention and prevent avoidable illness.			
	Provide the best care and support to children and adults – Ensure safe, sustainable,			
	effective, high quality person-centred support			
	in the most appropriate setting.			
	Strengthen care and support in local			
	communities – Develop and enhance support			
	in local neighbourhood areas and bring care	I I		

	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.Respond well to complex needs – Improve outcomes for children and adults with complex needs through personalised, co-ordinated support.	Yes	
Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:	This is a statutory role of the Director of Public Health acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.		
Equalities Implications:	There are no equalities implications arising directly from accepting this report. The identified priorities for the coming year will help to address health inequalities.		
Risk Assessment:	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 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. <u>Report Sign-Off</u>

6.1

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)		Click or tap to enter a date.
	HWBB chair & Leader of the Council		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)		Click or tap to enter a date.
	Somerset Integrated Care Partnership Chair	Paul Von Der Heyde	Click or tap to enter a date.