

Hampshire County Council Annual Health Protection Report 2021/2022

Council Public Health Team
6th October 2022

Activities 2021-2022

- The first Health Protection Report aims to provide assurance on the Council's health protection responsibilities.
- The period of the report covers April 2021 to end of March 2022. It therefore focuses heavily on the COVID-19 response, with a summary of other issues:
 - COVID-19: LA responses to the pandemic, including system-working on the vaccination programme, communications activity, etc.
 - Other Infections of note: Influenza (including seasonal influenza vaccination), and TB (with specific focus on disparity in the incidence case rates across our districts)
 - Vaccinations: looking specifically at MMR uptake and communications activity around that
- The report explains the move to set up a quarterly Health Protection Board to focus on all elements of health protection (beyond COVID-19), working with Council colleagues and external partners in the health protection system.

Future Focus

- Plan is for future Health Protection reports to be shaped by discussions in this Board
- Some areas outlined in the report as areas of action for 2022/23:
 1. Shifting gears to living with COVID-19:
 - Continued surveillance of global, national and local COVID-19 epidemiology
 - Supporting the management of outbreaks in Hampshire's vulnerable settings
 - Providing advice to the general public and settings (in line with UKHSA guidance)
 - Supporting the NHS roll out of the COVID-19 Autumn booster campaign and uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine 'evergreen offer'
 - Supporting work to reduce the inequalities unmasked by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring activities to mitigate the spread of the virus are reaching our under-served communities.

Future Focus

2. Responding to other emerging health protection issues:

- **Tuberculosis**, with the aim of supporting the local achievement of priorities and actions as set out in the TB Action Plan for England and ensuring that our health service delivery model can provide the necessary care to those most vulnerable to the disease.
- Renewed focus on the targets of the UK Action Plan for **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** and the activities we can take as a health protection system to mitigate against development of antimicrobial resistance in our population (note: 18 to 24 November is World Antimicrobial Awareness Week).
- Monitor developments with respect to **other threats**, including the increasing frequency of hot and cold weather events.

Future Focus

3. Renewing efforts across vaccination programmes:

- This includes the roll-out of the COVID-19, seasonal influenza and MMR vaccination programmes (with the latter being part of the national effort to re-instate the UK's 'measles-free' status).
- Supporting the development of the National Vaccination Strategy

The above three areas of activity will be underpinned by a strong focus on communications, with the development of a 2022/23 Health Protection communications plan being one of the key deliverables for the Council Health Protection team.