

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Health and Wellbeing Board – 20th April 2016

Title

The Health Protection Committee's Annual Report

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

Since implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, roles and responsibilities for health protection have become both complex and fragmented. In order to fulfil one of the council's statutory responsibilities on health protection (discharged through the DPH), a Health Protection Committee was established to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to protect the public's health.

Over 2015, the Health Protection Committee has made considerable progress in seeking assurance from organisations across the borough on a range of controls associated with health protection. This annual report outlines the responsibilities of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), NHS England (NHSE), Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (RCCG), Public Health England (PHE), The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) and Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) and highlights the work that has been done over the year and areas where further development is needed.

The Health Protection Committee would like to highlight the following areas of progress:

- Clarifying health protection roles and responsibilities and the line of accountability between the Health Protection Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board

- Maintaining effective working relationships and communications with RMBC staff, external agencies/professionals and the public
- Controlling the spread of TB and HIV through multi-agency incident meetings
- Providing local advice on national and local alerts on environmental hazards, such as high level air pollution episodes
- Managing Health Care Associated Infections (HCAIs), MRSA bacteraemia and Clostridium Difficile Infections (CDIs) and engagement of the hospital and community trusts
- Implementing the national childhood immunisation and seasonal flu programme across Rotherham
- Facilitation of training and simulation exercises run by the Emergency Planning Shared Service
- Local planning and response to Ebola and other emerging infections

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1.1 receives and notes the content and recommendations of the Health Protection Annual Report
- 1.2 receives a Health Protection report each subsequent year and exception reports as appropriate

List of Appendices Included

N/A

Background Papers

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.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199773/Health_Protection_in_Local_Authorities_Final.pdf

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Senior Leadership Team (RMBC) and the Health Protection Committee

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Health Protection Committee – Annual Report 2015

1. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1.1 receives and notes the content and recommendations of the Health Protection Annual Report
- 1.2 receives a Health Protection report each year and exception reports as appropriate

2. Background

- 2.1 Health protection has been described as public health activities intended to protect individuals, groups, and populations from infectious diseases and environmental hazards. Hazards can be biological, chemical, physical or from radiation, and result in exposures through food, water, air, animals, the environment and person to person. Health Protection also includes planning for and responding to threats to the health of the population which would require an emergency response.
- 2.2 There have been considerable changes to the management of Health Protection following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This places a duty on local authorities in England to protect the health of the local population, discharged through the Director of Public Health.
- 2.3. The Health Protection Committee provides an important assurance and control function on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board to protect the health of the population. It covers the population of Rotherham (whether resident, working or visiting) and includes:
 - 2.3.1. Vaccination (preventable diseases) and immunisation programmes
 - 2.3.2. National screening programmes
 - 2.3.3. Infection, prevention and control including health care associated infections (HCAIs)
 - 2.3.4. Communicable disease control including TB, blood borne viruses, gastro-intestinal infections (GI), seasonal and pandemic influenza
 - 2.3.5. Public Health aspects of emergency planning and preparedness (including severe weather and environmental hazards).
 - 2.3.6. Environmental hazards and control, biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear, including air and water quality, food safety
 - 2.3.7. Sexually transmitted infections and HIV
 - 2.3.8. Substance misuse

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 As a result of changes to the NHS and Local Authority structures and functions, there has been a lack of clarity on roles and accountabilities across the health protection system. This fragmentation has been highlighted when dealing with local incidents/outbreaks. The key challenges have been: receiving timely alerts and information from

external partners on environmental hazards; holding multi-agency incident meetings where an appropriate assessment and control measures can be agreed; obtaining expert advice from PHE and other specialist services; ensuring a proportionate response balancing patient confidentiality with duty of care; maintaining effective working relationships and communications between all partners.

- 3.2 The Health Protection Committee was established to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to protect the public's health and to overcome the challenges listed above. The Committee meets quarterly to review all areas of health protection including updating the Health Protection Assurance Framework, which provides us with a comprehensive tool to manage risks across all the areas of health protection. The Health Protection Committee will report annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress throughout the year and make the Board aware of any significant gaps and mitigating actions.
- 3.3. A number of health protection activities will be sustained over the following year (2016):
 - 3.3.1. Delivery and surveillance of vaccination and screening programmes delivered by a number of providers commissioned by NHS England
 - 3.3.2. Monitoring of health care associated infections (HCAIs) and infection, prevention and control activities in hospitals and the community
 - 3.3.3. Monitoring disease surveillance, notifications and alerts by Public Health England, and informing and advising the local population/services on any emerging concerns
 - 3.3.4. Managing incidents associated with communicable diseases including TB, sexually transmitted infections, water-borne and food-borne infections
 - 3.3.5. Monitoring drugs and substance misuse services commissioned by RMBC
- 3.4. A number of areas will be strengthened:
 - 3.4.1. Links with the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) which has signed agreements for Emergency Planning Response and Resilience (EPRR) with each NHS organisation across South Yorkshire
 - 3.4.2. The integration of sexual health services commissioned by RMBC which will be tendered for during 2016/17
 - 3.4.3. The sustainability and resilience of TB specialist services in Rotherham and across South Yorkshire
 - 3.4.4. Local commissioning arrangements for infection, prevention and control (IPC) services and improved surveillance of HCAIs in the community
 - 3.4.5. On-going work associated with air quality, including the submission of the RMBC air quality action plan and annual status report to the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

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