

Health Protection Annual Report

2026

Health Protection Committee

Role

- Provides assurance that arrangements are in place to protect population health.
- Multi-agency partnership involving RMBC, NHS, UKHSA and other partners.
- Oversees prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response to health threats.
- Reports directly to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Key Health Protection Activity

2025/26

- Infectious disease surveillance and outbreak management.
- Legionella outbreak investigation.
- Support for complex tuberculosis cases.
- Infection prevention and control support to care homes and learning disability settings.
- Ongoing management of incidents in schools, early years and residential care settings.

Screening Programme Highlights

- Antenatal and newborn screening meeting all key performance indicators.
- Breast screening uptake improved to **75.5%**.
- Bowel screening uptake remained above national achievable standard (>60%).
- Continued focus on improving cervical screening uptake, particularly ages 25–49.
- Strong focus on reducing inequalities and improving access for people with learning disabilities and severe mental illness.

Immunisation & Vaccination Highlights

- Childhood vaccination coverage remains above efficiency standards.
- Continued improvement in MMR uptake.
- RSV vaccination programme successfully embedded.
- Increased flu vaccine uptake across most eligible groups.
- Adolescent vaccination programmes continuing to recover post-pandemic.

Healthcare Associated Infections & TB

- **Healthcare Associated Infections**
- Significant reduction in *C. difficile* cases.
- MRSA remained low (5 community cases).
- Ongoing antimicrobial stewardship programme.
- Continued focus on reducing gram-negative bloodstream infections.
- **Tuberculosis**
- Rotherham remains a low-incidence area.
- Cases often involve complex social and health needs.
- Enhanced case management and targeted screening continues.

Emergency Planning and Environmental Health

- **Emergency Preparedness**
- Refreshed incident management arrangements implemented.
- Participation in national pandemic Exercise PEGASUS.
- Effective response to severe weather and flooding incidents.
- **Environmental Health**
- 10,763 service requests managed.
- 841 food hygiene inspections completed.
- 140 housing enforcement notices issued.
- 89 infectious disease investigations undertaken.

Priorities for 2026/27

- Strengthen infectious disease surveillance.
- Increase screening uptake and reduce inequalities.
- Improve vaccination coverage.
- Reduce healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.
- Strengthen TB prevention and control.
- Enhance IPC support in care settings.
- Maintain emergency preparedness and resilience.
- Protect health through environmental health services.
- Continue Health Protection Committee development and assurance.

