

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Health Protection Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 19 June 2024

SUBJECT: Health Protection Annual Assurance report 2023/24

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on health protection assurance arrangements in Blackburn with Darwen and health protection activities undertaken during 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

That Health and Wellbeing Board members:

- note the information within this report
- note that the report provides assurance that effective processes are in place to protect population health

3. BACKGROUND

Protecting the population's health is one of five mandated responsibilities given to local authorities under the NHS Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Director of Public Health (DPH) for Blackburn with Darwen has statutory responsibility for the discharge of the local authority's public health functions.

The health protection element of these responsibilities as outlined below includes:

- Exercise of the Secretary of State's public health protection functions as required
- The authority's functions in relation to planning for, and responding to emergencies that present a risk to public health
- Such other public health functions as the Secretary of State specifies in regulations
- Responsibility for the local authority's public health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003 (e.g. making representations on licensing applications)
- A duty to ensure plans are in place to protect the population including through screening and immunisation

Health Protection is a key aspect of Public Health and Prevention aimed at protecting the public from harm. Health protection consists of three main broad areas: control of infectious diseases and screening; emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR); and providing an environment that promotes health and wellbeing. In practice, it involves a range of activities across several partner agencies. It includes work to ensure the safety and quality of food, water, air and the natural and built environment. It covers the measures needed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, preparing for and managing outbreaks and other incidents which threaten health. It includes immunisation to prevent diseases from developing and screening programmes to detect diseases early enough for better treatment outcomes.

Within Blackburn with Darwen, the remit for local authority's health protection duty is delivered by

Public Health in conjunction with Public Protection and Civil Contingencies teams.

UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection functions include protecting the public from infectious diseases, chemicals, radiation and environmental hazards and supporting emergency preparedness, resilience and response.

NHS England (NHSE) is responsible for commissioning and quality assuring population screening and immunisation programmes. The regional NHSE team covers Cheshire & Merseyside and Lancashire & South Cumbria.

4. RATIONALE

New health protection assurance arrangements were established in August 2020. The Blackburn with Darwen Health Protection Board is chaired by the Director of Public Health (DPH) and aims to enable the DPH to fulfil the statutory role in assuring the Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board that satisfactory arrangements are in place to protect the health of the local population.

The Health Protection Board is now well established, with regular attendance from key partners including UK Health Security Agency, Primary Care, Infection Prevention and Control service, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, and local VCFS members.

5. KEY ISSUES

The Health Protection highlight report has been attached as an appendix (**Appendix 1**) to this report. The report summarises the achievements against the key health protection priorities.

The Board has also overseen and delivered several wider health protection activities, including:

- Covid booster programmes - supporting the uptake of vaccinations in the borough and increasing engagement activities to increase uptake in the borough which were led by Integrated Care Board (ICB) colleagues.
- Regular updates on food borne infections in the borough as part of the quarterly Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) update
- Actions to reduce winter pressures on Council and partner services, including seasonal flu vaccinations
- Continuing to support oversight of the screening and immunisations agenda

Priorities for the coming year include:

- Continue to support increased uptake of the flu vaccination across all priority cohorts
- Continue to provide an enhanced IPC support offer to complex settings in the borough.
- Ensuring equitable coverage and uptake of screening and immunisations programmes via the ICB's screening and immunisations oversight group
- Implementation of the authority's sexual health strategy

There is a range of on-going work across partners to protect the health of the local population and much progress has been made during 2023/24 to address key issues and deliver on action plans. Whilst challenges remain, the local Health Protection Board is well established and provides an effective mechanism for bringing partners together to work on health protection issues, share and review action plans, and provide challenge and support.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Local Authority Public Health's health protection duties are financed by the annual public health grant.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Protecting the population's health is one of five mandated responsibilities given to local authorities under the NHS Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Director of Public Health (DPH) for Blackburn with Darwen has statutory responsibility for the discharge of the local authority's public health functions.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Local Authority Public Health health protection duties are financed by the annual public health grant. Public Health commission the Lancashire Infection Prevention Control Team to provide IPC services in Blackburn with Darwen.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty in relation to this report.

Health Protection activities should consider existing health inequalities and work to mitigate them as vulnerable populations are at greater risk of health protection hazards. This can be due to environmental or behavioural risk factors and there may also be specific prevention needs which may not be met.

11. CONSULTATIONS

There is no requirement for consultation in relation to this report

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CONTACT OFFICERS:	Abdul Razaq, Director of Public Health Rabiya Gangreker, Public Health Development Manager – Health Protection
DATE:	9 th May 2024
BACKGROUND PAPER:	None

Health Protection Highlight Report

2023-24

Update for:	Health Protection Board	Period covered	April 2023 to March 2024
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Work area	Priority objectives	Progress during this period	Planned activities for 2024/25
Outbreak support	Manage outbreaks of communicable disease, including respiratory & new and emerging infections	Ongoing support provided to care homes, educational settings, and other complex settings to manage COVID19 and other outbreaks. Support was provided by Quality Assurance colleagues and LCC’s IPC team via our service level agreement ¹ .	Continue to work with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to monitor risks and respond to outbreaks in local settings
Infection prevention & control (IPC) in high-risk/complex settings	Maintain and progress with an IPC audit programme of settings	<p>Care home audits</p> <p>10 care home IPC audits took place during 2023/24, the majority were RAG rated as green and will be audited again in three years’ time.</p> <p>Care homes are responsible for completing and monitoring the action plans following audits.</p> <p>IPC audits were also conducted in: 1 x SEN school 6 x nurseries</p> <p>Hand hygiene awareness sessions</p> <p>The IPC team delivered 7 hand hygiene awareness sessions to BwD primary schools during 2023/24.</p>	IPC Team will be offering IPC audits to all Council-run and maintained nurseries and will continue with the rolling programme of care home IPC audits.

¹ Since 2016, BwD has held a service level agreement with LCC’s Infection Prevention Control service whereby they deliver the local authority infection prevention responsibilities on the Council’s behalf. This includes (but not limited to) all reactive work associated with managing and preventing outbreaks of infectious diseases, conducting IPC audits of our care settings including day centres, delivering hand hygiene sessions in primary schools, and facilitating IPC forums which all care settings are able to attend.

Work area	Priority objectives	Progress during this period	Planned activities for 2024/25																					
Flu	Increase uptake of flu vaccinations amongst all priority groups and manage outbreaks effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seasonal flu group facilitated by public health held monthly meetings. The meetings were attended by internal colleagues from Children’s and Adults Services, as well as the IPC team, the ICB’s IPC representative, maternity services and the school-aged immunisations provider, local pharmacy representative and commissioned partners such as Healthwatch BwD and Age UK BwD. Meetings well-attended and enthusiasm from local stakeholders around the wider vaccination agenda, with drive to establish a BwD Immunisation Forum to encompass all immunisation programmes. Key membership has been obtained and agreed for this, with draft terms of reference developed. Currently with Primary Care and ICB colleagues to identify an appropriate Chair. This would feed into the Lancashire and South Cumbria Screening and Immunisations Oversight group, which is being re-established. <p>During flu season 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot of flu vaccination clinics in Family Hubs (October 2023) Local trends have reflected those seen regionally and nationally – small decrease in coverage amongst older adults, at-risk adults, and pregnant women with increased coverage amongst 2 year olds. 40.2% of primary school aged children and 19.2% of secondary school aged children in BwD accepted the offer of flu vaccinations, similar to last year’s uptake 	BwD Seasonal Flu group will meet during the 24/25 flu season to promote uptake and circulate comms messages as wide as possible.																					
Healthcare Acquired Infections (HCAI) & Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)	Provide support to prevent and reduce risks associated with HCAI and AMR	<p>The service level agreement with LCC’s Infection Prevention and Control team ensures that the authority fulfils its duties in this capacity.</p> <p>The IPC team deliver regular forums. The forums are held across Lancashire. During 2023/24, 3 IPC forums were held in BwD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sepsis – 20/06/23 Antimicrobial Resistance - 16/11/23 General infections – 10/02/24 & 02/03/24 <p>In terms of the reported HCAIs, in 2023/24, in BwD there were:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Trigger</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MRSA</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CDI</td> <td>6</td> <td>17</td> <td>14</td> <td>19</td> <td>56</td> <td>34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Trigger	MRSA	1	1	4	0	6	0	CDI	6	17	14	19	56	34	<p>To continue to deliver regular IPC forums and promote attendance from BwD settings.</p> <p>To continue to work in collaboration with the Integrated Care Board to reduce risk and prevent HCAIs.</p>
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Trigger																		
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		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MSSA</td> <td>14</td> <td>11</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>53</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. coli</td> <td>27</td> <td>39</td> <td>28</td> <td>18</td> <td>112</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Klebsiella</td> <td>5</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>38</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pseudomonas Aeruginosa</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table> <p>Across the ICS, we have seen breaches of the thresholds for MRSA and Pseudomonas Aeruginosa. IPC colleagues continue to support the post-infection reviews to share lessons learned and to raise awareness of how to prevent and reduce the risk of these infections in our care settings.</p> <p>HCAI monthly meetings continue with IPC colleagues and ICB IPC, pharmacy reps and hospital trusts, to discuss ongoing infections and share lessons learned to prevent and reduce infections.</p>	MSSA	14	11	14	14	53	N/A	E. coli	27	39	28	18	112	100	Klebsiella	5	12	11	10	38	29	Pseudomonas Aeruginosa	1	2	1	2	6	4	
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Immunisations	Increase uptake and reduce inequalities in uptake across all immunisation programmes	<p>UKHSA data shows that, although coverage remains high, children's vaccine uptake has been slowly decreasing since 2012-13 nationally. Locally, data indicates that BwD has significantly worse uptake for several childhood immunisations.</p> <p>School aged immunisations are commissioned by NHS England and delivered by their local delivery partner Intrahealth. Our school nurses continue to work alongside Intrahealth to deliver key messages on immunisations in schools. We have supported Intrahealth to deliver immunisation mop-up sessions via our Family Hubs/Children Centres which have been received well by local communities.</p> <p>Immunisations for children aged under 5 are delivered by GP practices. Health visitors deliver key messages on immunisations as part of their routine health checks.</p> <p>Working with partners across primary care and the ICB to improve uptake of MMR vaccinations across vulnerable cohorts including Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities.</p>	Continue to work collaboratively with local and regional partners (including NHSE, the ICB and GPs) to support the increase in immunisation uptake across the borough.																												
Screening	Increase uptake and reduce inequalities in uptake across screening	Working with NHS England NW Screening and Immunisations colleagues to support increasing uptake of the cervical screening programme. A local engagement project has been initiated to work with local communities to	Continue to work collaboratively with local and regional partners (including NHSE, the ICB and GPs) to support the																												

Work area	Priority objectives	Progress during this period	Planned activities for 2024/25
	programmes	<p>improve understanding and awareness of HPV vaccinations and cervical screening.</p> <p>Successful in bidding for funding from the Cancer Alliance to improve uptake of bowel screening locally. The project involves working with GP practices with <60% uptake of the offer (lower than the national target) and implementing a bowel cancer champion programme. The project will run throughout 2024/25.</p>	increase in screening programme uptake across the borough.

During 2023/24, the Board also considered:

- Covid booster programmes, supporting the uptake of vaccinations in the borough and supporting engagement activities to increase uptake in the borough.
- Seeking assurance on immunisations programmes including the school-aged provision
- Regular updates on food borne infections in the borough as part of the quarterly IPC update.
- Actions to reduce winter pressures on Council and partner services.
- Actions undertaken across the ICB to reduce antimicrobial resistance.