

**Appendix 4 – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report (June 2023)**

**1.1 Context**

The Health Protection Forum (HPF) meets monthly to discuss and seek assurance on health protection arrangements from local health protection system stakeholders. Discussions include but are not limited to screening, immunisation, oral health, infection prevention & control, communicable and non-communicable hazards.

**1.2 Current circumstance**

The HPF has set a plan for meeting topics for the 2023 meetings, alternating general meetings with focused, subject-specific meetings on a bi-monthly cycle:

<b>HPF meeting</b>	<b>Content</b>
July 2023	Focused – Screening & Immunisations
August 2023	General HPF meeting
September 2023	Focused – Environmental Health & Non-Communicable Disease
October 2023	General HPF meeting
November 2023	Focused – Infection Prevention & Control
December 2023	General HPF meeting

Issues progressed recently include:

**Prevention - strengthening the system**

- a. The HPF was concerned that local partners were not sighted on the infection prevention and control plans for asylum seekers at Serco managed accommodation. These have now been shared.
- b. Complex TB management: agreement to develop MOU for complex and low-risk TB incidents (to include existing TB Housing and Lost to Follow Up pathways). This will take into consideration the appropriate role of Regulation 8 notices and Part 2A orders.
- c. Assurance of plans to respond to incidents in screening programmes
- d. Flagged the lack of clarity regarding responsibility for IPC and SIRIs (serious incidents requiring investigations) in dental services following their relocation from NHSE to BSol ICB.
- e. Development of a Health Protection MOU (in collaboration with UKHSA) to agree the expectations, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in planning for and responding to situations & incidents.
- f. The Integrated Care Board (NHS) is leading on ongoing work to reimagine the delivery of infection prevention and control (IPC) across the Birmingham and Solihull ICS footprint. The two local Covid-focussed arrangements have now ceased.

**Protection**

- g. National increase in measles (not currently observed in Birmingham) – discussions focussed on preventative steps for BSol ICB to take, and surveillance activities led by UKHSA.
- h. Hot weather resilience and planning, and explanation of new heat health alert system.
- i. Targeted Hepatitis A vaccination programme following an outbreak along with a drive to increase uptake for all vaccinations at the setting. This was in response to low rates observed locally for a range of childhood vaccinations.

**Response - specific situations/incidents**

- j. Monitoring of the trend in Norovirus incidents in the West Midlands and in settings particularly affected, e.g. care homes.
- k. Recent increase in iGAS cases including a cluster linked to drug users.

**1.3 Next Steps and Delivery**

- a. To evaluate Serco outbreak management/infection prevention & control plans, and agree next steps.
- b. Track implementation of recommendations for ICB around national measles increase.
- c. Establish an HPF dashboard in collaboration with City Observatory.