

Appendix 2 - Health Protection Forum Highlight Report (November 2022)

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. The HPF discusses screening, immunisation, oral health, infection control, communicable and non-communicable diseases.

1.2 Current Circumstance

The HPF has set a plan for meeting topics for the 2022 meetings, alternating general meetings with subject-specific meetings on a bi-monthly cycle:

HPF meeting	Content
January 2022	General HPF meeting
February 2022	General HPF meeting
March 2022	Focused - Commonwealth Games
April 2022	General HPF meeting
May 2022	Focused - Screening and Immunisations
June 2022	General HPF meeting (Cancelled)
July 2022	Focused - Oral Health
August 2022	General HPF meeting
September 2022	Focused - Environmental Health & Non-Communicable Disease
October 2022	General HPF meeting
November 2022	Focused - Infection Prevention & Control
December 2022	General HPF meeting
January 2023	Focused - Communicable Disease

Recent discussions at the HPF have included:

- The ongoing complex TB work programme - the action plan developed following a review of the complex TB system response is being developed and delivered. The TB and housing framework for cases with no recourse to public funds already in place is now being used to develop a housing support pathway for other infectious diseases (public health, commissioning and housing teams are collaborating on this).
- Learning from recent Monkey Pox cases has led into the development of a pathway to ensure urgent housing and support needs are addressed around the time of diagnosis and afterwards.
- Ongoing conversations to increase vaccination and screening programme uptake; specifically ensuring that the local partners are developing and implementing plans to maintain and increase uptake rates. The local Immunisation Programme Board has several sub-groups that some members of the HPF attend to facilitate effective

inter-organisational system-wide approaches, particularly on community awareness and engagement. Since the last highlight report the main focus has been on the covid vaccination autumn booster and seasonal flu programmes, developing communication plans, analysing uptake data and targeting communities with low uptake.

- d. Following the safe delivery of the health protection elements of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games the HPF has had some rapid debrief discussions and will receive future reports of learning points. In addition, documentation and planning between public health and environmental health are being used to develop health protection response plans with UKHSA.
- e. Local oral health improvement and prevention plans, and interventions have been discussed and delivery of some time-limited projects is ongoing.
- f. Future options for the delivery of infection prevention and control services across the Birmingham and Solihull (ICS) footprint after the two existing covid-focussed commissioned service contracts conclude. The public health teams are working with the ICB to ensure that an effective community service can address the gaps in community provision. HPF members have contributed to the development of a system-wide business case that will inform future commissioning decisions.
- g. Urgent response planning and implementation of services to support the health protection (and wider health) needs of new arrivals into the city from overseas.
- h. The planning and drafting of the HPF annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. HPF members have been part of the planning process, have helped to shape the information collection templates and are now submitting content that the public health team will use to draft the report.
- i. Planning for, and responding to Avian Influenza (AI) with local authority and UKHSA partners.

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- a. First draft of the health protection report for the March 2023 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- b. Monitoring and assurance of the seasonal flu and SARS-CoV2 (Covid-19) vaccination programmes (led by the Immunisation Programme Board).
- c. Supporting the development of a shared system response approach to increasing AI cases in animals (to mitigate risk to humans).
- d. Work to implement new protocols for the response to Covid-19 as national and local responses change is ongoing and will continue in the Autumn and Winter.