

Appendix 5 – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report

1.1 Context

Due to the covid outbreak the Health Protection Forum have been meeting every 2 weeks since the 30th June 2020. Approximately 80% of each meeting is devoted to discussing the current coronavirus situation and response, with the remainder of the meeting covering other health protection concerns.

1.2 Current Circumstance

The coronavirus content of the meetings includes discussions on the outbreak plan, swabbing plans, mobile testing logistics, outbreak summaries, trends in the results, development of plans in response to results observed and other intelligence. Infection Prevention Control plans and issues are also discussed at the meeting.

Non-coronavirus situations are also discussed at the forum and include challenging health protection cases including TB and other blood-borne viruses that present a public health risk because of individual behaviours. The forum discusses the assessment of risk and escalation when necessary.

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

The future plans for the Health Protection Forum meetings will focus on the recovery plans for NHS screening and vaccination programmes, and their implementation. The immediate focus is on planning and delivery of the seasonal influenza programme. Planning is ongoing and advanced with NHS England and Improvement, BSol CCG and is addressing the planned increase in targets and demand, alongside the challenged for delivery because of the current coronavirus situation and restrictions.

Due to the impact of coronavirus on childhood vaccination plans, the Forum has an additional focus on catch-up vaccination plans for childhood immunisations including MMR and planning for SARS-CoV2 vaccination.