

Item 16 - Appx 3 – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report (January 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. 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
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 content, focus and key section of the annual report from the HPF to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Possible changes to the commissioning roles relating to the National Immunisation Programmes that are delivered locally, and currently commissioned by NHS England
- Updates on the recovery of the cancer screening programmes following the unexpected changes put in place temporarily during the CoVid-19 social restrictions
- Updates on the Group A Streptococcal incidents that occurred in November and December 2022 – particularly how the local support to Birmingham schools was facilitated by the Health Protection team supporting the Education and Schools support team, with support from UKHSA
- 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 are still being discussed with the ICB and Solihull Public Health, using a business case jointly developed to support commissioning decisions
- Flu and covid case rates and infection prevention and control activity
- Cold weather resilience and planning, and integration of public messages with the council's cost of living messages
- Investigations being led by UKHSA into rates of infectious diseases to determine any patterns or actions required

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- a. Final 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).