

	<u>Agenda Item: 12</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	September 2024
TITLE:	Health Protection Forum Annual Report 2023-24
Organisation	Birmingham City Council (BCC)
Presenting Officer	Funmi Worrell (Service Lead, Health Protection – Public Health)

Report Type:	Information and Approval
---------------------	--------------------------

1. Purpose:

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Board on the activities of the Health Protection Forum's (HPF) between 2023-24:
- Highlighting the HPF's wider work and activities and achievements
 - Providing assurance that core Health Protection functions are being fulfilled

2. Implications (tick all that apply):

Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	X
	Getting the Best Start in Life	
	Living, Working and Learning Well	
	Ageing and Dying Well	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		

3. Commissioner's Review:

3.1 Commissioners support the recommendations.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the content of the report and support the recommendations.
- 4.2. **Immunisations** - HWB Board should seek an assurance statement from the ICS regarding the immunisation recovery plan given the scale of the challenges of improving immunisation uptake rates.
- 4.3. **TB NRPF** - HWB Board members to note the complex needs of TB patients with NRPF and support the ICS via the appropriate avenues to provide a holistic approach to each patient.

5. Report Body

Background

- 5.1. The Health Protection Forum (HPF) is a sub-committee of the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board. It meets regularly to provide assurance to the Director of Public Health (DPH) that there are comprehensive health protection arrangements in place to protect the health of the local population. The HPF encourages the exchange of local health protection information between partners to promote a system approach to health protection in Birmingham. The last HPF Annual Report was delivered to the Health and Wellbeing board in February 2022.
- 5.2. This report provides an update to the Health and Wellbeing board on the HPF's work in 2023-24.

Content

- 5.3 The report covers the following Health Protection areas:

5.3.1 Screening and Immunisation

- Successful response to the measles outbreak that began in autumn/winter 2023 and led to ~10,000 more MMR vaccinations compared to the same period last year
- Successful roll out of the local Covid-19 and flu vaccination programmes
- Good recovery of NHS screening programmes after the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.3.2 Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)

- A Birmingham and Solihull (BSol) Health Protection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been produced and signed by BCC, SMBC, NHS BSol and UKHSA.
- This product will be a useful resource to use when dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases across Birmingham and Solihull.

5.3.3 Non-communicable Disease and Environmental Hazards

- Every year, adverse weather leads to excess winter deaths and excess hot weather deaths in Birmingham and across the country and internationally.
- The HPF collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to develop a local Adverse Weather Plan, ensuring alignment with existing alert systems.
- This proactive approach led to successful adverse weather plan implementation, receiving positive stakeholder feedback.

- Collaborative efforts aim to enhance weather preparedness initiatives and to potentially save lives.

5.3.4 Communicable Disease

- TB No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) policy continues to work well, held by BSol ICB, agreed with local partners and providing appropriate accommodation for NRPF TB patients
- TB Workshops have been formalised between relevant partners to improve TB pathways for complex patients e.g. the TB Lost to Follow-Up (LTFU) pathway, where we strengthen links with partners to find TB patients lost to follow up before they develop drug resistant TB.

5.3.5 Oral Health

- An Oral Health Needs Assessment has been developed to reduce health inequalities across the city. There will be collaborative work to finalise key recommendations and facilitate the development of a local action plan.
- Funding was awarded to BCC and partners to provide oral health interventions to reduce poor oral health across Birmingham and Solihull. This resulted in toothbrush packs being supplied to education and early years settings, as well as food banks and family hubs.

5.3.6 Food safety and standards

- A Food safety and standards workstream was incorporated in the Birmingham Food Strategy launched in October 2023.
- Food borne infections are a major burden in Birmingham with over 4500 food related incidents reported in a year period, a figure that likely under-estimates the true numbers of food-related illness in the city,

Recommendations

- **5.4.1 Immunisations** - HWB Board should seek an assurance statement from the ICS regarding the immunisation recovery plan given the scale of the challenges of improving immunisation uptake rates.
- **5.4.2 TB NRPF** - HWB Board members to note the complex needs of TB patients with NRPF and support the ICS via the appropriate avenues to provide a holistic approach to each patient.

Summary

5.5 Health Protection functions returned to business-as-usual after the Covid-19 pandemic. This was challenged by the nationwide outbreak of measles in autumn 2023 which affected the West Midlands and particularly Birmingham. Despite this outbreak, health protection work has continued to tackle health inequalities across Birmingham and protect the health of its citizens. Recommendations from this report will be addressed in HPF meetings in 2024-25 and progress will be reported on in the next HPF Annual Report.

6. Compliance Issues

6.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

The annual report is to be approved by the HPF Chair, Cllr Nicky Brennan and disseminated to forum and board members.

6.2. Management Responsibility

Dr Mary Orhewere – Assistant Director (Health Protection); Chair, Health Protection Forum

6.3. Finance Implications

Management and administration of the forum is covered by the Public Health ringfenced grant.

The Council is currently in a S114 and facing significant financial challenges. The Public Health grant which funds the majority of the health protection response is funded through the public health ring-fenced grant, although it is important to note there are key elements such as regulatory services that are funded through the general fund and are essential that these statutory functions are maintained alongside protecting the budget within the grant to respond to future challenges.

6.4. Legal Implications

N/A

6.5. Equalities Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

The forum aims to gain assurance that the relevant plans are in place to protect the health of the local population. This means the forum also gains assurance from its members that health inequalities have been accurately identified, and plans are in place to reduce those inequalities.

7. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Workforce challenges for all organisations in the HPF	3	4	On-going recruitment and staff training
Emerging threats, known and unknown	4	3	Preparedness

Appendices

Appx 1 - Health Protection Forum Annual Report - Final

Background Papers

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Dr Mary Orhewere (Assistant Director, Health Protection and Environmental Public Health)
Funmi Worrell (Service Lead, Health Protection)
Helen Bissett (Senior Officer, Health Protection)
Paulius Armanavicius (Senior Officer, Health Protection)
Manuela Engelbert (Officer, Health Protection)
Onome Etim (Graduate Officer, Health Protection)