

Appendix X – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report (July 2021)

1.1 Context

The Health Protection Forum (HPF) is currently meeting monthly to facilitate the transition from a majority focus on Covid-19 to the other 'business as usual' health protection areas of work. Covid is still being covered at the Forum, but more time will be allocated to screening, immunisation, emergency planning, communicable and non-communicable diseases.

1.2 Current Circumstance

The terms of reference (ToR) have been reviewed and the membership has been refreshed due to changes in organisations and roles. By updating the membership we are ensuring that we have the right representatives from partner teams/ organisations to focus the work of the Forum going forwards.

The standing agenda items remain the same as in the last update report and cover the following issues:

1. The HPF coronavirus discussions include:
 - a. Current situation regarding case rates, test positivity rates, testing activity, cluster and outbreak summaries, ongoing plans and changes to covid response processes, vaccination activity
 - b. Review of activity related to different setting types (education, residential, clinical, workplaces and others)
 - c. Updates to process and structural changes to ensure covid response capacity is appropriate
2. Non-coronavirus discussions include:
 - a. Challenging health protection cases (including TB, blood-borne viruses, and other communicable diseases or environmental hazards situations)
 - b. Vaccination and screening programme uptake activity, delivery and plans (including flu, MMR and other childhood vaccinations)
 - c. The last meeting discussed immunisation uptake and plans to increase the rates – some mapping work focussing on MMR uptake is ongoing to identify which communities have lowest uptake so that plans may be developed
 - d. Additional projects on school-age immunisation uptake and immunisation assurance are being scoped and developed - updates will be provided in future reports
 - e. HPF members all being part of the assurance function that the HPF delivers and having an active role in HPF meetings – this is ongoing work

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- Planning for the seasonal flu 2021/22 programme is ongoing and will be shared with the HPF over the coming meetings – current expectation is

that it will be closely aligned to an autumn/winter covid booster vaccination programme

- Delivery of the SARS-CoV2 (known as covid) vaccination programme is ongoing and will report into the HPF. This is being led by the NHS.
- The Forum will also be seeking assurance on plans for catch-up child vaccination programmes and national screening programmes that have been impacted by the pandemic.
 - Over the next month the PH team will be exploring a project plan for school-age immunisation uptake improvement and community engagement
 - Mapping of current MMR uptake/gaps will be delivered and used to inform further plans
- Case studies of recent incidents will be presented to the refreshed HPF membership to ensure that lessons learned are identified and inform future service delivery
 - A table-top scenario-based session will be delivered to further develop and improve the engagement of HPF members
- Current situation reports for the different areas of health protection will be produced and these will inform the development of the work programme of the HPF for the next 12 months
 - A work programme will be developed with actions assigned to HPF attendees and partners