

## **Appendix 5 – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report**

### **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) are currently being reviewed and updated to reflect changes in organisations, roles, governance and focus going forward for the HPF. Membership is also being updated and engaging the most appropriate representatives in the forum will form the focus in the short-term.

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)
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)

### **1.3 Next Steps and Delivery**

- The NHS seasonal flu programme that is commissioned by NHSE&I and delivered by GPs, pharmacies, hospitals and vaccination service providers has now ended the 2020/21 season and discussions will move to lessons learned and planning for the 2021/22 season. Planning is led by BSol STP (and includes the West Birmingham area) and uptake activity will be reported into the HPF.
- 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.

- Monitoring of Covid case/contact data, outbreaks, intelligence will continue and be used to inform the response.
- 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.
- 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.