

**Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board**

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**Date of Meeting:** 17/01/2023

**Subject:** Health Protection Update

**Responsible Officer:** Carole Furlong/Nalini Iyanger

**Public:** Yes

**Wards affected:** None

**Enclosures:** List all documents attached which include information relevant to the report

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

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This report is providing an update on Health Protection in Harrow and is for noting only.

**Recommendations:**

Update for information

## **Section 2 – Report**

Health Protection is a core function of public health practice. It covers a number of different elements that protect individuals, groups and populations from single cases of infectious disease, incidents and outbreaks, and non-infectious environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.

Over the past century there have been significant reductions in the number of deaths from traditional infectious diseases. These accounted for around a third of all deaths in 1901 compared with just 8% in 2015. As we have seen recently though with the COVID-19 pandemic, new threats from infectious

diseases arise from changing socio-demographics including increased travel, immunosuppression and new types of viruses or bacteria.

Infectious diseases are a significant economic burden in the UK, accounting for annual costs of £30bn in 2017, pre-pandemic. As we have seen from the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergence of new infectious diseases has the potential for significant impact on our health, our economy and the way we live our lives.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care, is responsible health protection. It provides intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation's health secure.

UKHSA has a number of Health Protection Teams (HPTs) that provide support on a subregional basis. The North West London team, based in Colindale, covers the Harrow and the other 7 boroughs in Northwest London.

HPTs provide support to health professionals, including:

- local disease surveillance
- alert systems
- investigating and managing health protection incidents
- national and local action plans for infectious diseases

This update will be provided to the H&W Board by North West London Health Protection Team on communicable diseases and an overview of health protection activities, including:

- Group A Strep
- Flu and COVID-19
- Diphtheria
- Asylum seeker accommodation
- M-Pox
- Avian influenza
- Polio
- Other relevant updates

The data will not be circulated prior to the meeting as we wish to present the most up to date picture.

## **Financial Implications/Comments**

Funding of health protection teams comes from UKHSA.

Local health protection activities are funded through the public health grant or in the case of investigations of outbreaks requiring environmental investigation, through the Council environmental health budget.

## **Legal Implications/Comments**

The local authority has statutory duties for public health services under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 legislation including the duty to improve public health risk management implications.

The terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board include improving health and wellbeing for the residents of Harrow.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (Council and Joint Reports)**

### **Statutory Officer: Donna Edwards**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 04/01/23**

### **Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 04/01/23**

### **Chief Officer: Senel Arkut**

Signed by the Corporate Director

**Date: 04/01/23**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: No, as it impacts on all Wards**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Carole Furlong, Director of Public Health,  
[carole.furlong@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:carole.furlong@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** N/a

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

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|-----------------|----|
| 1. Consultation | NO |
| 2. Priorities   | NO |