

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

26 September 2019

West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018/2019

Report by Anna Raleigh, Director of Public Health

Summary

The County Council holds key statutory health protection responsibilities as outlined in this report. To ensure robust delivery of these statutory responsibilities, the Director of Public Health chairs a multi-agency West Sussex Health Protection Group bringing together organisations across the county that contribute to protecting the health of the West Sussex population. This produces an Annual Report to provide assurance that all parts of the system are working together effectively towards various targets and outcomes.

The focus for scrutiny

The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is invited to consider the West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018-2019 and the subsequent recommendations made, providing any comment to the Director of Public Health (DPH) prior to publication.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) role encompasses statutory and non-statutory as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.¹ The DPH is the statutory Chief Officer and Principal Adviser on all health matters to elected members and officers within their local authority, providing leadership for all three domains of public health – health improvement, health protection, and healthcare public health (public health advice to local NHS Commissioners).² The Secretary of State delegates some health protection functions to local authorities. Statutory responsibilities for Public Health functions in West Sussex are set out in the County Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Health Protection includes infectious disease, extreme weather events, and environmental hazards and contamination, although it is important to note it is not confined to this.³
- 1.3 On 1 April 2013, statutory responsibility to protect the health of the population moved from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to the Secretary of State for Health. Their responsibility is mainly discharged through Public Health England

(PHE), however, some specific powers are delegated to local authorities.³ These are:

- To provide information and advice within their local area on appropriate health protection arrangements to every relevant body and responsible person, and to provide clinical commissioning groups with health protection advice.³
- The DPH (on behalf of the local authority) has a duty to prepare for and lead the local authority's response to incidents that present a threat to the public's health.³

PHE is responsible for providing specialist health protection functions (formally carried out by the HPA), which includes specialist responses to incidents.³

1.4 To ensure robust delivery of these statutory functions, the DPH chairs a multi-agency Health Protection Group that brings together the organisations across the county that contribute to protecting the health of the population of West Sussex. The Group produces an annual report to provide assurance that all parts of the system are working together effectively toward various targets and outcomes. Publication of the report is a key performance objective within the Public Health Directorate Business Plan 2018-22.

1.5 The West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018/2019, details the West Sussex data, and activities carried out by the Council and partner organisations during the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 in relation to:

- Health Protection and Screening Assurance Group
- Infectious diseases including outbreaks
- Environmental Health
- Sexual Health
- Health Care Associated Infections
- Infection Prevention and Control Champions Programme
- Air Quality
- Screening Programmes (both cancer and non-cancer)
- Immunisation Programmes including influenza
- Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response

1.5 The key themes from 2018-19 are:

- The rate of infections per 100,000 population in West Sussex was below or around the South East rate, with the exception of Cryptosporidium, Pertussis, Measles and TB.
- Notable outbreaks included a large outbreak of Cryptosporidium associated with a farm, and a Measles outbreak amongst school pupils in the Chichester area, however the majority of outbreaks (norovirus and flu) are in care home settings and schools/nurseries/preschools
- There have been difficulties supporting the Enhanced Case Management of complex TB cases and TB incidents requiring large scale screening of contacts. This has been due to the ongoing staff capacity issues and the stopping of the Latent TB infection (LTBI) screening programme in primary care
- For health care associated infections (HCAI) there has been a sustained reduction in incidence, including a significant reduction in E.coli

bloodstream infections (BSI) (Coastal West Sussex (CWS) CCG) and zero MRSA BSI (Horsham and Mid Sussex (HMS) CCG)

- For sexual health, the Chlamydia diagnosis rate for West Sussex is lower than the South East and England rates; and there is a decline in the rate of new HIV diagnosis in West Sussex
- For cancer screening (Bowel, Breast and Cervical) there are good uptake rates for screening, but there are currently significant delays in cervical screening results and breast screening appointments. Cervical screening result delays are due to a shortage of cytologists adversely affecting turnaround times, as staff are redeployed and retrained to implement a new way of analysing samples to test for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), that will be rolled out in late 2019; and an increase in women presenting for screening following the PHE campaign in March 2019 to increase national uptake rates. Breast screening appointment delays is a recent issue due to a national shortage of mammographers and radiologists, which is being managed locally. For all three cancer screening programmes there is more work to do to reach deprived communities and groups
- For non-cancer screening (Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm (AAA), Ante Natal and New Born (ANNB), Diabetic Eye (DE)), all programmes are progressing well and there have been promotional activities focusing on increasing uptake rates and reaching deprived communities
- For adult immunisations (Pneumococcal, Shingles, prenatal Pertussis and seasonal Flu) support is being given to CWS CCG to improve the shingles vaccination uptake rates in its larger population in these age groups, locally commissioned maternity units are delivering around 400 Pertussis vaccinations a month
- For childhood immunisations the uptake rates for routine childhood vaccinations in West Sussex, are higher than the national average and reflects the hard work and commitment of local practices, local Child Health department and the immunisation team at Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, however, there is still more to do to meet national targets
- For seasonal flu vaccinations, the uptake rate in children during 2018-19 improved and is higher than the South East rate. For adults aged 65 years or older the uptake rate nearly met the national target of 75%, and reflects the hard work and commitment of local practices and pharmacies. For those under 65 years in risk groups and pregnant the uptake rates generally exceeded that of the South East too, but improvements are needed to increase the uptake rates closer to the national target of 55%.
- Improving air quality is now a corporate priority for the Council with the formation of the West Sussex Inter Authority Air Quality group bringing together members from each local authority. The group will support the continued work of Sussex Air who successfully obtained two Defra grants – the first to raise awareness of air quality issues with schools and businesses working with Sustrans (a charity whos' aims are to make it easier for people to walk and cycle), Living Streets (a charity promoting everyday walking) and Phlorum (air quality consultants); and the second to raise awareness around burning solid fuels in domestic settings (Clean Burn Sussex project)
- Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response saw the Council sign up to the Sussex LHRP MoU for Health Protection Incidents, lead a review

of the LHRP Pandemic Flu plan, and contribute to the Westhampnet fire response

- 1.6 For 2019-20, the key areas to focus on include:
- Supporting and further developing robust TB pathways in Crawley and Mid Sussex areas
 - to identify primary focus of HCAI through continued collaboration with provider organisations and implement focused reduction strategies in line with the STP HCAI reduction Strategy
 - Continuing the Infection Prevention and Control Champions programme to support care homes and domiciliary providers to help reduce the incidence of HCAI and outbreaks
 - to support screening programmes to increase uptake and reduce inequalities
 - Supporting the immunisation programmes promotional activities focusing on seasonal Flu, Measles, prenatal Pertussis, and Shingles vaccinations
 - Working with internal and external partners to improve air quality
 - Supporting the EPRR planning and delivery of multiagency exercises

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the DPH updates the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee on the West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018/2019 and health protection activities across the county to provide assurance that all parts of the system are working together effectively towards various targets and outcomes, ensuring the local authority's statutory responsibilities are met. The Committee is invited to scrutinise the annual report prior to publication, providing any comment to the DPH.

3. Resources

- 3.1 None.

Factors taken into account

4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 4.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is invited to consider the West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018-2019 and the subsequent recommendations made, providing any comment to the Director of Public Health (DPH) prior to publication.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 External – the following external partner organisations were contributors to the annual report:
- Public Health England South East – Health Protection Team Surrey and Sussex
 - Public Health England South East – Screening and Immunisation Team Kent, Surrey and Sussex
 - Coastal West Sussex CCG - Quality

- Central Sussex and East Surrey Commissioning Alliance

5.2 Internal - the following internal partner teams were contributors to the annual report:

- Public Health – Health Protection
- Children, Families and Working Age Adults Commissioning - Sexual Health
- Communities and Public Protection – Emergency Resilience
- Economy, Infrastructure and Environment – Sustainability

6. Risk Implications and Mitigations

6.1 Risks and mitigating actions have been set out in the detail of this report and are monitored by the West Sussex Health Protection Group.

7. Other Options Considered

7.1 No other options were considered as this is an annual report on the Health Protection functions and contributions that have taken place during 2018-2019.

8. Equality Duty

8.1 This report is an Annual Report that covers a large number of domains that encompass the Health Protection function. These domains have the potential to impact on all West Sussex residents regardless of any protected characteristics. Where protected characteristics do apply, individual organisations and stakeholders who deliver this function will be responsible for ensuring that any potential impact is managed as part of their equality duty.

9. Social Value

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 None

11. Human Rights Implications

11.1 None

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Appendices

West Sussex Health Protection Annual Report 2018-2019

Background Papers

None

References

1. UK Parliament. Health and Social Care Act 2012 [Online]. 2012 [accessed 2019 Aug 29]. Available from:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted>
2. Department of Health. Directors of Public Health in Local Government: Roles, responsibilities and context [Online]. 2013 [accessed 2019 Aug 29]. Available from:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249810/DPH_Guidance_Final_v6.pdf
3. Department of Health, Public Health England, Local Government Association. Protecting the health of the local population: the new health protection duty of local authorities under the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013. May 2013.