

Appendix 4a

| Health Protection Forum - Report | | Reporting Period: March to February 2016 | | |
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| Infection Prevention and Control/HCAI | | | | |
| Issue | Comments | Reported by | Department | To be escalated? |
| HCAI/Outbreaks | 5 cases of Legionnaires Disease were being investigated – this was in one area of Blackpool but was different types and thought to be 5 sporadic cases. A number of Blackpool residents (6) were included in an outbreak of E.coli in holiday cottages in Cumbria, 2 of the cases were health workers 6x Norovirus, 1x Scabies outbreak in CH’s 6x Noro in Hospital settings 1x Streptococcal Group A outbreak in MH facility 1x family outbreak staying at a holiday park 4x issues investigated but outbreak not found, e.g. cluster of crypto cases all had visited swimming pool, but at different times and had other exposures 110 notifications of infectious disease, raised scarlet fever cases, although considered a seasonal increase. | Shelagh Snape | Public Health England | Yes |
| PHE Arrangements | C&L is now part of PHE North West Centre, new structure for the HPT being put in place at present and we are expecting loss of posts, we are striving to keep a local presence but we have to change some of our current activities to provide a consistent response across the 3 offices (CL, CM and GM). The PHE lab at RPH is closing, samples from the north will go either to Manchester or York, hopefully the transportation arrangements for samples being put in place will mean the ‘sender’ should see little difference in the service, may have impact on speed though? | | | |
| PHE Guidance | Zika virus infection: guidance for primary care pub | | | |
| Communicable Disease/Outbreak Management | | | | |
| Issue | Comments | Reported by | Department | To be escalated? |
| Seasonal Flu Flu Uptake Health Care Workers Risk Groups | Nationally influenza activity has risen further in the last week reported. Vaccine is well matched to circulating strain HCW uptake 72% end of Dec 2015, 72% by end of season last year, target 75%. (One of the better trusts across C&L) 3month – 65 yrs risk: Blackpool CCG 43% Lancs Area Team(AT) 47% Over 65 yrs: Blackpool CCG 70% Lancs AT 72.4% Pregnant women: Blackpool CCG 41.6% Lancs AT 42.1% 2Yrs Blackpool CCG 25% Lancs AT 30.1% 3yrs Blackpool CCG 29.7% Lancs AT 34.4% | Shelagh Snape | Public Health England | yes |

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| | <p>4 yrs Blackpool CCG 21.5% Lancs AT 27%</p> <p>Note good uptake in HCW in Blackpool, but lower rates of uptake in some risk groups, notably pregnant women and 3 months to 65 in risk groups.</p> | | | |
| <p>Tattoo Incidents</p> <p>Tattoo rating scheme</p> | <p>In recent years we have seen a number of incidents relating to practices in tattoo and body piercing businesses in the town. Tattoos, piercings and other skin adornments are becoming increasingly popular. These activities do however present a potential risk of transmission of blood borne diseases. It was appropriate to look at measures to protect the public from poor practice, encourage businesses to achieve good hygiene standards, and enable people to make informed choices.</p> <p>In July, Blackpool Council introduced a scheme for rating the hygiene of businesses offering tattooing, body piercing and semi-permanent/permanent make-up. Working in a similar way to the national Food Hygiene rating systems, the Blackpool Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme uses an approach that is recognisable and allows customers to check the rating of premises. It was developed using the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's (CIEH) 'Tattoo and Body Piercing Guidance Toolkit'.</p> <p>Premises which do not work to good cleanliness standards receive a low rating. Participation is voluntary but all premises operating in the town are listed on the Council's webpage www.blackpool.gov.uk/tattoo. So far 19 of the 53 businesses currently operating in the town have been inspected. Of these 16 achieved the highest rating of 5, and all achieved a rating of 3 or more.</p> | | | |
| TB incidents | | | | |
| Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response | | | | |
| Issue | Comments | Reported by | Department | To be escalated? |
| Emergency Planning Resilience and Response Assurance letter to Blackpool CCG ((November 2015) | The Local Health Resilience Partnership have made a recommendation that Blackpool CCG test their emergency planning and response | D.Jackson | Risk and Resilience | Yes |
| Cryptosporidium incident | <p>In early August, a potential contamination of the water supply was identified. A 'boil water' notice was issued by the water supplier, United Utilities, to people living in parts of Lancashire and Blackpool, as a precaution while further investigation took place. Testing confirmed that there were traces of Cryptosporidium in the water supply. Cryptosporidium is a parasite that can infect humans and animals, and causes gastroenteritis-like illness, typically diarrhoea and vomiting lasting for up to two weeks. Children are most likely to become infected. Whilst most infected people experience this as an unpleasant illness that resolves in time, it can lead to severe illness in people whose immune system isn't working properly.</p> <p>Due to the large numbers of people affected by the 'boil water' notice, the Lancashire Resilience Forum considered an</p> | Neil Williams | | |

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| PHE commentary | <p>emergency response was required under the Civil Contingencies Act. A Strategic Coordinating Group was set up, chaired by myself as Director of Public Health acting on behalf of the three local authorities of Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen, and Lancashire, to coordinate the response across all relevant agencies and partners.</p> <p>The Cryptosporidium parasite is killed by exposure to UV light and the key action to resolve the incident required erecting UV rigs at certain points within the water supply network. The water supply was then subject to a further period of testing until satisfactory clear samples were obtained and the 'boil water' notice lifted. During the period that the 'boil water notice was in effect, the SCG worked closely with United Utilities to ensure that arrangements were made to supply large institutions for whom boiling water was problematic, such as hospitals. The incident occurred during the school holidays but preparations were made to ensure that schools had supplies of bottled water, and all schools in affected areas were able to open as normal.</p> <p>Crypto in mains water supply last year - it is really difficult to give a definite answer on whether the incident resulted in an increased incidence or cases caused by this event, going through the questionnaires for all those within the Boil Water Notice area, for the majority there were other risk factors so we couldn't categorically say where they caught it. There was also a national increase in crypto at the time which didn't help with surveillance. It is a likely conclusion that there were no cases directly attributable to the incident. Dr J Asbury is currently writing up the report.</p> | | | |
| Gastro-Intestinal Infections | <p>Consultation rates for diarrhoea and vomiting have increased again in the last week. The number of laboratory detections of norovirus have also increased, although the number of detections are still relatively low. There have been fewer outbreaks reported for the last week, with the majority being in Social Care settings</p> | | | |
| Environmental | | | | |
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| Bathing Water Quality | <p>The European Union (EU) Bathing Water Directive is provided to ensure that bathers are aware of the quality of bathing water and was implemented to protect human health and the environment. EU rules have been in place to safeguard public health and clean bathing waters since 1976. A revised bathing water directive of 2006 updated and simplified the rules, and introduced a requirement for sampling, and to inform the public about bathing water quality so that they can make informed choices about bathing. These regulations have since been revised to include more stringent requirements around sampling and advice.</p> <p>Four new bathing water classifications were introduced at the end of the 2015 bathing season: poor (advice to public against bathing) sufficient, good and excellent. Blackpool Council were given advanced warning that three of its four bathing waters were predicted to be classified as 'Poor'. In response, and with a view to concerns about the effect on public health and the adverse effect on tourism, Blackpool Council formed the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership with Fylde, Wyre, Lancashire County Council, Environment Agency, United Utilities and Keep Britain Tidy to ensure that the bathing water along the Fylde peninsula is the best quality it can be and that Blackpool's bathing waters achieve the classifications to allow bathing.</p> <p>A regional partnership, Turning Tides, provides communication regionally and about what is being done to improve our waters locally through the 'Love my beach' campaigns. This is proving a good way of engaging the public and others to reduce pollution. Membership of Turning Tides includes National Farmers Union, United Utilities and the Environment Agency and over the last four years this partnership has made a significant contribution to improving bathing water quality.</p> <p>The efforts of these two groups have paid off. In November 2015 Blackpool Council received the following classifications for its bathing waters:-</p> | Clare Nolan Barnes | | |

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| | <p>Blackpool South: Excellent</p> <p>Blackpool Central: Sufficient</p> <p>Blackpool North: Good</p> <p>Bispham: Sufficient</p> <p>The work of the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership and Turning Tides continues to be important to ensure that local residents and visitors can be confident with the quality of bathing water, and enjoy the natural resources of the Fylde coastline.</p> <p>Further information on the Love my beach campaign can be found at lovemybeach.org</p> | | | |
| Health and Safety Issues | | | | |
| Issue | Comments | Reported by | Department | To be escalated? |
| Sunbeds | | | | |
| Food Safety Allergens: Licensing: | <p>The Food Standards Agency awarded us grant money to carry out allergen sampling this year. Where business have stated that peanut has not been used, meals have been checked for the presence of peanut. We have taken two samples. One of which is satisfactory. One business has been tested twice and both on occasions have been positive for the presence of peanut. This business is now being prosecuted for this, and other food hygiene offences. We hope to get further funding for the year ahead.</p> <p>We also got FSA funding to carry out sampling for testing of take away meals containing specified meat species to check they are the right species. We have carried out 7 samples. 2 of these samples have proved to be unsatisfactory. One ham and pineapple pizza was actually turkey and one lamb rogan josh was actually beef.</p> <p>Representing public health in licensing hearings for off licences in cumulative impact zones – 13 this year</p> <p>Alcohol strategy meetings with public health</p> <p>Alcohol sampling – ABV testing machine used to check licensed premises to check alcohol is genuine and safe. One of these visits has resulted in a simple caution.</p> <p>We are also working with Public Health this year towards delivering the Healthy Catering Award.</p> <p>Reduced resources for Food Control and health and safety enforcement. Food is losing the infectious disease officer post, which will impact on infectious disease case and outbreak investigations, sampling and investigation of food complaints. Some of these functions will cease, some will be absorbed by other officers.</p> | Carolyn Bland | Public Protection | |
| Rented Properties/Landlords | | | | |
| Communications | | | | |
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| Milk Fluoridation | Executive approval for scheme agreed on 18 th January 2016. | Donna Taylor (Public Health) | Public Health | |
| Public Health Campaigns GULP Challenge | <p>Children are consuming too much sugar. Recent estimates suggest that sugar accounts for around three times the maximum recommended proportion of their energy intake¹. Sugary drinks are the largest single source of sugar for children², particularly teenagers, who are getting almost a third of the daily sugar from sugary drinks³. Sugary drinks are full of excess calories, offer no nutritional value and aren't necessary for a healthy diet. In Blackpool a recent survey of secondary school children in the town 25% of boys and 16% of girls reported having fizzy drinks (not low cal) on most days⁴. Blackpool Council worked with Food Active to deliver the 'give up loving pop' campaign to raise awareness of the harms of sugary drinks, and to encourage teenagers to switch to healthier alternatives.</p> <p>The campaign was promoted via social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), and through teaching sessions and roadshows delivered by school nurses and oral health promotion staff in schools and colleges. Students were encouraged to take the #GULPchallenge to give up loving pop for 21 days, sign up to the online pledge and share 'healthy selfies' with their friends with a change to win theme park tickets.</p> <p>Feedback received to date on the campaign has been positive. Students and staff engaged well with the campaign with one student even completing a video diary over the 21 days of the challenge. A post-campaign survey is currently underway with results expected in February 2015. Emerging findings from a follow up focus group in one school revealed that half of the students taking part had completed the challenge and felt they would be able to carry on not drinking pop, and all students said they now look at sugar content when buying drinks. The project generated a good deal of media interest and was covered in the print and broadcast media including BBC Breakfast and BBC News nationally.</p> | Lynn Donkin | | |
| Occupational Health | | | | |
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| Staff Flu Vaccination | <p>Occupational Health Service have offered free flu vaccinations for all Blackpool Council, Fylde and BCH employees. Whilst offered to all employees, those employees who are front line and working in a caring setting were encouraged to participate in the programme. Vaccination sessions were held in the OH suite at Bickerstaffe Square but in order to try to increase uptake within targeted groups, on-site vaccination sessions were also held at The Arc, Layton Depot, Municipal Buildings, Fylde and some schools. The sessions at Bickerstaffe however proved to be the most popular and best attended.</p> <p>In total 523 vaccines were given, 91 of these were employees working in Adult Services and 60 for Children Services. The remaining 372 were employees from other Directorates within the Council, Fylde, BCH and some schools (such as Highfurlong & Woodlands).</p> | Karen White | OHD | yes |

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| | | As well as the “in-house vaccination scheme”, this year we piloted a scheme with local pharmacies to see if the uptake would increase if employees were able to attend a pharmacy at a place and time convenient to themselves. The free vaccination voucher scheme has been running since November and to date 15 employees have used this opportunity. Whilst it is encouraging that has been a generally good uptake of flu vaccine in all departments within the Council; preferably uptake in staff working in front line services would be higher. | | | |
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