

Report to:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Relevant Officer:

Dianne Draper, Consultant in Public Health

Relevant Cabinet Member:

Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Community Health and Wellbeing

Date of Meeting

5 October 2022

HEALTH PROTECTION BOARD UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To summarise the governance structures put in place to oversee the Council's statutory duty for Health Protection in Blackpool.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To endorse the structures and note the terms of reference attached at Appendix 4a and priorities summarised at paragraph 6.5.

2.2 To agree that the Health Protection Board will report at least every six months to the Health and Wellbeing Board and additional if significant concerns are raised by the Health Protection Board.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To be assured of the mechanisms of governance going forward and to allow for consideration of key Health Protection issues to be raised and considered by the Board.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 No other option / board within the area.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Emergency structures to oversee the Covid-19 pandemic have been widely stepped down enabling the Council to reinstate the Health Protection Board to govern and oversee all aspects of Health Protection across Blackpool.

6.2 The Health Protection Board is a sub-group of the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board and will focus on the Director of Public’s Health statutory oversight and assurance role of health protection plans to protect the health of the population of Blackpool.

6.3 The Board will provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board and its partner organisations on the delivery of health protection plans; including, outbreak management, infection prevention and control, public protection and the performance of immunisation programmes.

6.4 The Board will provide a setting for the exchange of information, scrutiny of plans and analysis of data with all partners with a role in the delivery of health protection in Blackpool, ensuring they are acting jointly and effectively to protect the population’s health.

6.5 Membership of the Boards encompasses representatives from across the Council (including social services and public protection), Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The agenda is broad to allow oversight over a range of key issues. It also creates a governance and accountability framework for existing member groups with a health protection remit and support the establishment of new groups where appropriate; to initially include following:

2.2.1 Communicable Diseases

2.2.2 Non-infectious Sources e.g. Contamination, Poisoning, Radiation

2.2.3 Immunisations

2.2.4 Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

2.2.5 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

2.2.6 Environmental Hazards and Coastal Water Quality

2.2.7 Public Protection e.g. Food Control, Tattoo Parlors, Sunbeds

2.2.8 Harm Reduction and Prevention Forum

2.2.9 Migrant Health

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4a: Terms of Reference for the Health Protection Board

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Acting without a governance structure in place risks the Director of Public Health being unable to comprehensively fulfil the Regulation 8 Statutory Duty which imposes a duty on local authorities to provide information and advice to certain persons and bodies within their area in order to promote the preparation of, or participation in, health protection arrangements against threats to the health of the local population, including infectious disease, environmental hazards and extreme weather events.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Equity and inequalities will be a core agenda item for the group as evidence suggests that communicable disease and health protection issues can be exasperated by socio-economics circumstance and other factors.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Environmental Hazards and Extreme Weather will be a core component of the Health Protection Board.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A consultation session on the development of a Blackpool wide Health Protection Strategy was held on the 21 September 2022, helping to oversee these issues and prioritise action.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.