



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE: 20 MARCH 2019

REPORT TITLE	WIRRAL HEALTH PROTECTION CHALLENGES: A CALL TO ACTION
REPORT OF	<i>Acting Director for Health and Wellbeing</i>

REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines the call to action made of Health and Care Partners to prioritise and work as a system to ensure we have robust health protection arrangements in place and deliver against three identified health protection priorities.

Background

Health protection is a set of functions which acts to protect individuals, groups and populations from the impact of infectious diseases, environmental hazards as well as ensuring we are prepared for and respond to emergencies. It is an essential part of achieving and maintaining good health for Wirral residents.

Protecting the public from hazards has a long history. As far back as the early 19th century Medical Officers of Health were implementing strategies aimed at improving environmental conditions, for example by providing clean drinking water, safe sewage disposal, and safer working conditions.

Health protection issues in Wirral remain as they;

- are the causes of significant morbidity and mortality in the borough
- create avoidable and preventable harm
- contribute to health inequalities - many infectious diseases and environmental hazards such as poor air quality often affects our most vulnerable residents; children and older people, people living in less affluent areas.
- are costly: health protection interventions are cost-saving, both to health services as well as the wider economy.

Key Issues

Developments in the way we improve the health of individuals, communities and populations must be accompanied by a renewed focus on the basics of how we protect our communities from infectious diseases and environmental hazards. In addition, we must adapt and respond to new threats such as antimicrobial resistance and a rise in healthcare associated infections.

We have reviewed local data and highlighted three priorities which we consider require sustained action across the local health and care system to reduce the burden from health protection issues. These are:

- 1) The development of a system wide approach to Infection Prevention and Control in order to reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infections
- 2) Reducing antimicrobial resistance
- 3) Reducing the variation and uptake of cancer screening and national immunisation programmes.

These priorities provide a targeted focus on key challenges where improvement is required, or needs are greatest. We will, in addition, continue to assure that statutory duties to protect health are discharged and that local organisations are resilient to threats to health through effective planning and preparation as well as being equipped to respond to incidents, outbreaks and emergencies.

The Wirral Health Protection Group has responsibility to ensure that Wirral has a robust health protection system which effectively controls and prevents population level health issues. Multi-agency groups will drive delivery against the three identified priorities. The Wirral Health Protection Group will escalate risks to the Healthy Wirral Executive Directors Group and Healthy Wirral Partners Board as required.

No single agency can address these challenges in isolation nor can the Health Protection Group deliver these priorities independently. In order to deliver the action plans outlined for each of the three health protection priorities we need all Healthy Wirral Partners to renew their focus upon these priorities and commit to action.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the Call to Action for Healthy Wirral Partners to prioritise and work as a system to ensure we have robust health protection arrangements in place
- Support delivery against the three identified health protection priorities

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

No single agency can address these challenges in isolation nor can the Health Protection Group deliver these priorities independently. In order to deliver the action plans outlined for each of the three health protection priorities we need all partners to renew their focus upon these priorities and commit to action.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

N/A

6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

N/A

7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

N/A

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	