

Agenda Item 33.

TITLE **Berkshire West Health Protection and Resilience Partnership Board (“HPRPB”)**

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Wokingham Borough Health and Wellbeing Board on Thursday, 14th December 2023

WARD None Specific

LEAD OFFICER Ingrid Slade, Director Public Health
Karen Buckley, Consultant in Public Health, Wokingham Borough Council

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/ priorities most progressed through the report	<p>Health protection contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the differences in health between different groups of people • Supporting individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives • Helping families and children in early years
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/ priorities	<p>Health protection includes activities that seek to prevent, or reduce the harm caused by, communicable (infectious) diseases and minimise the health impact from environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.</p> <p>Health protection issues contribute to health inequalities as some residents face higher risks than others. The impact can be mitigated through suitable prevention measures and interventions.</p>

Reason for consideration by Wokingham Borough Health and Wellbeing Board	The Wokingham Borough Health and Wellbeing Board should be provided with assurance that the HPRPB acts as a permanent governance structure that puts robust arrangements in place to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West, and that the statutory health protection roles of the local authorities and the Director of Public Health(s) have been fulfilled.
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	Not applicable
State the financial implications of the decision	None

<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Wokingham Borough Health and Wellbeing Board:</p>
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- 1) note the establishment of the HPRPB, chaired by a Director of Public Health, to provide assurance that robust arrangements are in place to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West (including West Berkshire, Wokingham, Reading).
- 2) note the terms of reference for the HPRPB.
- 3) note that the HPRPB will meet quarterly and produce an annual report to both the Unified Executive and the HWB to provide a clear analysis of risk, mitigation, and incidents.

SUMMARY:

Local Authorities were given an additional health protection duty under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013, made under section 6C of the National Health Service Act 2006. This was in addition to the existing health protection functions and three statutory powers delegated to local authorities under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act (1984), the Health and Social Care Act (2008), the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Food Safety Act (1990). Local Authorities are also a category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and responsible for coordinating and agreeing plans and strategies in Emergency Planning Resilience and Response.

The additional mandatory duty given to local authorities is to ensure that there are plans in place to protect the health of the population. Directors of Public Health, acting on behalf of their Local Authorities, and working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, have a critical role in protecting the health of their population, both in terms of helping to prevent threats arising and in ensuring appropriate responses when things do go wrong. It is expected that Local Authorities and partners across Berkshire West work to ensure that threats to health are understood, prepared for, and (when necessary) responded to.

Temporary working arrangements were established in Berkshire West during the pandemic, which provided a mechanism for delivering against national guidance on health protection (with a focus on COVID-19). There is now a need to establish a permanent governance structure to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West.

The HPRPB will act as a permanent governance structure for the local authority and Directors of Public Health in Berkshire West to work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders in fulfilling the statutory duty to protect the health of residents.

Formal meetings will be held quarterly, and will be chaired by a Director of Public Health, with core members comprising:

- Director(s) of Public Health representing West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham local authorities
- Consultant(s) in Public Health, from each local authority
- Head of Emergency Planning Unit, from each local authority
- Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (“TVLRF”) Partnership Manager
- Environmental Health Manager, from each local authority

- Consultant in Communicable Disease Control/Consultant in Health Protection, UKHSA
- Integrated Place Based Partnership Board Representative
- Integrated Care Board Berkshire West Infection Control Lead
- South East Area Team NHS England Board Emergency Planning Resilience and Response Manager
- South East Area Team NHS England Immunisation & Screening Manager/Consultant

Detailed recommendations on establishing the HPRPB, as well as its aims, objectives, terms of reference and membership, are set out in the attachment.

Analysis of Issues, including any financial implications

The HPRPB will review updates from partners quarterly including performance of screening programmes, immunisation programmes and sexual health services. It will monitor epidemiological patterns in disease and environmental hazards and will consider seasonal impacts. The HPRPB will note escalation of issues and has the flexibility to meet more often if required.

The HPRPB will report to the three Health and Wellbeing Boards (West Berkshire, Wokingham, Reading), and produce an annual report to both the Unified Executive and the three Health & Wellbeing Boards (West Berkshire, Wokingham, Reading) to provide a clear analysis of risk, mitigation, and incidents.

DECISIONS REQUIRED:

The Wokingham Borough Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to agree to the following:

- To note the establishment of the HPRPB, chaired by a Director of Public Health, to provide assurance that robust arrangements are in place to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West (including Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham).
- To note the agreed terms of reference for the HPRPB.
- Note that the HPRPB will meet quarterly and produce an annual report to both the Unified Executive and the HWB to provide a clear analysis of risk, mitigation, and incidents.

Partner Implications
System partners are already engaged in the work of the HPRPB in monitoring progress, informing priorities, and delivering actions.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
Not applicable.

List of Background Papers
Attachment: Berkshire West HPRPB recommendation paper and terms of reference

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