

## **REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT OF LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE OUTBREAK**

**Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To review how the outbreak of legionnaires disease in Hereford City was managed.

### **Financial implications**

2. None identified at this stage. Work is to be carried out from within existing resources.

### **Background**

3. In November 2003 this Committee identified the need to scrutinise the management of the legionnaires disease outbreak. A scoping statement was approved in January, 2004. The view was taken that before commencing the review it would be helpful to have available the official report on lessons learned compiled by the Health Protection Agency. This has taken longer than expected and in order to commence the review before the end of the summer it is proposed to seek to proceed to gather evidence.
4. The terms of reference for the review set out in the scoping statement identified the following key areas of interest:
  1. The role of the Health Protection Agency and chronology of events from the diagnosis of the first case in Herefordshire through to the winding up of the special management arrangements put in place;
  2. Any national criteria used to trigger the decision to change the status of a disease outbreak and any other associated policies regarding publicity etc;
  3. The actions taken by the Primary Care Trust to manage the outbreak;
  4. The actions taken by the Council's Environmental Health service to identify the source of the outbreak;
  5. The arrangements put in place in order to communicate with the public via the media.
  6. To review the effectiveness of the joint response to the outbreak of the agencies involved.
5. The desired outcomes are:
  - To make recommendations to improve the overall management arrangements for dealing with outbreaks of serious diseases such as Legionnaires;

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny)  
on 01432 260239

- To make recommendations on the specific role of the Primary Care Trust in dealing with outbreaks of serious diseases such as Legionnaires;
  - To make recommendations on the specific role of the Council's Environmental Health service in dealing with outbreaks of serious diseases such as Legionnaires;
  - To make recommendations on the arrangements for communicating with the public via the media when dealing with outbreaks of serious diseases such as Legionnaires.
6. Written submissions are being sought and it is intended that there will be an opportunity at the meeting to receive presentations from and ask questions of the Director of Public Health, and representatives of the Health Protection Agency, the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, the Council's Environmental Health Service and the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None