

# **Title of report: Health Protection Assurance Forum Annual Report 2024**

**Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Meeting date: Monday 9 December 2024**

**Report by: Rob Davies, Consultant in Public Health; Sophie Hay, Public Health Lead (Health Protection)**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards)

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to share the Health Protection Assurance Forum Annual Report 2024 with the board.

This serves to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the health protection system performance, achievements, and risks for 2024, as well as areas of focus for 2025.

## **Recommendations**

**That:**

- a) The Health and Wellbeing Board note the health protection system performance, achievements, and risks for 2024, as well as areas of focus for 2025.**
- b) The Health and Wellbeing Board seek any further assurance via the Health Protection Assurance Forum.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The board could choose not to consider this report.

## Key considerations

2. In Herefordshire, the Health Protection Assurance Forum (HPAF) is a partnership group that helps the Director of Public Health to fulfil their statutory role in seeking assurance that satisfactory arrangements are in place to protect the health of the local population.
3. It meets quarterly and is a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board with members from across the Health Protection System (see below):



4. The Forum have produced an annual report aiming to summarise the health protection system performance for Herefordshire in 2024, as well as areas of development for 2025 (See Appendix 1 – Health Protection Assurance Forum Annual Report 2024).
5. This year’s update had two elements. A data update: a review of relevant data to understand what is improving, what is getting worse, and what has stayed the same since last year. And a narrative update: professional commentary on progress against 2024 ambitions and plans for 2025.
6. The 2024 report follows the same structure as 2023, updating eight health protection areas:
  - Antimicrobial resistance
  - Immunisation programmes
  - Population screening programmes
  - COVID-19
  - Sexual health
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - Tuberculosis
  - Environmental hazards to health, safety and pollution control
7. The Executive Summary shows a short “2023 Summary” then a “2024 Update” so that one builds on the other, and to maintain continuity with last year’s aspirations.

## Community impact

8. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these is an important strategic choice to make sure outcomes are

achieved. The council needs robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure its outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best use of resources whilst still enabling efficient and effective operations and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.

### **Environmental impact**

9. Producing this annual report had minimal environmental impacts. In its production and dissemination, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the Council's Environmental Policy, for example, by reducing paper waste and using virtual meetings to reduce car use.

### **Equality duty**

10. Due to the potential impact of this function being low, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. However, equality of access to health protection related services, including vaccination and screening, remains an ongoing focus.

### **Resource implications**

11. There are no resource implications associated with this report. However, the resource implications of any recommendations made by the HWB will need to be considered by the responsible party in response to those recommendations or subsequent decisions

### **Legal implications**

12. The Health and Wellbeing Board carries out statutory functions as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The board's functions are set out in Part 3.5.25 of the Council's constitution.

### **Risk management**

13. There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report.
14. Any specific system risk/s identified within the body report are included within the Health Protection Assurance Forum's risks and issues log and will be monitored and reviewed by Health Protection Assurance Forum partners on a quarterly basis.

### **Consultees**

- Members of the Health Protection Assurance Forum
- Contributors to the Health Protection Annual Report
- Public Health Leadership Team
- Dr Cate Carmichael (Interim Director of Public Health)

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Health Protection Assurance Forum Annual Report 2024

Appendix 2: Presentation, Health Protection Assurance Forum Annual Report 2024

### **Background papers**

None identified.