

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **HEALTH PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE**

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides a proposed update to the Health Protection Collaborative terms of reference following the planned review discussion by the Collaborative in July 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The report recommends that the Board:

1. Considers and supports the proposed amendments to the Health Protection Collaborative terms of reference.

### **DETAIL**

1. As detailed in the previous report to Board (April 2022), Health Protection covers a range of public health issues, including infectious disease control, chemical / biological threats, screening and immunisations and public health input to the emergency and major incident planning process.
2. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Public Health were confirmed to cover health protection, with the duty to provide assurance that robust systems are in place to protect the health of the population.
3. The Local Authority (as the employer of the DPH) also has existing public health powers that cover health protection matters as well as broader responsibilities with respect to major incident planning, response and recovery. All Board organisations have key responsibilities and / or involvement in health protection matters.
4. In April 2022 the Board agree that the Covid Control Group that had been established during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, would be broadened to form a Health Protection Collaborative, building on good practice and strong relationships. This would strengthen the governance and assurance arrangements with respect to health protection, reporting to the Board as the local body with the system lead on health and wellbeing matters for the population.

5. The Collaborative provides assurance to the Board on Health Protection matters for the Borough and supports local system working to ensure a robust and resilient local health protection system. It does not duplicate the work of existing system meetings around e.g. screening programmes and Winter planning; rather it seeks to ensure the system is working at a local borough-based level and supports the DPH in their assurance role, reporting to the Board.
6. The Social Care Protection Operational Group also reports to the Collaborative with reports and updates to the Collaborative. Though the Social Care Protection Group will a broader remit than health protection, a significant proportion of its work is relevant to this area
7. It was agreed as part of establishing the Collaborative that a review of the group's terms of reference would be undertaken after a year – this discussion was slightly delayed and held by the Collaborative in July 2023 with the outcome captured in this paper. This is timely with the move of some functions from NHSE/I into the ICB, including screening and immunisations public health teams.
8. In addition it is intended to establish a quarterly Tees Valley Health Protection Board, to support system working on this wider footprint. This group would not replace the local Collaborative, with primacy of local place still being the key principle. It would provide support to local Collaboratives by providing a forum to agree strategic public health approaches to issues e.g. increasing equitable uptake of immunisations where it makes sense to have this discussion once. The local Collaborative for the borough would then adopt and localise this approach. Statutory assurance still sits at local (borough) level.
9. The Collaborative has continued to function well, supporting strong relationships across the local system and with the aim of support and challenge as system partners in relation to health protection. Partners reflected that they have found this very helpful, as well as the opportunity have a common understanding of current issues across the system.
10. Over the past year, the Collaborative has considered a range of issues and provided updates and assurance to the Board, including:
  - Post-Covid
  - Winter planning
  - Childhood immunisations
  - Sexual health
  - Screening uptake
11. Discussion at the Collaborative reflected there is strong commitment to the group as a local systems overview and collaboration forum to share information and offer mutual support and challenge.

12. It was requested that there was a stronger commitment from some partners to attend more regularly. It was agreed that it will be helpful to theme meetings around particular issues in future, which would aim to encourage attendance by key partners for these discussions e.g. screening and immunisations uptake, emergency planning, infection prevention and control. There remains the ability to co-opt additional attendees on to the group for specific discussions.
13. It was also agreed the Collaborative would meet every 2 months in future, rather than monthly.
14. The updated terms of reference are appended to this paper for the Board's consideration.

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