



Report of: The Health Protection Board

Report to: Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 April 2022

Subject: Leeds Health Protection Board Report

Are specific geographical areas affected? If relevant, name(s) of area(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on key Health Protection Board priorities, achievements and areas of focus for 2022/23. The report will look back at what the health protection system helped to achieve in the Covid-19 response and other significant infectious disease incidents experienced in the city.

The role of the Leeds Health Protection Board is to undertake the duties to protect the health of the population as laid out in national guidance and in the local West Yorkshire Health Protection Specification (April 2015). Since 2014 the Leeds Health Protection Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health, has been leading programmes of work focusing on identified emerging health protection priorities for Leeds. It was agreed by the board in 2020 to amend the responsibilities of the board to reflect the priority of managing the pandemic response.

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, from the first confirmed case in Leeds to 'Living with Covid', the health protection system, under the governance of the Health Protection Board has developed the Local Outbreak Management plan, providing solid and consistent leadership to the local system in the response to outbreak control, infection prevention, management and response. The system has provided evidence based and coordinated action as the pandemic unfolded, providing intelligence led decision making, mobilising services to minimise transmission and protect the most vulnerable.

In addition, the Leeds Health Protection Board has worked to ensure that arrangements are in place to protect the health of communities, meeting local health needs across Leeds through the development of robust assurance frameworks. This includes associated reporting systems, strengthened governance arrangements, development of the Leeds outbreak and pandemic plans and weekly updates to system leaders on surveillance of circulating infections.

The Board continues to monitor the health status of our population in relation to other key health protection priorities many of which have been exacerbated by Covid-19. The emerging health protection priorities that require focused attention disproportionately affect those people living in the most deprived 10% of communities in the city. The Board will continue to consider the impact of worsening deprivation statistics, the impact of Covid-19 and health inequalities when planning programmes and monitoring progress on priorities.

The Board identified that good progress has been made in all priority areas prior to the pandemic but that Covid had deepened inequalities and impacted on the progress made. The Board recommended that the following priorities are taken forward as a health protection system.

Health Protection Board priorities for 2021-2023:

- To reduce the incidence of TB
- To reduce the impact of poor air quality on health
- To review the Leeds outbreak plan
- To tackle antibiotic resistance in Leeds
- To Increase uptake of childhood immunisations in areas of low uptake
- Increasing uptake of Flu and Covid vaccination
- Reduce excess winter deaths in Leeds

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Endorse the Health Protection Board's report.
- Note and discuss the key progress made against the priorities previously identified in the 2018 Health Protection Board report.
- Support the new priorities identified by the Health Protection Board for 2021/23.
- Consider and comment on how the Health and Wellbeing Board can support the new emerging health protection priorities in relation to underserved populations, particularly those living in the most deprived 10% parts of the city.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on key Health Protection Board priorities, achievements and areas of focus for 2022/23. The report will look back at what the health protection system helped to achieve in the Covid-19 response and other significant infectious disease incidents experienced in the city.
- 1.2 Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, from the first confirmed case in Leeds to 'Living with Covid', the health protection system, under the governance of the Health Protection Board has developed the Local Outbreak Management plan, providing solid and consistent leadership to the local system in the response to outbreak control, infection prevention, management and response. The system has provided evidence based and coordinated action as the pandemic unfolded, providing intelligence led decision making, mobilising services to minimise transmission and protect the most vulnerable.
- 1.3 Covid-19 has exposed the deep inequalities that exist between different population groups and areas in Leeds. A wider system approach was mobilised targeting outbreak prevention interventions for people who had been worst affected by the virus, including people from ethnic minority communities and those living in the most deprived areas. The Marmot review 'Building Back Better' along with local intelligence is used to inform proactive activities across the city with the focus on health inequalities which aim to improve the health of the poorest fastest

2 Background information

- 2.1 In March 2014, the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to establish the Leeds Health Protection Board in line with Department of Health recommendations. The role of the Health Protection Board is to undertake the duties to protect the health of the population as laid out in national guidance and in the local West Yorkshire Health Protection Specification (April 2014).

The Board undertakes the Leeds City Council duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to:

Be assured of the effective and efficient discharge of its health protection duties;

Provide strategic direction to health protection work streams in ensuring they meet the needs of the local population;

Provide a forum for the overview of the commissioning and provision of all health protection duties across Leeds.

The Board is chaired by the Director of Public Health. Members represent Leeds City Council services including Environmental Health, Resilience and Emergency, and Adults and Health. Other organisations represented include Public Health England, NHS Leeds CCG, GP Confederation, Leeds Teaching Hospitals (LTH), Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT), Leeds Community Health Trust (LCH), and NHS England. Each organisation has a responsibility and

accountability for the city's health protection risks and the key performance indicators. Regular updates are provided on key areas;

- Communicable Disease Control
- Infection Prevention & Control
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response
- Screening
- Immunisation

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Leeds Health Protection Board report is the first report since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and provides an overview of the Health Protection Board Covid-19 response, status of wider priorities focusing on protecting people of Leeds including infectious diseases, environmental hazards and other threats to health. This report will highlight the current position, key achievements and targets for the period of 2020- 2022, with recommended actions for the next 12 months.
- 3.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unparalleled demands on the health protection system, our response has vividly demonstrated our resilience and ability to respond in a fast paced, rapidly accelerating situation responding innovatively with rigor and going the extra mile with determination and grit.
- 3.3 Many services faced unprecedented disruption including social care, care homes, education settings and workplaces. Our strong and robust health protection arrangements in Leeds were able to be scaled up to respond at pace, rapidly building on existing system.
- 3.4 As we move into this next phase of 'Living with Covid-19' the Health Protection Board will continue to prioritise and work with communities as the focus moves towards protecting those most vulnerable to Covid. This includes encouraging people to adopt safer behaviours by following public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing other infectious respiratory illnesses such as flu or a common cold.
- 3.5 It is also critical that the Board recognises the impact of Covid-19 on deepening inequalities and works to address this whilst also developing confidence in our communities to return to working and socialising differently and safely. As a Board, we want to ensure people are supported with this transition and that we respond with compassion and kindness; our Team Leeds ethos has championed this throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.6 Whilst we learn to live with Covid-19 it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over. As we transition into this next phase we need to continue to be vigilant for new variants and surges and be ready to respond whilst also

prioritising wider health protection priorities such as increasing childhood vaccination uptake, tackling TB, and addressing the health impacts of poor air quality. We will continue to work closely with our UK Health Security Agency colleagues locally and nationally to monitor the local position and manage outbreaks and any new variants of concern in line with national and local guidance.

- 3.7 As we have seen through Covid-19, there is inequality in the level of risk that different individuals and groups are exposed to. Health Protection risks and issues reveal these inequalities, just as Covid 19 has done. This report is a reminder of the range of communicable disease and environmental risks which we need to address as part of Covid Recovery.

4 Health and Wellbeing Board governance

4.1 Consultation, engagement and hearing citizen voice

- 4.1.1 Health Protection Board membership includes representation from third sector organisations representing local populations.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.3 While there are no direct Equality/Diversity/Cohesion or integration implications of this paper, all organisations concerned are actively involved in work in this area, and the raising of the standard of quality care in the city contributes directly to access and equality issues. In addition, some migrant population groups can bear a disproportionate burden of infectious diseases, this has been particularly evident during the pandemic and also relevant for TB, HIV, hepatitis A and B. The Health Protection Board has ensured that programmes are designed to meet the specific needs of migrant population groups in Leeds working with the Leeds Migrant Health Board, third sector, interpreting services and specialist services.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no direct resources/value for money implications arising from this paper.

4.5 Legal Implications, access to information and call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal or access to information implications of this report. It is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The Health Protection Board works to ensure that they continually strengthen their approach to understanding the health protection risks in Leeds. The Health Protection Board, as a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, has an assurance role to ensure that the city identifies health protection risks across the system and agrees plans to mitigate against these risks. The Board ensures that the system is prepared to respond to health protection risks, for example, the Covid 19 pandemic. The Board utilises a robust evidence base to inform the

health protection system when managing risk and tackling health and wellbeing inequalities.

5 Conclusions

The Board continues to monitor the health status of our population in relation to other key health protection priorities many of which have been exacerbated by Covid-19. The emerging health protection priorities that require focused attention disproportionately affect those people living in the most deprived 10% of communities in the city. The Board will continue to consider the impact of worsening deprivation statistics, the impact of Covid-19 and health inequalities when planning programmes and monitoring progress on priorities.

The Board identified that good progress has been made in all priority areas prior to the pandemic but that Covid had deepened inequalities and impacted on the progress made. The Board recommended that the following priorities are taken forward as a health protection system.

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6 Recommendations

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- Support the new priorities identified by the Health Protection Board for 2021/23.
- Consider and comment on how the Health and Wellbeing Board can support the new emerging health protection priorities in relation to underserved populations, particularly those living in the most deprived 10% parts of the city.

7 Background documents

7.1 Health Protection Board Report 2022

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How does this help reduce health inequalities in Leeds?

The growing health protection challenges such as Covid-19 and other emerging infectious diseases, air pollution and antimicrobial resistance are driven by a diverse range of factors from environmental change, urbanisation and the widening gaps between the least and most deprived communities. These health protection threats to health are not equally shared; marginalised populations experience extremes of poor health due to a combination of poverty, social exclusion and increased burden of risk factors.

The Health Protection Board has been working to focus on the emerging health protection priorities that require focused attention and which disproportionately affect at risk groups and those living in the most deprived 10% of communities in the city. The Board will continue to consider the impact of worsening deprivation statistics and the impact of health inequalities when planning programmes and monitoring progress on priorities.

How does this help create a high quality health and care system?

The Health Protection Board works to create a high quality health and care system through an established assurance framework and health protection dashboard where risks and gaps are addressed; through the provision of leadership to deliver a one system approach; coordination of the health protection system to establish clear roles and responsibilities and assessment of emerging trends which can be assessed and communicated to system leaders to inform priority setting.

How does this help to have a financially sustainable health and care system?

The Health Protection Board helps to have a financially sustainable system through ensuring there is emphasis on collaboration between organisations when commissioning and planning health protection programmes, promoting cross-sectoral partnerships that help create healthy and resilient people and communities and agreeing joint priorities, gaps, risks and plans to address.

Future challenges or opportunities

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**Priorities of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-21
(please tick all that apply to this report)**

A Child Friendly City and the best start in life	X
An Age Friendly City where people age well	X
Strong, engaged and well-connected communities	X
Housing and the environment enable all people of Leeds to be healthy	X
A strong economy with quality, local jobs	
Get more people, more physically active, more often	
Maximise the benefits of information and technology	
A stronger focus on prevention	X
Support self-care, with more people managing their own conditions	
Promote mental and physical health equally	
A valued, well trained and supported workforce	X
The best care, in the right place, at the right time	X