

## Leeds Health Protection Board report 2023

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Report of: Director of Public Health

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

Leeds Health Protection Board report 2023.

The report provides:

- The Executive Board with an outline of the fifth report of the Leeds Health Protection Board since it was established in June 2014.
- The Executive Board with an update on Health Protection Board activity and is requested to endorse and note the progress made by the Board. This report has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 HWBB meeting.
- Progress made on the Health Protection Board priorities as outlined in the Leeds Health Protection Board 2022.
- Achievements of the health protection system including the local system response to new and emerging infectious diseases including Mpox, and CPE (Carbapenemase-producing enterobacterales, a type of superbug which had not previously been seen at such a scale).
- An outline of the rapid and comprehensive response to infectious disease outbreaks particularly impacting on families experiencing high levels of poverty and social deprivation, scabies, for example.
- A spotlight on the work of two key health protection partners in the city, Bevan and the Leeds City Council resilience team.

### 1.1 Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to note the following, as presented in the appended Leeds Health Protection Board Report 2023:-

- a) The progress made on the Health Protection Board priorities.
- b) The case studies highlighting the approach to managing significant infectious disease outbreaks in the city.

- c) The key achievements, and targets for 2024, setting out recommended actions for the next 12 months.

## **1.2 What is this report about? Context and background**

- 1.2.1 The role of the Leeds Health Protection Board, chaired by Director of Public Health, is to undertake the nationally mandated duties to protect the health of the population as laid out in Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 1.2.2 The Secretary of State expects the DPH to cooperate closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), National Health Service (NHS) and other partners to have coordinated health protection preventative plans, local cooperation agreements and clarity on roles and responsibilities, overseen by the Leeds Health Protection Board (HPB). This is to ensure there are robust and resilient health protection arrangements in place to protect the health of the population.
- 1.2.3 The Director of Public Health provides strong local leadership through the health protection board to develop robust and resilient arrangements to prevent and respond to outbreaks of new and emerging infectious diseases, including public health incidents.
- 1.2.4 Health Protection system partners are working at national, regional, and local level to fully discharge our duties related to pandemic planning. A huge amount of work has been undertaken across organisations and collectively across partnerships to identify from our own response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2.5 We are working to identify lessons learnt, ensuring we share them across our changing systems, working together to look at how we can embed and take them forward as effectively as possible into our planning for future pandemics.

## **2 Leeds Health Protection Board Report 2023**

- 2.1 This report provides the Executive Board with an outline of the fifth report of the Leeds Health Protection Board since it was established in June 2014.

### **2.2 The report**

- 2.2.1 Outlines progress made on the Health Protection Board priorities as outlined in the Leeds Health Protection Board 2022.
- 2.2.2 Highlights the robust, rapid and comprehensive response to infectious disease outbreaks particularly impacting on families experiencing high levels of poverty and social deprivation, scabies, for example.
- 2.2.3 Presents the achievements of the health protection system including the local response to new and emerging infectious diseases including Mpox, and CPE (Carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriales, a type of superbug which had not previously been seen at such a scale).
- 2.2.4 Shines a spotlight on the work of two key health protection partners in the city, Bevan and the Leeds City Council resilience team.
- 2.2.5 Shows progress made in all priority areas identified in 2022; this is a positive step forward for health protection in Leeds.
- 2.2.6 This report does not cover all areas under the jurisdiction of the Health Protection Board but only those that have been identified as priorities. The Board does however gain assurance from lead organisations on all health protection priorities and monitors performance.

- 2.2.7 The Health Protection Board has been working to get beneath the headlines to better understand the real areas of concern for Leeds relating to health protection. We will continue to monitor the health status of our population in relation to health protection priorities.
- 2.2.8 Globally, climate change and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continue to present new risks which we will need to be able to prepare, adapt and respond to, including extreme weather events and increased spread of infectious diseases. The emerging health protection priorities that require focused attention disproportionately affect those living in social deprivation, displaced populations and people seeking asylum. The HPB will continue to mitigate risks and the impact of health inequalities when planning programmes and monitoring progress on priorities.
- 2.2.9 The approach outlined in the report focuses on a commitment to evolve, innovate and address health protection challenges through working with communities, addressing health inequalities, workforce development and collaborative working.

### 3. What impact will this proposal have?

The aim of the work of the Leeds Health Protection Board is to ensure that the population of Leeds, irrespective of their circumstances, are protected from infectious and non-infectious environmental health hazards and, where such hazards occur, minimise their continued impact on the public's health. The HPB does this by working collaboratively to prevent exposure to such hazards, taking timely actions to respond to threats and acting collectively to ensure the best use of human and financial resources.

The purpose of the HPB report is to share the work and progress made of the Health Protection System for 2023

### 4. How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

The work of the Leeds Health Protection Board supports the Leeds Health and Wellbeing strategy priority:

*'Have a Leeds health protection system which encourages people and systems to adopt safer behaviours and to build community resilience to any future pandemic.'*

Safety in our city depends on having a robust public health protection and promotion system. As we continue to learn the lessons from the pandemic, it is crucial that health protection and promotion continues to prioritise and work with communities most at risk of the ongoing impact of existing and emerging communicable diseases.

In addition, the Health Protection Board works to accelerate partnership action on health protection priorities including impact of poor air quality on health, antimicrobial resistance, tackling TB, reducing the impact of adverse weather for vulnerable people and increasing childhood vaccinations and adult vaccinations for Covid and Flu in areas of low uptake.

### 5. What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles has received a briefing on the Health Protection Board report.

Consultation and engagement with communities is a key aspect of the approach taken to address health protection priorities. Examples include a health needs assessment which has been conducted with engagement from communities, vaccination outreach programmes designed and implemented with engagement from community champions and third sector to inform the approach.

### 6. What are the resource implications?

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

### 7. What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

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, infectious disease outbreaks and public health incidents. The Board utilises a robust evidence base to inform the health protection system when managing risk and tackling health and wellbeing inequalities.

The council's corporate risk register includes a risk on "Preparedness for new and emerging infectious diseases" – This includes the risk of serious illness and fatalities, especially in those unprotected by vaccinations, combined with medium to long term consequences for health, workforce, and social and economic inequalities. The risk is reviewed and updated four times a year and is reported through Adults and Health Directorate Management Team and the council's Corporate Leadership Team.

## **8. What are the legal implications?**

There are no legal or access to information implications of this report; it is an update report.

## **9. Options, timescales and measuring success What other options were considered?**

This report was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 HWBB meeting.

## **10. How will success be measured?**

The Health Protection Board reviews progress against the priorities regularly to ensure that partnership activity remains focused. A work plan and key performance indicator dashboard has been developed and endorsed by members of the Board. This report does not cover all areas under the jurisdiction of the Health Protection Board but only those that have been identified as priorities. The Board does however gain assurance from lead organisations on all health protection priorities and monitors performance through a health protection indicators report.

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 a health protection indicators report, 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.

## **11. What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

The report has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## **12. Appendices**

- Leeds Health Protection Board Report 2023.
- Equality Assessment.

## **13. Background papers**

- None