

## FOR INFORMATION

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON)</b> <b>10 December 2014</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Health Protection Update</b>
<b>BOARD SPONSOR:</b>	<b>Dr Mike Robinson, Director of Public Health, Croydon Council</b>

### **CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:**

Health protection seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable diseases and minimise the health impact from environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.

The roles and responsibilities for the different aspects of health protection have changed as a result of the NHS reform.

Public Health England provides health protection planning, surveillance and response to incidents and outbreaks. NHS England commission major programmes such as national immunisation programmes and the provision of health services to diagnose and treat infectious diseases.

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to protect the health of their population from all hazards, and to prevent as far as possible, those threats arising in the first place. This duty includes advice and information to key agencies on where to target resources to maximum effect.

This report informs the review of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy by updating on current health protection priorities for Croydon.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to take note of the information on Health Protection priorities for Croydon.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following a previous update by the Director of the SW London Health Protection, the HWBB requested annual updates on local Health Protection issues.

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Dr Miranda Mindlin, on behalf of Public Health England, will give an overview of the main health protection priorities based on surveillance data for Croydon. Key issues in Croydon are vaccine preventable diseases, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and tuberculosis.

### **3. DETAIL**

Based on data sources from the Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013, Croydon's health protection priorities fall in the following categories:

#### **3.1. Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

- Childhood infections (measles, mumps, whooping cough)
- Meningococcal disease
- Hepatitis A and B

#### **3.2. Sexually Transmitted Infections (including HIV)**

- High HIV prevalence (5.1/1000 population)
- High proportion of people with HIV are diagnosed at a late stage of the infection (57%) and are unlikely to benefit fully from treatment
- High rates of diagnosis with gonorrhoea, syphilis and genital herpes.

#### **3.3. Tuberculosis**

- Moderately high rates of diagnosis with tuberculosis, but variations across the borough. Relatively high rates of drug resistant TB compared to other boroughs in London.

#### **3.4. New structures following from NHS reform**

Since April 2013, Public Health England hosts the Health Protection Agency and provides health protection planning, surveillance and response to incidents and outbreaks.

NHS England commission immunisation programmes to protect populations from vaccine preventable infections such as childhood infections and seasonal flu.

Local Authorities have gained a mandate for Public Health which includes a responsibility to protect the health of the local population and to hold key agencies to account for the targeting and performance of local immunisation and screening services.

#### **3.5. Recommendation**

The Department of Health has suggested that local authorities may want to set up a Health Protection Forum, to provide an overview of health protection issues and ensure coordinated, close working arrangements between key agencies.

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The aims the Health Protection Forum would be:

- To give assurance that the arrangements in place to protect the health of local residents are robust and are implemented appropriately to local health needs
- To support the local response to health protection emergencies and other incidents which directly or indirectly affect the health and wellbeing of local residents

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