

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 11 February 2015
AGENDA ITEM:	9
SUBJECT:	Proposal to establish a Health Protection Forum
BOARD SPONSOR:	Dr Mike Robinson, Director of Public Health, Croydon Council
<p>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</p> <p>Health protection seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by infectious diseases and minimise the health impact from environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities for the different aspects of health protection have changed as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>Public Health England provides the specialist health protection response, including the response to incidents and outbreaks.</p> <p>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. The Director of Public Health is responsible for the local authority's contribution to health protection matters.¹</p> <p>NHS England commissions major programmes such as national immunisation programmes, national screening programmes and the provision of health services to diagnose and treat infectious diseases and provide health services in the event of an emergency.</p>	
<p>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</p> <p>No direct financial impact, however, appropriate representation from each partner organisation and key agency at regular meetings is essential.</p>	
<p>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>This report recommends that, having considered the public sector equality duty and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board:</p> <p>1.1 Agrees to the development of a Health Protection Forum for Croydon, by the Director of Public Health</p> <p>1.2 Establish a standing item for the Director of Public Health at each HWB meeting to facilitate regular update on health protection issues</p>	

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. This document proposes the development of a Health Protection Forum lead by the Director of Public Health (DPH), who reports findings and recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

¹ Section 8 of Local Authorities Regulations 2013 (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives)

2.2. The forum will bring local partners and key agencies together with the aims to:

- review current and emerging health protection issues and agree roles and responsibilities of each participating organisation
- assure the DPH that the arrangements in place to protect the health of local residents are robust and are implemented appropriately to local population need
- support the local response to health protection emergencies and other incidents which directly or indirectly affect the health and wellbeing of local residents

3. DETAIL

3.1 Background and policy context

Local Authorities already have statutory health protection functions and powers principally in the area of environmental health (such as ensuring good food hygiene). Since April 2013, local authorities have gained additional statutory duties to protect their population from threats to public health. The Director of Public Health is responsible for the local authority's contribution to health protection matters.²

Several organisations have a role to play in health protection, in particular Public Health England, Local Emergency Planning and Response Teams, health service providers, and the DPH. The roles and responsibilities of these agencies should complement each other in order to provide effective local planning and response.

The new health protection duties of Local Authorities under the Local Authorities Regulations 2013 are described fully in Appendix 1.

3.2 Aims

The aims of the Health Protection Forum would be to:

- review current and emerging health protection issues and agree roles and responsibilities of each participating organisation
- assure the Director of Public Health that the arrangements in place to protect the health of local residents are robust and are implemented appropriately to local population need
- support the local response to health protection emergencies and other incidents which directly or indirectly affect the health and wellbeing of local residents

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Health Protection Forum would be to:

- review local plans and issues that need escalation
- act as the main group convened to support the local response to any health related incidents that threaten Croydon residents
- ensure health protection issues are raised in the appropriate internal and external groups and fora, including the Borough Resilience Forum and the

² Section 8 of Local Authorities Regulations 2013 (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives)

Local Health Resilience Partnership

- establish communication pathways and systems to gather and disseminate information and intelligence
- ensure that plans set the key arrangements needed to respond to incidents and events including the release of clinical resources and clearly defined responsibilities for local partners
- assure the DPH on a range of health protection issues including:
 - Adult and children immunisation programmes
 - TB control
 - Infection control
 - Screening programmes
- ensure health protection has appropriate resources and contingency funds
- support the testing and exercising of plans in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- ensure that lessons identified from incidents, events and exercises are incorporated into plans in order to improve performance and response

3.3 Protection Forum – Terms of Reference

3.3.1 Role

The primary role of the Health Protection Forum would be to support the Director of Public Health in their statutory role around health protection by providing oversight of current and emerging health protection issues and reviewing plans and arrangements for Croydon.

3.3.2 Proposed membership

The proposed membership of the committee is:

- Chair – Director of Public Health
- Representative from LA People Department
- Representative from LA Places Department
- Representative from Borough Resilience Forum - via LA Corporate Resilience Team
- Representative from LA Communications
- Croydon CCG representative
- Public Health England – Local Health Protection Team
- NHS England – Local Area Team
- Representatives from Croydon University Hospital
- Voluntary sector representative
- Mental Health Services Representative (SLaM)

3.3.3 Frequency of meetings

The forum will meet quarterly to establish its programme of work, then six monthly to maintain and monitor progress.

In the event of an emergency or incident the forum will meet as required to support the local response.

3.3.4 Secretariat

Administrative support for the forum will be from within existing resources in the public health team.

3.3.5 Review of the terms of reference

These will be subject to review at least annually or more frequently if required following the de-brief process from health protection incidents, exercises or events.

4. CONSULTATION

The proposal to establish a Health Protection Forum in Croydon was discussed briefly by the DPH at the HWBB meeting on 14 December 2014. No further consultation has been carried to date.

5. SERVICE INTEGRATION

The purpose of the establishment of a Health protection forum is to facilitate a joined up approach to the prevention and management of health protection issues.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There is no immediate financial risk connected with this proposal.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Legal advice on this proposal has not been sought at this point.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Administrative support to the forum will be from within the Public Health team.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

An equality impact analysis on this proposal has not been carried out. However, the aim of the forum is to engage local partners and key agencies in the review of health protection issues and to direct their planning and commissioning efforts to areas of particular need in Croydon.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

As part of its remit, the forum will review current and potential local environmental hazards and the plans and arrangements in place to manage these.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

N/A

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS [*These must be attached for posting online*]

Appendix 1: Protecting the health of the local population: the new health protection duty of local authorities under the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013, May 2013