

**Report to:** Executive Cabinet Member Children's and Adult Services and Public Health

**Date:** 15th September 2014

**Report of:** Director of Public Health

**Report No:**

**Contact Officer:** Debra Malone, Consultant in Public Health

**Tele No:** Ext 7821

**Report Title:** Role and Function of Bolton Council's Health Protection Forum

**Confidential /  
Non Confidential:**

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

**Purpose:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Bolton Council became responsible for the commissioning of some health protection services and the scrutiny of many more. Health protection traditionally encompasses a broad range of services including emergency planning, communicable disease outbreak management, major incident response, monitoring and surveillance of infectious diseases and the commissioning of preventive programmes such as screening, immunisation and sexual health improvement.

Under the terms of the Health & Social Care Act all Councils' DsPH must provide assurance that other commissioning partners have robust plans in place to respond to health protection incidents and challenges. DsPH must also satisfy themselves, Local Authorities and CCGs that health protection performance is maintained or continuously improved to achieve national public health indicators and outcomes.

The paper contains details of the role and function of the recently established Bolton Council Health Protection Forum which became operational on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. From this date onwards The Health Protection Forum will become the vehicle which will enable the DPH to provide appropriate levels of scrutiny and assurance across the whole health protection agenda.

**Recommendations:**

--

It is recommended that:

- The functions of the Health Protection Forum are noted.
- The proposal that the Health Protection Forum provides ad hoc updates to future Public Health Informal Briefing meetings is endorsed.
- The proposal that the Health Protection Forum is tasked with producing an Annual Health Protection Report to be submitted to the Executive Cabinet Member's Committee at the end of each financial year for approval is also endorsed.

**Decision:**

--

**Background Doc(s):**

Health & Social Care Act 2012

*(for use on Exec Rep)*

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leader / Executive Cabinet  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monitoring Officer

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:**

--

The establishment of a Health Protection Forum for Bolton Council is intended to enable the scrutiny, monitoring and assurance of the following health protection issues/services:

- Immunisation and vaccination programmes
- Screening programmes
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Late diagnoses of HIV
- Blood borne viruses
- Outbreaks of infectious diseases
- TB treatment completion rates
- Environmental health food borne outbreaks and incidents
- Healthcare associated infections

The Health Protection Forum will maintain links with:

- Bolton Council Risk & Resilience Group
- Bolton CCG Systems Resilience Group
- Bolton CCG Health Economy Resilience Group
- AGMA Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit
- Greater Manchester Commissioning Support Unit Civil Contingencies Team
- Greater Manchester Public Health Network
- NHS England Local Area Team
- Public Health England

## Role and Function of Bolton Council's Health Protection Forum

### **1.0 Background Information**

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Bolton Council became responsible for the commissioning of some health protection services and the scrutiny, via the DPH, of many more. This is in addition to existing responsibilities relating to civil contingencies.
- 1.2 Health protection traditionally encompasses a broad range of services including emergency planning, communicable disease outbreak management, major incident response, monitoring and surveillance of infectious diseases and the commissioning of preventive programmes such as screening, immunisation and sexual health improvement.
- 1.3 As of April 2013 Bolton Council has assumed direct responsibility for commissioning the following health protection interventions:
- HIV prevention
  - Other blood borne virus prevention (i.e. hepatitis C)
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections prevention and diagnosis
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections treatment services
  - Community infection prevention and control
- 1.4 Under the terms of the Health & Social Care Act all Councils' DsPH must provide assurance that other commissioning partners have robust plans in place to respond to health protection incidents and challenges. DsPH must also satisfy themselves, Local Authorities and CCGs that health protection performance is maintained or continuously improved to achieve national public health indicators and outcomes.

Key areas for scrutiny and assurance are:

- Immunisation and Screening uptake and performance
- Emergency Plans (e.g. heat wave, winter and flood)
- TB treatment and completion
- Hospital Associated Infection rates (e.g. Clostridium Difficile and MRSA)
- Pandemic flu

### **2.0 Current Position**

- 2.1 Across Bolton and GM as a whole there are a number of different groups and committees that already have responsibility for some aspects of health protection.

For Bolton these are:

- Bolton CCG Health Economy Resilience Group
- Bolton CCG Systems Resilience Group

- Bolton CCG Infection Prevention & Control Committee
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Infection Prevention & Control Committee
- Bolton Council Risk and Resilience Group
- Bolton Council Environmental Health Liaison Group
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust TB Network
- Bolton Council Sexual Health Network
- Bolton CCG Liver Strategy Group (which also incorporates a Blood Borne Virus work stream)

Currently one Consultant in Public Health or one Public Health Senior Manager is a member of all of the above groups with the exception of the Environmental Health Liaison Group.

- 2.2 Across Greater Manchester there is an AGMA wide Risk and Resilience Forum which is chaired by the lead Greater Manchester DPH for Health Protection (Prof. Kate Ardem). This Forum is developing a Greater Manchester wide Health Protection Confederation which will ensure that plans are in place to address pan Greater Manchester wide issues such as training, cross boundary outbreaks and cross boundary major incidents. This confederation will be supported by the AGMA Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit.

### **3.0 Existing Levels of Health Protection Assurance**

#### **3.1 Civil Contingencies and Emergency Planning**

Bolton Council has retained its local Risk and Resilience Committee (BRRG). The advent of Bolton CCG's Health Economy Resilience Group (HERG) has meant that Bolton is well placed to develop coherent plans that cross and encompass NHS and Local Authority risks, resilience and emergencies. A number of key individuals from the Local Authority, CCG and Hospital sit on both the HERG and the BRRG in order that plans (e.g. pandemic flu) considered at the HERG can also be considered by the BRRG and constructively challenged.

Further, as all Greater Manchester HERGs report into the AGMA Risk & Resilience Forum and the Greater Manchester Local Health Resilience Partnership, key partnership plans such as heat wave, flood, etc. are already scrutinised by the Greater Manchester Commissioning Support Unit's Emergency Planning Team and AGMA Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit (CCRU) colleagues. These colleagues in turn provide assurance to the lead Greater Manchester DPH for health protection and to the Risk & Resilience Forum as a whole.

Additionally, Bolton continues to be highly proactive in terms of testing and practicing local plans. As a result it is not deemed necessary to add yet another layer of scrutiny as the local system is already working well.

**Therefore risk and resilience plans will not presented to, or considered by, the Bolton Health Protection Forum.**

#### **3.2 Health Care Associated Infections (HCAIs)**

There are also already good arrangements in place to scrutinise health care associated infection rates. Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and Bolton CCG have

recently refreshed their Infection Control Committees and HCAI rates are most closely monitored via these groups.

**However, given the challenges associated with reducing Health Care Associated Infection rates, Bolton Health Protection Forum will provide additional scrutiny to this area of health protection.**

### 3.3 Immunisation & Screening

As the commissioner of immunisation and screening programmes, in April 2013, NHS England (NHSE) assumed responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the uptake of a wide range of programmes broadly covering:

- Childhood and adolescent immunisations
- Childhood screening programmes
- Cancer screening programmes
- Other (non cancer) screening programmes for children and adults
- National seasonal flu vaccination

NHSE have most recently begun to produce Bolton specific quarterly reports in relation to these programmes.

**These preventive programmes require ongoing promotion and development to maintain and improve equality of uptake across populations. It is important that DsPH and Public Health teams also monitor trends and challenge poor or deteriorating performance. Therefore Bolton Health Protection Forum will provide scrutiny and challenge back to NHSE in relation to the large number of immunisation and screening programmes which come within the organisation's aegis.**

### 3.4 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Ensuring the provision of open access sexual health services became a mandatory commissioning responsibility for all Councils in April 2013. It is therefore vital that Bolton Council, via the DPH, monitors local STI trends and responds to changing patterns of disease in order to commission appropriate prevention and treatment interventions. Whilst Bolton Sexual Health Network maintains an overview of STI surveillance, and feeds into the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network, its main role is to improve partnership working and develop pathways and referral routes.

**Given that the Bolton Sexual Health Network does not currently have a scrutiny role in terms of Sexually Transmitted Infections surveillance, this role will be undertaken by the Bolton Health Protection Forum.**

### 3.5 Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs)

Currently there is no one single group in Bolton with responsibility for monitoring the incidence and prevalence of Blood Borne viruses. This is largely because these viruses cut across a number of work streams. Bolton CCG has recently established a Liver Strategy Group which incorporates a Blood Borne Virus work stream. In the main this group has commissioning and development responsibilities and does not maintain surveillance and oversight of all Blood Borne Viruses.

**Bolton Health Protection Forum will monitor Blood Borne Virus incidence and prevalence and work with commissioning partners to ensure the appropriate provision of harm reduction and prevention initiatives.**

### 3.6 Environmental Health Outbreaks and Incidents

Bolton Council's Environmental Health Department respond to a range of incidents and food borne outbreaks of disease on a regular basis. Past experience suggests that this area of health protection is low risk for Bolton as the Environmental Health team is highly experienced in managing and responding to incidents/outbreaks. Nevertheless it would be helpful for the DPH to maintain an oversight of the types and number of incidents/outbreaks dealt with by the team.

**A member of Bolton's Environmental Health team will become a member of Bolton Health Protection Forum and will provide an annual overview of relevant incidents and/or outbreaks.**

## 4.0 **Role of Bolton Health Protection Forum**

- 4.1 The Bolton Health Protection Forum became operational from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 and intends to meet no more than 3 times a year to review performance, provide assurance and produce an annual report.

The remit of the Committee is to provide:

- Annual Review & Quality Assurance of NHSE Local Area Team Immunisation & Vaccination plans
- Annual Review & Quality Assurance of NHSE Local Area Team Screening plans
- Annual Assurance of Public Health England Infectious Diseases Outbreak Plans/Arrangements
- Annual review of large scale Community Communicable Disease Outbreaks and Lessons Learned
- Annual Review and Quality Assurance of Local Authority Infection Prevention & Control policies/plans
- Annual Review of Health Care Associated Infection rates and interventions to reduce these rates
- Annual Review of food borne outbreaks and environmental incidents
- Bi-annual review of Health Protection Performance i.e. Immunisation & Vaccination Rates, Screening Rates, Chlamydia, HIV & Other Sexually Transmitted Infection Rates, TB Diagnoses, TB Treatment Completion Rates, HIV Late Diagnoses
- Bi-annual review of Blood Borne Virus rates and interventions to reduce rates
- Bi-annual feedback on training plans and exercises

## 5.0 **Membership**

- 5.1 The proposed key membership of the Bolton Health Protection Forum is:

- NHSE Greater Manchester Local Area Team Manager
- NHSE Greater Manchester Local Area Team Immunisation Co-ordinator

- Greater Manchester Public Health England Consultant Nurse
- Bolton CCG Chief Nurse
- Bolton Foundation Trust Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control
- Bolton Foundation Trust TB Nurse
- Bolton Council Consultant in Public Health
- Bolton Council Head of Corporate Public Health
- Bolton Council Environmental Health Lead
- Bolton Council Civil Contingencies Lead
- Bolton Council Lead Sexual Health Commissioner
- Bolton Council Sexual Health and Health Protection Specialist
- Bolton Council Public Health Intelligence Specialist
- Bolton Council Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
- AGMA Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit Business Partner

## **6.0 Governance Arrangements**

- 6.1 It is proposed that Bolton Health Protection Forum meets no more than 3 times each year with feedback on any actions arising from these meetings being reported, via Children's, Adults and Public Health DMT, to future Public Health Informal Briefing meetings.
- 6.2 It is further proposed that each year the Bolton Health Protection Forum publishes an Annual Report which is submitted to Bolton's Health and Wellbeing Board following approval by the Executive Cabinet Member's Committee at the end of each financial year.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that:
- The functions of the Health Protection Forum are noted.
  - The proposal that the Health Protection Forum provides ad hoc updates to future Public Health Informal Briefing meetings is endorsed.
  - The proposal that the Health Protection Forum is tasked with producing an Annual Health Protection Report to be submitted to the Executive Cabinet Member's Committee at the end of each financial year for approval is also endorsed.