



Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group

Bristol Health & Wellbeing Board

Health Protection Committee Annual Report 2015-2016	
Author, including organisation	Sophie Prosser, Public Health Principal (Health Protection) Bristol City Council Thara Raj, Consultant in Public Health, Bristol City Council. Becky Pollard, Director of Public Health, Bristol City Council This report contains contributions from the Health Protection Committee members
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Report for Information	

1. Purpose of this paper

To provide assurance on behalf of the population of Bristol about whether there are safe, effective and well-tested plans in place to protect the health of the population and planned actions to strengthen these.

2. Executive summary

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has examined arrangements for health protection in Bristol in line with her statutory responsibility. These include checking the quality of the systems in place for surveillance, prevention, planning and response required to protect the public's health.

This Bristol Health Protection Report 2015/16 has been kept deliberately short so that the information can be digested easily. We have included appendices that outline achievements to date and what more is being done to strengthen arrangements and improve outcomes in the following areas:

- Infectious and communicable diseases
- Screening and immunisation
- Emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPPR)
- Environmental hazards to health, safety and pollution control

Bristol sees more than its share of outbreaks and health protection events compared to neighbouring local authority areas. It is a vibrant and culturally diverse city where people choose to live, learn, work and socialise. Many of its health protection issues reflect this vibrancy and diversity. Bristolians are resilient but need to remain vigilant if we are to avoid damaging that resilience.

Influenza and antimicrobial resistance (resistance to antibiotics) remain urgent health protection risks for Bristol residents and these also appear on the national risk register of civil emergencies. Tackling tuberculosis (TB), increasing immunisation and screening rates and tackling inequalities are also pressing issues in Bristol that are systematically being addressed.

3 Context

Health protection seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable and non-communicable diseases and minimise the health impact from environmental hazards.

The health protection duty for local authorities came into force on the 1st April 2013 as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (section 6C Regulations).

One of the mechanisms for fulfilling this duty is through the local Health Protection Committee (HPC), chaired by Bristol City Council's (BCC's) DPH, under the governance of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). The HPC brings together key partners from within BCC and external agencies who have a responsibility for parts of the health protection system.

Achieving success in health protection relies on strong working relationships at a local level. The DPH helps facilitate this relationships ensuring that clearly defined roles and responsibilities are in place that underpins the local public health response to threats, outbreaks and major incidents.

4. Main body of the report

Please see Bristol Health Protection Report 2015/16 attached.

5. Key risks and opportunities

Every day Bristol's cleaners, refuse collectors, Environmental Health Officers, health protection specialists, police, fire, ambulance, GPs, nurses, pharmacists, allied healthcare professionals, planners, councillors, carers, volunteers and communities work hard together to keep Bristol resilient and safe from harm and protected. This is becoming increasingly difficult when resources are limited. Investing in effective and cost effective interventions and solutions that protect health and tackle inequalities is one of the main ways to mitigate against this.

Specific health protection risks and opportunities are outlined in the main body of the Bristol Health Protection Report 2015/16.

6. Implications (financial and legal if appropriate)

The Health and Wellbeing Board plays a critical role in holding its partners to account if local health protection arrangements are not adequate and for freeing up resources and helping to overcome barriers. The body of the Bristol Health Protection Report 2015/16 includes several effective and cost effective interventions and solutions and we ask the HWBB to continue to support these.

7. Conclusions

There are still major challenges, particularly in reducing influenza like illnesses, tackling TB, increasing immunisation and screening rates. The majority of the health protection burden is experienced by the most vulnerable of our communities. Tackling inequalities in the economy, in health, education, housing and employment in a sustainable and fair way remain critical.

8. Recommendations

- To note the major issues highlighted in the report.
- To identify any additional concerns or contributions the HWBB can make.
- To note the considerable progress that has been made in Bristol in tackling some of the key health protection challenges the city faces and some of the major challenges that remain.