

<b>Item No.</b> 11	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 14 March 2024	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Report title:</b>		Health Protection Report 2022/23: Summary for the Health and Wellbeing Board	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		<b>Sangeeta Leahy</b> Director of Public Health Southwark Council	

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board;

1. Note the findings of the Health Protection Summary Report 2022/23 and health protection activity across the system during 2022/23, set out in appendix 1.
2. Agrees to receive a health protection report annually. For 2024/25 this would be at the meeting in December 2024.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. Oversight and assurance of the local health protection system is via the Health Protection Board, established in July 2022 and chaired by the Director of Public Health.
4. The Health Protection Board approved the full Health Protection Annual Report 2022/23 in December 2023.
5. This summary report provides an overview of health protection activities, incidents, challenges and achievements from April 2022 to March 2023.
6. The gap between the report date and submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board was to allow for the publication of relevant datasets. Future reports will be more timely, with submission during December of the report year.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

7. The scale of potential health protection threats faced locally and globally is significant, ranging from emerging illnesses and an increase in vaccine preventable infections, to adverse weather, antimicrobial resistance and chemical hazards. The impact of climate change is likely to amplify many of these threats.

8. A high level of health protection activity persists locally post-pandemic, and it is important to be prepared for and mitigate any health protection risks and challenges faced as an inner London borough.
9. There have been some adverse impacts exacerbated by the pandemic, such as reduced vaccination and breast screening coverage and an increase in some infections.
10. As was demonstrated in the Covid 19 pandemic, health protection issues often magnify health inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the already most socially disadvantaged. This relates to factors including increased exposure to hazards (eg through housing or employment conditions), low uptake of protective factors (eg vaccination) and reduced resilience (eg pre-existing poor health).
11. An effective health protection response requires a coordinated multi-partner approach, close working with our communities and using data to tailor our response for communities most affected or most vulnerable.

### **Policy framework implications**

12. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) - the lead agency responsible for infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents - highlight three main goals in their 2023 strategy:
  - To be ready for and prevent future health security hazards.
  - To save lives and reduce harm through an effective response.
  - To build the UKs health security capacity.
13. The emphasis on effective and resilient health protection systems aligns with the local aim to support the UKHSA in protecting our residents, workforce and visitors to the borough against health protection threats.
14. The national risk register outlines some of the most serious risks facing the UK, including health protection threats such as pandemics, zoonotic illnesses and adverse weather. It highlights the importance of preparation and supporting communities.
15. More locally, the South East London Integrated Care System has a focus on protecting health and wellbeing and supporting people to stay healthy. Southwark Council, as outlined in the Council Delivery Plan, is committed to a healthy environment for its residents, supporting families and investing in our communities.

## **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

### **Community impact statement**

16. Health protection action across the system requires close working with communities to ensure activities are tailored towards those individuals, groups and communities most at risk.
17. Throughout 2022/23 there are numerous examples of work done to collaborate with and understand the needs of communities, particularly more marginalised groups, to make our health protection response accessible and acceptable.

### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

18. Health protection programmes across Southwark strive to tackle inequalities of access and outcome at every opportunity.
19. Using a hyper-local approach, additional support and actions to mitigate impacts are taken with populations that have the poorest outcomes, with a focus on the most disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities in Southwark.

### **Health impact statement**

20. The aim of all areas of work contained in this report is to protect our residents, our workforce and visitors to the borough against health protection threats.

### **Climate change implications**

21. The impact of climate change is likely to amplify many health protection threats faced locally and globally making it essential to prepare for and respond to threats and risks as they arise.

### **Resource implications**

22. There are no direct resource implications arising as a result of this report.
23. Responding to emergencies and incidents as they arise requires additional staff time and resource across the system to support the response. The amount of resource required will vary depending on the incident.

### **Legal implications**

24. There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

## Financial implications

25. There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.
26. Responding to emergencies and incidents as they arise will require additional finances to support the response. The amount of financial support required will vary depending on the incident.

## Consultation

27. The report was produced in collaboration with teams across the system, and relevant individuals and organisations were consulted with.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Health Protection Report 2022/23: Summary for the Health and Wellbeing Board

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sarah Robinson, Head of Programmes for Health Protection	
<b>Report Author</b>	Sarah Robinson, Head of Programmes for Health Protection	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	February 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	1 March 2024	