

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Derek Ward, Director of Public Health

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	4 February 2020
Subject:	Half Yearly Update on Health Protection Arrangements

Summary:

The Health Protection Board (HPB), along with the Lincolnshire Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) is accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for the protection of the health of local people from a range of threats.

This report provides a brief update, by exception, to the Health and Wellbeing Board so it can satisfy itself that the health protection functions in Lincolnshire are robust.

Actions Required:

1. Note the overall good position of the health protection arrangements within Lincolnshire.
2. Note the areas of health protection service facing challenge.

1. Background

The 2012 NHS Act updated the arrangements for protecting the health of local populations; created new agencies with responsibilities to the people of Lincolnshire and moved around some of the functions previously residing in the NHS.

Regulation requires the Director of Public Health to have in place mechanisms to provide assurance to the Local Authority that the arrangements are in place across this complex system.

The two main governance groups are the Lincolnshire Health Resilience Partnership and the Health Protection Board which oversee emergency planning and response and broader health protection respectively.

The commissioning and delivery mechanisms are as complex as the service areas within the Health Protection Board's purview and include:

- Cancer and other screening programmes delivered by the NHS and general practices and commissioned by NHS England; and
- Immunisation and vaccination programmes delivered by general practices and a range of NHS organisations.

The overall governance of health protection arrangements lies with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Overall, the assurance level for health protection function is rated as 'full' as the governance arrangements are well resourced, well attended and the plans that are in place are contemporary and either used or exercised on a regular basis.

However, there are some areas within the programmes where performance is challenging. Of particular note are:

- Immunisation programmes for children aged 0-5 years continue to underperform against national standards, however performance is in line with that for England.
- One of the patient experience standards for cervical cancer screening is underperforming. The turnaround time for results to be provided is slower than the national standard.
- The breast screening service in Lincolnshire is failing to offer screening to local women at the frequency specified in national standards.

To ensure continuous improvement and resilience, the County Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are proposing to unify their two stand-alone health protection teams into one larger and more resilient team.

The Programme Boards for each of these programmes are well aware of these issues and are at various stages of improvement planning or contractual action with service providers.

2. Conclusion

The health protection arrangements within Lincolnshire are in good standing, with some challenges which are being proactively managed.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Council and CCGs must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The JSNA has a number of topic areas which health protection programmes actively contribute to, including: cancers; child and maternal health; cardio vascular disease and immunisation and vaccination.

4. Consultation

None required.

5. Appendices

No appendices

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were use in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tony McGinty, Consultant in Public Health, who can be contacted at tony.mcginty@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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