

**Title:** Highlight Report – Health Protection

**Wards Affected:** All

**To:** Health and Wellbeing Board      **On:** 14 March 2019

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Health Protection Annual Report for Devon and Cornwall 2017/18 is attached. Health Protection governance is through the Devon and Cornwall Health Protection Committee and it is a requirement of the Committee that the annual report be presented to each of the constituent Health and Wellbeing Boards for information and consideration.

1.2 The report covers:

- Prevention and control of infectious disease;
- Immunisation and screening;
- Healthcare associated infections;
- Emergency planning and response.

1.3 NHS England and Public Health England have lead responsibility for the commissioning and performance management of screening and immunisation programmes and management of outbreaks. Local authorities have an assurance role, with specific responsibilities in relation to:

- Support to Public Health England in promoting uptake of immunisation and screening programmes;
- Promotion of influenza vaccination, in particular for local authority and social care staff groups;
- Strategic oversight of infection prevention and control;
- Public health implications of emergency situations (eg cold weather, flooding, pandemic).

## 2. Summary of key points from the annual report

2.1 Influenza

- A high number of influenza cases were reported in the Peninsula during Winter 2017/18. (Rates for 2018/19 so far appear lower, but these will be reported in at the end of the season in the 2018/19 annual report.)

## 2.2 Immunisation programmes:

- Childhood immunisation coverage remained good across the Peninsula and in Torbay. Public Health England have been focusing their work this year on reducing variation in performance, and maintaining and increasing coverage where uptake is lower eg. MMR second dose.
- Influenza vaccination uptake increased in all population groups, except carers, across the Peninsula and also in Torbay. However uptake remained below target levels and the Torbay Public Health team has been working with partner organisations to promote a continued increase in rates during 2018/19. Free vaccination was newly made available nationally to social care staff from 2017/18.
- Shingles vaccine uptake remained relatively low locally and nationally and Public Health England has a programme of work to increase uptake in the over 70 years target age group.
- The HPV vaccine, currently given to girls at 12-13 years, is to be offered to 12-13 year old boys from 2019/20. It protects against a range of cancers and infections.

## 2.4 Screening programmes:

- Bowel cancer screening coverage was good in Torbay but breast screening coverage remained relatively low and cervical screening coverage, although above the figure for England, was reducing. Torbay Public Health team is working with Public Health England to understand the factors behind the differential uptake in order to target promotional work.

## 2.5 Healthcare acquired infections:

- Rates of E.coli bloodstream infections were similar to those for England and the South West, but above target levels. Strong efforts continue to be made by CCG, acute and community providers to reduce these.
- A business case for the development of a community infection prevention and control service across Devon was developed and approved during 2018. This will strengthen systems to prevent and manage infections in primary and social care settings, and help to tackle the increase in anti-microbial resistance which is a major issue both locally and internationally.

## 2.6 Priorities for 2018/19 were:

- Increasing MMR booster uptake;
- Promoting flu vaccination uptake;

- Establishing the community infection prevention and control service;
- Development of plans to improve air quality;
- Continue to tackle anti-microbial resistance;
- Ensure preparedness for emergencies and emerging diseases.

### **3. What is the planned activity for the next six months?**

3.1 The focus for the Torbay Public Health team is:

- Working with Public Health England to tackle areas of low vaccination uptake;
- Continuing to work to increase uptake of flu vaccination in target groups;
- Supporting implementation of the new community infection prevention and control service;
- Increasing resilience across the team and the system to manage civil and health emergencies should these arise, in particular working with partners on a Torbay and South Devon pandemic plan.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Health Protection Report for the Health and Wellbeing Boards of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Councils 2017-18