

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 27 November 2018

Subject: Health Protection Oversight Function

Lead officer: Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Lead member: Tobin Byers, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health

Contact officer: Mike Robinson, Consultant in Public Health

NOTE: This Report is published late in a supplementary Agenda. The Chair has been informed and has agreed to this. The Appendix to this report is published in the main agenda.

Recommendations:

- A. The Board is asked to note the report
- B. Board members to consider how this approach might be useful to their own organisations, and whether they would benefit from any further information on the oversight function or feedback on its operation

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The finalised *Public Health -Health Protection Oversight Protocol* for London Borough of Merton is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.
- 1.2. Health protection seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable diseases as well as environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.
- 1.3. Oversight of the local health protection system has been a statutory duty of local authorities through the director of Public Health since the transfer of public health responsibilities in 2013. This involves ensuring that local arrangements are robust, effective and timely, as well as supporting the response to incidents. The purpose of the local Protocol is to strengthen local systems in Merton and provide assurance.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. LBM Public Health have worked with internal and external partners to produce an agreed *Protocol* in order to set out local arrangements, strengthen co-ordination and provide assurance. It also serves as a knowledge resource for officers in the Public Health Team and across the Council.
- 2.2. The *Protocol* details the responsibilities of Public Health, LBM teams and key partners across the range of health protection work. Directors of Public

Health have specific statutory roles in leading this oversight and response and these are detailed in the *Protocol*.

Summary of *Protocol*

- 2.3. The *Protocol* provides a summary of the following information for health protection work locally:-
- a) Roles and responsibilities of partner organisations and relevant LBM officers
 - b) Local health protection arrangements and governance
 - c) Key contacts and incident response processes
- 2.4. The procedures for the following areas of health protection work are set out in detail to act as a resource for officers:-
- a) Immunisations
 - b) Antenatal and New-born screening
 - c) Cancer Screening
 - d) Infection Control and Health-care Acquired infections
 - e) Emergency Planning & Resilience
 - f) Infectious Disease Outbreaks
 - g) Cold and Hot Weather Planning
 - h) Chemical and Environmental Hazards

Governance

- 2.5. A governance structure to oversee health protection work has been agreed as part of the *Protocol*, including processes for escalating issues (please see the diagram on page 6 of the report for full details).
- 2.6. Key governance arrangements include:
- An internal Public Health Protection Oversight group has been established, chaired by the lead Consultant in Public Health. It will have oversight of any public health communication activity and help prioritise where limited resources are directed.
 - The Director of Public Health will escalate issues from this group as needed with relevant DMTs and Cabinet members if necessary. Regional health protection issues can be escalated to the 6 weekly South West London DPH meetings.
 - Public Health representation on the Borough Resilience Forum and key regional meetings (i.e. regional Immunisation and screening meetings and regional health protection networks)

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. Key officers from the following teams and organisations were engaged in in the development of the work:-
- LBM E&R - Public Spaces, Public Protection, Environmental Health, Civil Contingencies, Planning
 - LBM C&H – Adult Social Care, Public Health
 - LBM CSF – School Quality and Improvement
 - Merton CCG – Director of Quality
 - Public Health England – South London Health Protection Team

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The *Protocol* will be reviewed annually to ensure procedures are effective and contacts are kept updated.

5.2.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. No additional financial commitments have been made through the *Protocol*, with the focus being on co-ordinating and joining up existing work more effectively. Specialist health protection services are commissioned regionally by Public Health England and NHS England

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure local health protection arrangements are robust and effective and that the response to incidents in timely. This *Protocol* ensures that London Borough of Merton is meeting it's health protection duties under the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. As part of the oversight of health protection services locally (i.e. immunisations and screening), equality of access for ethnicity and age groups will be considered.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no relevant crime and disorder implications

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 10.1 Merton Health Protection Oversight Protocol

This page is intentionally left blank