

HILLINGDON HEALTH PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Relevant Board Member(s)	Sharon Stoltz – Interim Director of Public Health
Organisation	London Borough of Hillingdon
Report author	Sharon Stoltz – Interim Director of Public Health
Papers with report	Draft Terms of Reference – Health Protection Committee

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	This report is to seek a decision from the Board to establish a Health Protection Committee for Hillingdon. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee are attached as an appendix.
Contribution to plans and strategies	The Health Protection Committee will ensure that the local authority statutory responsibilities for health protection as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and associated public health regulations are adequately delivered.
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications.
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1. approves the establishment of a Health Protection Committee for Hillingdon**
- 2. comments on the proposed Terms of Reference and membership**
- 3. agrees to receive an Annual Health Protection Report, prepared by the Director of Public Health, to document health protection system activities over the previous year and set out priorities for the different areas of health protection for the next 12 months.**

INFORMATION

- Health Protection can be defined as “the protection of individuals, groups and communities through expert advice and effective collaboration to identify, prevent and mitigate the impacts of infectious diseases and environmental, chemical and radiological threats” (*Vivanos R, Leonardi G, Elliot A. Health Protection: Principles and Practice. Health protection surveillance. Oxford University Press*). Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for protecting the health of their population from preventable health threats and this duty is discharged by the local authority Director of Public Health.
- The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to ensure that local health protection arrangements to protect the individuals and communities they serve are robust and

implemented appropriately to meet local needs. This includes seeking assurance that all organisations involved in health protection co-operate and work together including developing outbreak response plans, agreeing roles and responsibilities and operational levels of response to incidents and outbreaks. The Director of Public Health also requires an agreed process for escalating concerns to the Health and Wellbeing Board when they believe local needs are not being met.

Duties of a Hillingdon Health Protection Committee

3. The Health Protection Committee will provide assurance to the Director of Public Health, the council and the Health and Wellbeing Board that there are safe and effective arrangements in place to protect the health of the people of Hillingdon.
4. The Committee will include the following areas of health protection:
 - Vaccination and immunisation – monitor uptake and performance.
 - Cancer and non-cancer screening programmes – quality assurance, monitoring uptake and performance.
 - Communicable diseases – including case and outbreak response and management.
 - Environmental hazards including adverse weather and extreme weather response and preparedness.
 - Disease surveillance – monitor local picture of infectious disease and any emerging trends.
 - Data sharing and notification processes.
 - Workforce capacity and capability e.g. training and exercising of local plans.

The proposed Terms of Reference and membership are attached as an appendix.