

**Meeting:** Health and Wellbeing Board **Date:** 7 March 2024

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly Health Protection Committee Annual Assurance Report 2022/23

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Report for information

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share with members the Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly Health Protection Committee Annual Assurance Report 2022/23.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Health Protection Committee prepares an annual assurance report for the constituent Health and Wellbeing Boards, detailing progress against statutory duties and strategic priorities during the previous year.
- 2.2 The report describes how partners, including Torbay Public Health, work together to protect our population from infectious disease and environmental hazards.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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- 3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the annual assurance report.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: The annual assurance report of the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Protection Committee Annual Assurance Report 2022/23

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Authority Public Health teams are partners in the Devon and Cornwall Health Protection Committee which provides assurance that health protection functions are being effectively discharged across the Peninsula.
- 1.2 The Committee prepares an annual assurance report for the constituent Health and Wellbeing Boards, detailing progress against statutory duties and strategic priorities during the previous year.
- 1.3 The report considers the key domains of Health Protection:
  - Communicable disease control and environmental hazards
  - Immunisation and screening
  - Health care associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
  - Emergency planning and response.
- 1.4 The report sets out for each of these domains:
  - Assurance arrangements
  - Performance and activity during 2022/23
  - Actions taken against health protection priorities identified for 2022/23
  - Priorities for 2023/24.
- 1.5 There is a delay between the reporting period and the preparation of the report due to the timetable for publication of annual performance data. Because of this time lag, the report also contains some information in relation to activities undertaken during 2023/24, to provide a timelier picture of progress.

## 2. Key points from the report for Torbay

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- 2.1 Post pandemic, the system responded to a number of infectious outbreaks or particular high levels of disease during the year including Avian influenza, Mpox, Gonorrhoea, Group A strep and Scarlet fever.
- 2.2 The Public Health team worked with partners to maintain and strengthen resilience planning, and infection prevention and control arrangements across local settings including care, education, and refugee / asylum.
- 2.3 There was a focus on supporting immunisation, health screening and response for refugee and asylum seekers, with two asylum hotels in the Bay.
- 2.4 A new action programme was established with partners across Devon to increase the uptake of vaccinations, with specific focus on MMR, school based vaccines, flu and Covid. Uptake data is shown in the report at Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Priorities identified for 2023/24 included: tackling the climate emergency, infection prevention and management, vaccine uptake, pandemic preparedness, inclusion and inequalities.

## 3. Financial Implications

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- 3.1 None.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 None.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 Key stakeholders have contributed to the assurance report.

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 A new chapter was added to the report in 2022/23 focusing on Climate and Environment (see pages 35-36) and sustainability remains one of the priorities for the Committee. Health protection is critically affected by climate change, in particular flooding, heatwave, cold weather, and risk of increased infection / vector transmission.

## 8. Associated Risks

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- 8.1 No risks associated with the assurance report.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Positive (particularly vulnerable to certain health risks or hazards and a focus of support)		
People with caring Responsibilities	Positive (as above)		
People with a disability	Positive (as above)		
Women or men			No differential impact although some infections or conditions affect one sex more than another.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)	Positive (as above)		
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
People who are transgendered			No differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	Positive (a focus for particular vaccine programmes)		
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	Positive (a focus for support and intervention for disadvantaged populations)		

Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	Positive		
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## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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10.1 The health protection agenda should have positive impacts on the work of the Education and Adult Social Care sectors through infection prevention and disease control.

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 None.