

The Public Health Health Protection Forum

A report to the Health Improvement Board

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Introduction

Local authorities (and the director of public health (DPH) who acts on behalf of the local authority) have a critical role in protecting the health of their population, both in terms of planning to prevent threats arising, and in ensuring appropriate responses when things go wrong. The DPH has a duty to prepare for and lead the local authority's response that present a threat to the public's health. The local leadership of DPH, on behalf of local authorities, is critical to ensuring that the local authority and local partners are implementing preventative strategies to tackle key threats to the local population.

The establishment of the Public Health Health Protection forum facilitates the DPH in fulfilling the statutory function of protecting the health of the population of Oxfordshire.

Role of the Health Protection Forum

The group report on the following issues

- Prevention
- Planning and preparedness
- Relationships and accountabilities
- Monitoring of local data
- Reporting of local issues which may affect the health of the local population

Membership

Membership of the forum includes;

- Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council (Chair)
- Oxfordshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Public Health
- Director of Public Health England Centre – Thames Valley (or nominated deputy)
- District representation of Environmental Health colleagues
- Associate Director Medicines Management, Quality and Innovation, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Head of Public Health Commissioning, NHS England Thames Valley
- Consultant in Public Health Screening and Immunisation, NHS England Thames Valley
- Consultant in Health Protection/CCDC with responsibility for Health Protection in Oxfordshire – Public Health England

- Consultant in Public Health/Public Health Medicine with responsibility for Public Health Protection/emergency planning – Oxfordshire (Deputy Chair)
- Specialist advisors will be invited as necessary

Meetings

The forum meets three times a year and extraordinary meetings will be held in the event of an emergency.

The group has met twice since April 2013 and is next due to meet 20 March 2013.

These meeting have agreed the terms of reference for the group and established the format and regular topics reported to the group.

Recent reporting of activity to the forum includes;

Plans for Flu campaign and achieving 75% coverage

Children's vaccinations

Latest sentinel data

2 year old children in Oxfordshire vaccinated 47.1% (Thames Valley 43.7%)

3 year old children in Oxfordshire vaccinated 43.2% (Thames Valley 41.3%)

The offer of immunisations to children aged 2-4 will continue in the next flu season.

Adult vaccinations

Latest data (as of 8/12/13)

Adults aged >65 in Oxfordshire vaccinated 72.7% (Thames Valley 71.2%)

Adults aged < 65 at risk in Oxfordshire vaccinated 50.2% (Thames Valley 49.7%)

Pregnant Women in Oxfordshire vaccinated 44.3% (TV 39.8%).

Maternity services in JR and Horton have delivered 933 vaccinations to pregnant women.

Measles

There has been a slight uptake in MMR vaccine in children aged under 5 years.

Oxfordshire is just short of the 95% target but only by a very small margin. There has been a loss of momentum at a National and local level.

Bowel Screening

The performance levels are on target to meet activity levels despite the Q1 activity.

The screening programme will be addressed over the next couple of months when the AT increase their workforce resources.

Breast Screening

Current activity is meeting minimum standards but is amber. The number of women attending for appointment within 3 weeks of screening activity could likely have been affected by seasonal variations (summer holidays). It is anticipated that the activity should improve in Q3.

Antenatal and new born screening

Programme activity is meeting targets, except for avoidable repeats for blood spot test. The provider is investigating to see if this is a training issue. Wider Thames Valley stakeholders are meeting to develop a new blood spot pathway.

Cervical Screening

Activity was recorded as green in Q2. Current data shows a sustained level of activity. Action plan to address the City Locality of the CCG is to be discussed

Future Reports to the Forum include:

- Environmental issues including air and water pollution
- Healthcare acquired infection activity
- Improving uptake of immunisation programmes
- Improving uptake of screening programmes
- Blood borne virus activity
- HIV and sexually transmitted infections