

Health Protection Strategy

For Approval

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to.

- Describe the current challenges to health protection in Walsall
- Describe the shared partnership approach to addressing these challenges. The Health Protection Strategy describes the strategy for health protection in Walsall from 2022 to 2025.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Walsall Health Protection Strategy 2022- 2025

3. Report detail

- 3.1 The Health Protection Strategy describes the strategic approach to health protection in Walsall over the next 4 years from 2022 to 2025. Health Protection is a statutory function of the Council.
- 3.2 This strategy is a partnership document developed with input and support from key stakeholders within Walsall, including the Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, UK Health Security Agency and NHS England.
- 3.3 Health protection is a term used to encompass a set of activities within the public health function.
- 3.4 Health Protection involves:
- Ensuring the safety and quality of food, water, air and the general environment
 - Preventing the transmission of communicable diseases
 - Managing outbreaks and the other incidents which threaten the public health
- 3.5 The profile of health protection has increased significantly in recent years with issues such as immunisation, food borne infections, pandemics, healthcare associated infection and communicable diseases regularly being in the public eye.

Health protection issues include the prevention and control of infectious diseases and environmental threats to the health of the population.

- 3.6 The Walsall Health Protection Strategy does not cover the strategic response to COVID 19, as this covered within the Walsall Local Outbreak Management Plan
- 3.7 The Walsall Health Protection Strategy is supported by a live Action Plan. The implementation of the Action Plan is overseen by the Walsall Health Protection Forum.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

- 4.1 Benefits of a more integrated approach and pooling resources with a range of both internal and external stakeholders will result in increased effectiveness in addressing health protection challenges in Walsall and greater impact on health.
- 4.2 In order to achieve a healthy environment and minimise the health protection challenges experienced by Walsall, this programme of work cuts across other boards, teams and externally commissioned services highlighting that this programme of work cannot be achieved in isolation.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1 The key Health and Wellbeing Board priority is to Maximise People's Health and Wellbeing and Safety and in particular the focus of this report is to minimise the impact of health protection challenges on the health and wellbeing of the people of Walsall.
- 5.2 Work to reduce health protection challenges is a role for all partner organisations in Walsall and not just the statutory sector. In particular, health protection challenges posed by infections such as tuberculosis and blood borne viruses require close working with organisations supporting the homeless, and refugee and migrant communities.
- 5.3 Marmot's approach to addressing health inequalities as set out in Fair Society, Healthy Lives requires action across the social determinants of health and beyond the reach of the NHS. It also shows the importance of addressing the environmental and social factors affecting health.
- 5.4 Safeguarding: Recommendations and actions arising from this report directly supports safeguarding and will benefit the most vulnerable sectors in the community.

Background papers

None

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