

Health Protection Forum Annual Report 2018/19



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

What is the Health Protection Forum?

- The Health Protection Forum is made up of representatives from the organisations delivering health protection within Walsall
 - Walsall Healthcare Trust
 - Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust
 - Walsall CCG
 - Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Public Health England
 - NHS England
- Each of these agencies have a legal duty to respond to health protection emergencies. These legal responsibilities are described in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- The Health Protection Forum is chaired by the Director of Public Health.
- The forum is key to providing assurances to the Director of Public Health who has delegated responsibility from Government to safeguard the health of the population of Walsall.

Key successes on 2018/19

- A local antimicrobial strategy and steering group in Walsall, which feeds into the West Midlands Antimicrobial Resistance network, was established in July 2018.
- There has been an improvement in the blood borne virus screening offer made to clients of the Drugs and Alcohol service.
- There has been a reduction in the late diagnosis of HIV.
- The measles campaign has commenced to address poor MMR vaccine uptake focusing a catch up programme for unvaccinated groups and to address vaccine hesitancy.
- A programme of infection prevention and control has been delivered for schools to implement with support from school nurses and school improvement staff.
- We have completed an analysis of real time surveillance data of air quality in Walsall.

Key risks for 2019/20

- The cessation in opportunistic chlamydia testing and condom distribution in community and sex on the premises venues means that there is a potential for increased transmission of sexually transmitted infections at these establishments.
- Further decline in screening rates in Walsall could lead to a reduction in early diagnosis and an increase in morbidity and mortality from diseases such as bowel, breasts and cervical cancer.
- Further decline in immunisation coverage rates in Walsall, may result in a decrease in herd immunity and the increased risk of avoidable deaths and outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles.
- The increased complexity of many of the Tuberculosis (TB) cases being seen at Walsall Healthcare Trust, is putting additional strain on the Walsall TB service.
- The Latent TB infection screening programme is at risk of lack of future funding due to poor performance.



Foci for 2019/20

- To work with the CCG and WHT to develop a sustainable model for the on going delivery of the Latent TB Infection screening service.
- To work with sexual health services and other partners to develop a sustainable model for sexual health prevention
- To develop a strategic and joined up approach to address screening and immunisation (including flu) inequalities and improve uptake for vulnerable groups.
- To undertake a multi agency table top exercise to test outbreak plans.
- To embed Health Education Guidance in schools with regard to hygiene, infections and antibiotics.
- To develop an air quality 'early warning' system to serve sufferers of respiratory disease in Walsall.

