

## Health and Wellbeing Board

10 September 2018

- **ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY**
- **WALSALL HEALTH ECONOMY HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION STRATEGY**
- **HEALTH PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

### 1. Purpose

- To inform members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) of the of the following strategies:
  - i. The Walsall Antimicrobial Stewardship Strategy
  - ii. Walsall Health Economy Healthcare Associated Infection Strategy
- To provide an update of the work undertaken in relation to protecting the health of Walsall residents as contained in the 'Health Protection Annual Report'

### 2. Recommendations

That members of the HWBB:

- **Note** the contents of the strategies and the actions contained therein
- **Note** the proposal to review the Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) Steering Group
- **Support** the Walsall Health and Social Economy approach to tackling the issue of Antimicrobial Resistance and of reducing the risk of infections

### 3. Report Detail

#### 3.1 *The Walsall Antimicrobial Stewardship Strategy*

Worldwide, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most important public health concerns of our time. It requires action from both healthcare professionals and the public to limit the adverse effect on health.

The Walsall Antimicrobial Stewardship Strategy sets out a vision to *Keep Antibiotics Working*. Antimicrobial resistance is a very real threat to the health of the nation, not least here in Walsall. If there is no action to reduce the use

of antibiotics and rates of infection then minor surgery and routine operations could become high-risk procedures.

Antimicrobial stewardship is considered the best way to respond to the threat of resistance. Part of AMR stewardship involves the prevention of infection as a first step.

### **3.2 Walsall Health Economy Healthcare Associated Infection Strategy**

Healthcare associated infections have the ability to affect anyone who requires health or social care input. The elderly, the very young and those with existing illnesses are more at risk of acquiring an avoidable infection.

Health and social care providers have a duty to ensure that they are doing everything in their power to ensure that, where possible, no-one in their care develops an infection as a result of poor practice.

The progress made in Walsall has been significant resulting in a dramatic reduction in the number of infections caused by organisms such as *Clostridium difficile* (*C.diff*), Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) and Methicillin-Sensitive *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MSSA).

There are further challenges ahead with the Department of Health requiring a reduction of 10% in the number of blood-stream infections caused by gram-negative organisms such as *Escherichia Coli* (*E.Coli*). In addition to known infections, we are facing the unknown challenge of more drug-resistant organisms.

3.3 Therefore, it is timely to review the HCAI Steering Group and combine forces with colleagues who are working to implement the Walsall Antimicrobial Resistance Stewardship Strategy.

3.4 The attached strategies highlight the key focus of the HCAI/AMR Steering Group over the next five years and of the action plan to be implemented during this time. This is the result of the thoughts and ambitions shared at a workshop in December 2017 by dedicated staff who wish to see avoidable infections, at the least reduced, and at best eradicated.

## **4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements**

Health and Wellbeing Board members fully recognise that in order to make progress in achieving the priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and identify future needs; we must involve and engage with our providers as well as our wider public. The HCAI/AMR Steering Group intends to involve key providers and partners, thereby increasing the resource 'out there' to tackle the identified priorities.

## 5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities

The HCAI/AMR Steering Group brings together an identified group of key providers and partners to provide assurance and support work across the borough to reduce HCAI and promote AMR stewardship. This aligns to all of the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The HCAI and AMR strategies have been produced with the following aims in mind:

- to maximise people's health, wellbeing and safety
- create healthy and sustainable places and communities

The aims will be achieved by:

- health and social care staff providing safe care following recommended infection prevention procedures to reduce the risk of infection
- ensuring our population is well protected against vaccine preventable diseases quickly identify and manage outbreaks of infectious diseases, emergencies and incidents that could be harmful to health
- reviewing the use of antibiotics
- educating prescribers and the public about safe use of antibiotics

## 6. Background papers

The minutes of the HCAI/AMR Steering Group can be made available electronically by contacting Dr Uma Viswanathan, contact details below.

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