



NORTH YORKSHIRE HEALTH PROTECTION ASSURANCE GROUP END OF YEAR REPORT 2022-3



INTRODUCTION

- The North Yorkshire Health Protection Assurance Group (HPAG) is a multi-agency forum providing strategic oversight across the individual parts of the health protection system in North Yorkshire.
- Chaired by the Director of Public Health, who has a statutory role to maintain assurance on health protection issues across the County.
- Other members include: UKHSA, NYC public health/environmental health/resilience and emergencies teams, NHS England, HNY ICB, HDFT (IPC/TB team)
- **Purpose of the HPAG annual report = provide evidence to support the DPH in fulfilling their statutory assurance function on health protection for North Yorkshire, whilst summarising the work of the wider assurance group over the last year (22/23).**
- Also highlights the key risks, gaps and opportunities across the system, which in turn help determine the priorities for 2023/4

TOPICS COVERED

Screening and Immunisations

- Screening

- Routine immunisations

- COVID-19 and flu seasonal vaccination programmes

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Sexual health

Environment

- Seasonal health

- Climate change

- Air quality

- Environmental health

- Environmental permits

Migrant health

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response

Incidents and outbreaks

- COVID-19

- Mpox

- Group A Streptococcal infections

- Avian flu

- Tuberculosis (TB)

- Support to early years and education settings

- Support to care settings

HIGHLIGHTS

Progress

- Targeted multi-agency screening and immunisations work
- Successful implementation of Section 75 arrangement for sexual health
- Continued collaborative working around outbreaks including COVID-19, Mpox etc.
- Air quality work with education settings
- Warm & Well delivered significantly increased levels of support

Challenges

- Migrant health
- Commissioning – new SAIS provider, review needed for IPC/TB, clearer pathways required for clinical aspects e.g. avian flu prophylaxis and swabbing
- Working through ongoing organisational changes e.g. NHS re-organisation, LGR

HPAG PRIORITIES 2023/4

- Review of service specifications and contract for community IPC and TB services
- Implementation of new School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) contract
- Focus on screening
- Further collaboration across environmental health, public health, trading standards and LRF following LGR
- Update and exercise EPRR plans covering pandemics and emerging infectious diseases
- Joint work with the ICB on finding solutions to clinical gaps in health protection response measures e.g. community swabbing, antiviral prophylaxis for avian flu
- Co-ordinated communications across partners including proactive public messaging and joint webinars for education settings
- Strengthen previous partnership working on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and with military health colleagues
- Incorporate STIs (including HIV) into HPAG monitoring and assurance, including outbreak management

→ All underpinned by ongoing focus on health inequalities