

**SUNDERLAND HEALTH PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

**Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of health protection arrangements and some relevant activity across Sunderland during 2022/23.
- 1.2 To support the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities in their statutory remit to provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Sunderland City Council in relation to health protection of the local population.
- 1.3 To provide an overview of the local position on health protection issues and priorities covering prevention, surveillance and control, highlighting areas where improvements are needed with a focus on health inequalities.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The protection of the health of the population is one of the legally mandated responsibilities given to local authorities as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 2.2 Health protection describes activities and arrangements that seek to protect the population from risks to health arising from biological, environmental or chemical hazards. It includes:
  - Screening and immunisation to prevent infectious diseases
  - Surveillance of the burden and epidemiology of disease
  - Control of disease to prevent cases and outbreaks
  - Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response, which includes action to plan for and respond to incidents and emergencies
- 2.3 A range of groups, information flows and reports are in place to support health protection arrangements in Sunderland. The purpose of these groups and reports are to provide formal assurance, provide a forum for discussion, information sharing and improvement. The system as a whole provides assurance to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities that the health protection system is functioning as it should.
- 2.4 A Health Protection Assurance Report is produced annually.

### **3.0 Contribution to delivering the Healthy City Plan**

- 3.1 The overall focus of health protection is to protect residents of Sunderland across the life course from biological, environmental and chemical hazards, which fits naturally with the Healthy City Plan by helping people live healthier and longer.
- 3.2 Health protection activity supports the population of Sunderland to make informed choices to protect their health by promoting immunisation, screening and healthy behaviours to try and reduce the burden of disease in Sunderland.
- 3.3 Health protection activity aims to address health inequalities by improving access to immunisation and screening programmes to populations with lower than average uptake to try and reduce inequalities and improve health across the population.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
  - i. note and comment on the report;
  - ii. be assured that Sunderland has a robust health protection system where partner organisations work together to protect the health of the population of Sunderland;
  - iii. be assured that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities will keep health protection arrangements under review and will seek to make improvements as and when necessary; and
  - iv. endorse the health protection forward plan priorities for 2023/24 as set out in section 14 of the Health Protection Annual Report 2022/23.

#### **Appendix one:**

Sunderland Health Protection Annual Report 2022/23