

## Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Date of Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
**Report of:** Helen John, Health Protection Manager  
Cheshire East Council  
**Subject/Title:** Health Protection Forum

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### 1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Public Health department wishes to establish a Health Protection Forum as a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to be chaired by the Director of Public Health. The Board's support for this proposal is required. Draft Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix One.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board supports the creation of Cheshire East Council's Health Protection Forum.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Health Protection Forum will have responsibility for ensuring that plans are in place to protect the health of the population of Cheshire East. This will be done by identifying threats, assessing risks and reviewing health protection arrangements and plans that all associated organisations have in place. Thus it will be able to provide assurance to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board that there are safe and effective arrangements in place. In addition, the Forum will improve integration and partnership working on health protection between the Local Authority, NHS, Public Health England and other local services.

### 4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 The Director of Public Health's responsibilities for health protection arise from Acts of Parliament – mainly the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 - and related Regulations. (Department of Health: Directors of Public Health in Local Government: Roles, Responsibilities and Context. October 2013.)
- 4.2 A Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator also exists in relation to "Comprehensive, agreed inter-agency plans for responding to health protection incidents and emergencies"

- 4.3 There are separate arrangements for emergency planning, with a joint management and governance model between both Council areas in Cheshire.

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 In line with guidance published by the Department of Health, Public Health England and the Local Government Association, the health protection duty of local authorities can include establishing a local forum to review interagency plans and issues, and provide feedback and/or escalation. (May 2013)
- 5.2 Draft Terms of Reference have been prepared based on examples from elsewhere and these are attached as Appendix One. Colleagues from partner agencies, who it is proposed are core members, have been consulted and are supportive of this approach.

## **6 Access to Information**

- 6.1 Directors of Public Health in Local Government. Roles, Responsibilities and Context. (Department of Health, October 2013)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/249810/DPH\\_Guidance\\_Final\\_v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249810/DPH_Guidance_Final_v6.pdf)
- Protecting the health of the local population: the new health protection duties of local authorities (Department of Health, Public Health England, Local Government Association, May 2013)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/199773/Health\\_Protection\\_in\\_Local\\_Authorities\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199773/Health_Protection_in_Local_Authorities_Final.pdf)
- The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/351/pdfs/ukxi\\_20130351\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/351/pdfs/ukxi_20130351_en.pdf)

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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