



Northamptonshire Health Protection Joint Committee: Annual Report (April 2022 to March 2023)

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This report updates on output and outcome of actions delivered to meet the strategic priorities mentioned in our county wide “Joint Health Protection plan.”

Please refer to the accompanying scorecard below for a detailed breakdown of the dataset.

Strategic Priorities 2022-24

The strategic health protection priorities for the Health Protection Committee area (Northamptonshire) for the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024 are outlined as follows:

Strategic Priority 1: Immunisation

- Ensure the delivery of childhood and adult immunisation programmes in accordance with national and local targets.

Strategic Priority 2: Screening

- Ensure the delivery of cancer and non-cancer screenings in accordance with national and local targets.

Strategic Priority 3: Infection Prevention and Control

- Ensure infection prevention and control arrangements within organisations delivering health and social care services, and other high-risk settings, to support a reduction in the number of healthcare acquired infections and other Notifiable infections, including COVID-19.

Strategic Priority 4: Tuberculosis

- Ensure the local implementation of the recommendations of the national TB Strategy and NICE 2016.

Strategic Priority 5: Blood Borne Virus

- Ensure that local service provision is in line with the national strategies for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Strategic Priority 6: Outbreak Management

- Ensure effective outbreak planning and response arrangements are in place within NHS and non-NHS partner organisations including Environmental Health teams.
- To ensure the coordinated delivery of the COVID-19 outbreak plan and pandemic response and recovery phase.

Strategic Priority 7: Environmental Health

- Ensure measures are in place to identify, manage and mitigate environmental health hazards including elevated levels of air pollution and environmental noise.

Strategic Priority 8: Training and Campaigns

- Ensure appropriate training and learning opportunities are available to educate professionals and the public in relation to health protection priorities.



Strategic Priority 9: Addressing Health Inequalities

- Ensure that in each of the Health Protection priorities health inequalities and inequities are understood and plans are developed to address them, engaging with communities to understand their needs and coproduce solutions.

2022-2023: Achievements and Gaps:

Immunisation

Childhood Immunisation

- Northamptonshire outperformed England and East Midlands in all childhood immunisation indicators; most of the uptakes were either close to meeting the national target and/or exceeded it. Preschool boosters which included the DTaP/IPV booster and MMR for two doses did not meet the national target, although we did improve our own performance in comparison to the previous year.
- The seasonal flu vaccination coverage in children aged 2 and 3 and children from reception year to year nine show a decline and has not met the national target.
- Though there has been an improvement in Northamptonshire, and the uptake exceeds the East Midlands and England averages, the HPV Vaccination coverage for one dose (females 12-13 years old) did not meet the National target of 90%.

Adult Immunisation

- The seasonal flu immunisation uptake has dropped for people aged 65+ and people aged under 65 and at-risk groups; nonetheless, the uptake in pregnant women has shown improvement.
- The only group to meet the national target of 75% for seasonal flu vaccination was in the people aged 65 and above. All groups performed better than the East Midlands and England averages.
- The vaccination coverage for pertussis in pregnant women shows an improvement.
- The vaccination coverage for shingles in those aged 70 has also improved but could not meet the national target of 50-60%.
- COVID-19 vaccination uptake has improved in comparison to previous across all doses in all age groups and was similar to the national average.

Screening Programme

Antenatal and New-born Screening

- All indicators in antenatal (HIV, Hep B, Syphilis and Sickle cell and Thalassemia) and new-born screening (Hearing and Physical examination) have reached the acceptable national target of 95%.
- New-born blood spot coverage stays similar to last year and has achieved the national acceptable target of 95%.

Cancer Screening

- Cervical screening coverage in the Northamptonshire has gone down in 24–49-year-old by 2% and stays statistically similar for the 50–64-year-olds but both age groups could not meet the national target of 80%.
- Bowel screening coverage has also dropped by roughly 2% although it has still exceeded the National target.
- Breast screening coverage is showing an improvement by around 2% and has also performed better than the England average; but were not able to meet the National target.

Non-Cancer screening

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening coverage has significantly improved (16% in 2021/22 to 41% in 2022/23) and performed noticeably better than the England average. We are still lagging behind the acceptable National target of 85%.
- Diabetic eye screening has improved by 2.5% but still falling behind the National acceptable target of 75%.

Infection Prevention and Control

IPC compliance:

- From 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. 137 initial Infection Prevention and Control assurance visits and another 44 follow-up IPC assurance visits have been carried out to support high risk community and social care settings (care/residential/nursing homes, supported living, assisted living and domiciliary care); and
- 144 IPC training (face to face) sessions delivered for social care staff working in care/residential homes, nursing homes, supported living, assisted living and rehabilitation centres as well as domiciliary care providers.
- In the same time period, 92 Quality Improvement audits have been completed for the selected care/nursing homes.

Prevention and control of Health hazards:

- Provided public health specialist input for a safe and hazard free delivery of 134 events applications submitted to the Northamptonshire Safety Advisory groups (SAG).

Health care acquired infection

- C Diff (Clostridium Difficile) infection rate has gone up in both of our acute trust hospitals.
- MRSA bacteraemia (Methicillin Resistant staphylococcus Aureus) rates have fallen and shown improvement in both of our acute trust hospitals.
- MSSA bacteraemia (Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus) rate has reduced and showing an improvement for Northamptonshire General Hospital, nonetheless, increased in Kettering General Hospital, but both remain lower than the England average.
- E-Coli bacteraemia rate is showing a drop and improvement for both of our acute trust hospitals.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

- The number of new STI diagnoses has decreased and is lower than the East Midlands and England averages.
- Syphilis diagnosis rate has increased by 1% per 100,000 population but remains better than the East Midlands and England averages.
- Gonorrhoea diagnoses rate has decreased by 3% per 100,000 population and remains better than the East Midlands and England averages.
- Chlamydia detection rate in people aged 15-24 has decreased and is better than the East Midlands and England averages.

COVID-19

- COVID-19 case rates in Northamptonshire for week ending 31st March 2023 was 42 per 100,000 population.



- There has been a total of 426 deaths reported in Northamptonshire where COVID-19 was mentioned as one of the causes on the death certificate between 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.
- There has been a total of 3,304 COVID-19 hospital admissions between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 across all three hospitals.

Tuberculosis

- The 3-year average of TB incidence has decreased and is lower than the East Midlands and England averages.
- Northamptonshire shows a reduction in proportion of pulmonary TB starting treatment within 4 months of diagnosis (timely treatment) although has performed better than the East Midlands and England averages.
- The proportion of Tuberculosis cases offered a HIV test has seen a slight improvement then has performed worse than the England average.
- Latent TB screening programme for people from high-risk countries has been commissioned and implemented in Northamptonshire.

Blood Borne Viruses

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

- Northamptonshire has improved its HIV testing coverage by 6% which is significantly better than the East Midlands average but around 2.5% lower than the England average.
- The number of new diagnoses in people aged 15 and above with HIV have decreased and is showing an improvement. However, our rate is worse than the East Midlands average but better than the England average.
- The percentage of HIV late diagnosis shows an improvement but still remains higher than the East Midlands and England average.

Hepatitis B (Data lag – comparisons have been made using published datasets)

- Acute Hepatitis B rate has decreased and showing an improvement
- The number of hospital admissions due to Hep B related liver disease/cancer is showing a rise.
- The number of people entering drug misuse treatment who have been offered and accepted a hepatitis B vaccination as a proportion of all eligible clients in treatment has drastically declined (*current data*)

Hepatitis C (Data lag – comparisons have been made using published datasets)

- Hepatitis C detection rate has increased suggesting rise in new cases.
- Under 75 mortality rate due to Hepatitis C related liver disease/cancer has fallen but remains higher than the East Midlands and England averages.
- The number of hospital admissions due to Hepatitis C related liver disease/cancer stayed similar to the previous year.
- The percentage of people receiving a Hepatitis C test who are in drug misuse treatment has improved by 5% and is above the England average (*recent data*).

Incident and Outbreak management

- Health Protection team has responded to and have supported management of 299 COVID-19 related outbreaks reported between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023



- It has also supported management of 26 Gastrointestinal outbreaks (Diarrhoea & vomiting).
- We have also worked alongside East Midland UKHSA to manage 25 outbreaks in educational settings that included- 10 Streptococcal-A incidents, 8 incidents of scarlet fever, 3 of chicken pox and 1 of E-Coli, and another 1 outbreak of Meningitis and 2 outbreaks of Diarrhoea & Vomiting.
- The team also managed 2 scabies outbreaks and 1 incident reported in Asylum seekers/ refugee accommodations.
- Support was also provided to the regional and local system partners to manage 11 MPox outbreaks and incidents

Environmental Health

- Mortality of annual deaths which are attributable to air pollution in Northamptonshire stays similar to the previous years (5.4%) but is slightly higher than both England (5.1%) and East Midlands (5.3%) averages.

Training and campaigns

- Community engagement- We engaged with high-risk population subgroups in collaboration with community and voluntary organisations working with these groups and delivered health education sessions to improve immunisation and screening.
- We ran 11 health protection media campaigns from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Addressing Health Inequalities

- To address inequality experienced by most of the underserved population residing or arriving in Northamptonshire (that includes rough sleepers, homeless, people in refuge centres, unregistered seasonal migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented migrants), we engaged and provided health screening sessions. Health intervention sessions included screening for communicable and non-communicable diseases, vaccinations based on the UK immunisation programme and lifestyle interventions. We also brought in other agencies to provide social support.

Recommendations

Following the analysis of individual datasets, these recommendations are to facilitate North and West Northamptonshire Public Health teams to prioritise and develop their action plans for 2023-2024.

Strategic Priority 1: Immunisation

- **Improving childhood immunisations**
 - Improving uptake of preschool booster vaccinations (both MMR and DTaP-diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis)
 - Seasonal flu immunisation in children aged 2 & 3 years-old
- **Improving adult immunisations**
 - Seasonal flu immunisation in at risk groups including pregnant women
 - Improving COVID-19 autumn vaccination programme

Strategic Priority 2: Screening

- **Cancer Screening**
 - Improving cervical cancer screening coverage in women aged 24-49.

Strategic Priority 3: Infection Prevention and Control

- Reduce incidence of Clostridium Difficile (C Diff) as a health care acquired infection
- Support social care settings and special educational settings by carrying out regular risk assessments on IPC compliance and ensure consistent IPC training delivered across all settings.

Strategic Priority 4: Tuberculosis

- Delivery of latent TB screening programme to people coming from listed high-risk countries and who have lived in Northamptonshire in the last 5 years.

Strategic Priority 5: Blood Borne Virus

- Continue improving HIV testing coverage to prevent late diagnoses.
- Improving Hepatitis B vaccination uptake in people under substance misuse treatment.
- Follow up care of people newly diagnosed with Hepatitis C should be prioritised.

Strategic Priority 6: Outbreak Management

- Updating and localise systemwide outbreak management plan
- Review MOU with LHRP partners for managing within both local authorities as well as any cross-border incidences

Strategic Priority 7: Environmental Health

- Carry out health needs assessment on air quality to identify issues in poor air quality areas.

Strategic Priority 8: Training and Campaigns

- Improve IPC compliance by delivering IPC training to all care home staff, personal assistants and other formal carers working in various settings.
- Train IPC champions in care and residential homes and other specialist centre across Northamptonshire.

Strategic Priority 9: Addressing Health Inequalities

- Reach out to some of our high-risk groups with poor health and social outcomes in most deprived areas across Northamptonshire.

The Actions to support these priorities will be detailed in the Health Protection Plan for 2023-2024.

Attachment:



Health Protection
Dashboard - April 20