



UK Health
Security
Agency

UKHSA Update, HWB, Darlington Borough Council

Thursday 17th March, 3pm
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Outline

- Organisational change
- The HPT functions
- Infectious diseases over the last 2 years
- Infectious diseases showing a post pandemic resurgence
- The future

Our history



2003



Public Health
England

2013



UK Health
Security
Agency

2021

PHE now UK Health Security Agency

- Responsible since April 2021 for UK wide PHP and infectious disease capability, replacing PHE. UKHSA became fully operational 1st October 2021
- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of **infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats**. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation's health secure
- UKHSA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care

NE Health Protection Team

- UKHSA:
 - Health Protection Team
 - NHS Test and Trace
 - Joint Biosecurity Centre
- PHE's Health Protection Teams simply moved over to UKHSA
- Still have the same function, purpose and capability

What we do: Health Protection

- We **protect** the health of the **population** from **infectious diseases**.
- We **prevent harm** when hazards involving **chemicals, poisons or radiation** occur.
- We **prepare for new and emerging threats** such as bio-terrorism and virulent new strains of disease.

NE Health Protection Team

- Health Protection Operations
 - Pan Regional Directorate
 - NE Health Protection Team



0300 303 8596

- Single team for the region based in Newcastle
 - Provides 24/7 response to communicable disease incidents and other threats
 - Consultants, nurses registrars and practitioners and specialists in the team
- Specialist services supporting the team:

- Epidemiology team
- Chemical Hazards and Radiation team
- Communications

HPT – Reactive work

- Provide public health advice to responders, organisations and the public in relation to:
 - Water contamination incidents
 - Incidents involving chemical, biological and radioactive materials
 - Air quality including incidents involving fires
- Provision of the Science and Technical Advice Cell
- **Management of cases, clusters and outbreaks of infectious diseases**

- 1 Acute encephalitis
- 2 Acute infectious hepatitis
- 3 Acute meningitis
- 4 Acute poliomyelitis
- 5 Anthrax
- 6 Botulism
- 7 Brucellosis
- 8 Cholera
- 9 Diphtheria
- 10 Enteric fever
- 11 Food poisoning
- 12 Haemolytic uraemic syndrome
- 13 Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- 14 Invasive Group A Strep
- 15 Legionnaires' disease
- 16 Leprosy
- 17 Malaria
- 18 Measles
- 19 Meningococcal septicaemia
- 20 Mumps
- 21 Plague
- 22 Rabies
- 23 Rubella
- 24 SARS
- 25 Scarlet fever
- 26 Smallpox
- 27 Tetanus
- 28 Tuberculosis
- 29 Typhus
- 30 Viral Haemorrhagic Fever
- 31 Whooping cough
- 32 Yellow fever

+COVID

Work over the last year

- The HPT have and continue to support a number of Darlington care homes with COVID outbreaks
- In 2021 there were 36 outbreaks of Covid-19 in care homes in Darlington and there have been 15 so far in 2022
- Work in relation to other notifiable infections has reduced
- Notably for gastro-intestinal and vaccine preventable infections, in 2021:
 - 5 GI care home outbreaks
 - 7 cryptosporidium, 117 campylobacter and 1 shigella case
 - 4 cases of whooping cough
 - 9 cases of mumps and;
 - 10 cases of meningococcal infection

Resurgence of infectious disease post COVID

- Enquiries and outbreaks of scarlet fever creeping up to pre-pandemic levels
- Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS) causing sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting in most.
- Patients can develop complications such as an ear infection, throat abscess, pneumonia, sinusitis or meningitis in the early stages and acute glomerulonephritis and acute rheumatic fever at a later stage
- Letters have gone out to GP practices in the area to support case finding, prompt treatment and identification of clusters

Post pandemic plans

- Planning to return to business as usual
- Agreeing ways of working with external stakeholders post covid
- Ongoing training a newly expanded HP team
- Horizon scanning – imported infectious diseases and a rise in potential in infectious diseases from poor vaccine uptake
- Living with covid and planning for GI infections over the summer and winter preparedness including the weather (!), flu, norovirus and covid