

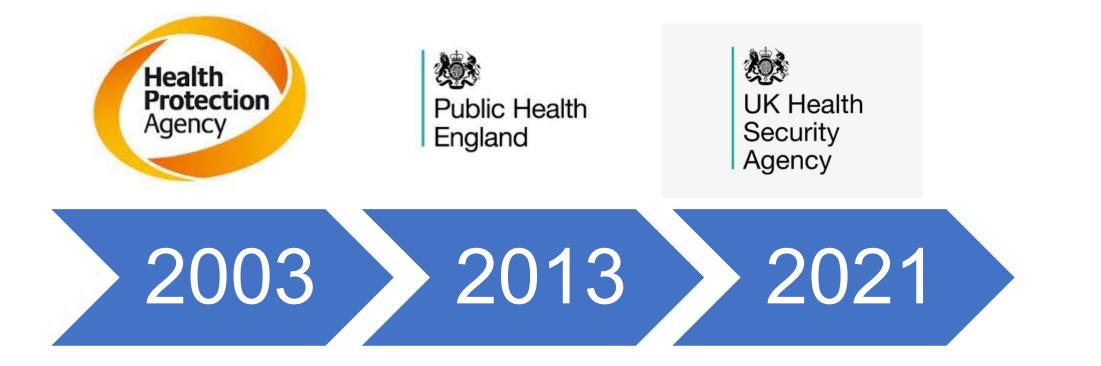
UKHSA Update, HWB, Darlington Borough Council

Thursday 17th March, 3pm Claire Stoker Senior Health Protection Nurse

Outline

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

Our history



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 bioterrorism 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

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

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 been15 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