

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To
Health & Wellbeing Board

on
6th March 2023

Report prepared by: Krishna Ramkhelawon,
Director of Public Health

For information only	X	For discussion		Approval required	
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Health Protection Update

Updates from the Health Protection Board and the Oversight and Engagement Board

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

Purpose

This is to provide an update on-going management of the COVID-19 and wider Health Protection response.

Background

We are now learning to live with Covid whilst continuously reviewing the evolution this virus and its impact on our communities. Collectively, we continue to play an important role in the ongoing management of local outbreaks.

Other areas of concern for health protection are now our renewed focus, including any emerging new challenge posed across the country. We have also been working to drive up the uptake of MMR, DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) Flu and Covid booster vaccines.

Local Boards Activities

The Health Protection Board (HPB) meets monthly and continues to receive the local Health Protection Surveillance Report and necessary actions – last meeting 30th January 2023.

As of the 23rd February, the Covid-19 rates is 46.5 per 100,000, which is slightly below the East of England rate of 49.6. This is slight upward trend since the start of February 2023.

The Council and UKHSA continue to work closely with care homes which are the higher risk settings for transmissions and consequential impact on health and wellbeing. As at the 24th February, we had only one care home with a Covid outbreak but none with flu outbreak.

We are completing a few more community vaccination clinics till the end of March, when the Flu immunisation season will be over.

There has been a marginal increase in Covid admissions to hospital, in the week commencing 20th February, but this is still within expected range for this time of the year.

In early January, the smallpox vaccination service has been transferred from the current sexual health service provider (Brook Southend) to a local pharmacy, to allow Brook Southend to recover any backlog in our sexual health services, which resulted in this emergency response. There is good report on access to this service.

Other health protection risks, including infection from Strep A/iGas are minimal and being managed effectively by UKHSA currently.

The Health Protection Oversight and Engagement Board provides leadership on our communication and engagement activities, including refreshing our messaging to the public and local businesses. The Board's remit has moved to cover the wider remit of health protection matters – last meeting was held on the 11th January 2023.

No key action was necessary from the Board.

For Noting

1. For the HWB Board to note on the on-going operations and steer of these two sub-committees.