

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board	23 January 2013
<b>Subject:</b> City and Hackney Health Protection Forum and the new health emergency planning and response arrangements	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk and Director of Community and Children Services	<b>For Information</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing board on the current changes to the health emergency planning and response arrangements as they relate to the City of London. This report includes details of the City and Hackney Health Protection Forum, which is an evolution of the well-established City and Hackney Multi Agency Pandemic Flu Planning Group.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of this report and support the formation of the City and Hackney Health Protection Forum.</li> <li>• Note the evolving role of Health and Wellbeing Boards with regards to emergency planning and emergency response as the system evolves over time.</li> </ul>	

## Main Report

### Background

1. Health emergency planning is the mechanism by which relevant bodies (such as local authorities, NHS providers, etc.) plan how to deal with emergencies affecting the health of the population, for example flu pandemics, outbreaks of illnesses or heatwaves.
2. To coincide with the changes in relation to public health that will come in force in April 2013, new arrangements for health emergency planning and response are being put in place. New bodies such as the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) will have a duty to cooperate with local authorities in respect to health emergency planning and response. In order to put this into practice, the Department of Health has suggested that local authorities create a local forum to facilitate this.
3. At present, the City of London (jointly with the London Borough of Hackney) operates a multi-agency forum called the City and Hackney Multi Agency Pandemic Flu Planning Group. This group was originally created to plan and support the response to an Influenza pandemic and demonstrated its

effectiveness during the response to the 2009 flu pandemic. This group has since expanded its remit to cover the full scope of health emergency planning. It is anticipated that this group will continue its good work and transition to a new "City and Hackney Health Protection Forum".

### **Current Position**

4. The new arrangements for health emergency planning and response will begin to take shape soon. In preparation for this, the Public Health Team in the NHS North East London and the City cluster, guided by the current Director of Public Health (Dr Lesley Mountford) will begin to design and develop the concept of a Health Protection Forum, in conjunction with the local Contingency Planning Teams for the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.
5. The aim of the Health Protection Forum will be to plan and coordinate the activities of the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney, and local NHS partners, in respect of any direct or indirect threat to the health of the population of the Square Mile or the Borough of Hackney.
6. NHS North East London and the City Local Public Health Team will convene a workshop on 22 January 2013 to inform all partner organisations of the changes during the Public Health transition and beyond and to ensure they all understand their roles and responsibilities during a health emergency. At this workshop, the organisers will seek to help stakeholders to identify their roles and responsibilities within the new arrangements for Health Protection and discuss the terms of reference and purpose of the Health Protection Forum.
7. This will be achieved using a scenario-based table-top exercise, exploring the contributions and links between local authority service areas and key health partners in delivering Health Protection.
8. Following this workshop, a group will analyse the outcomes to confirm the final membership, structure and terms of reference for the Health Protection Forum.
9. We expect to be in a position to convene the first Health Protection Forum Meeting in March 2013. This will be followed by an agreed communications strategy to advise the wider community of the establishment of the Health Protection Forum and its purpose.

### **Objectives**

10. To achieve this, the initial objectives for the Committee will be to:
  - assess risks to the health of the local population
  - prioritise those risks and develop plans to prevent, mitigate and manage them
  - act as the single authoritative body within Hackney and the City of London on matters relating to Health Protection
  - act as the principle group convened to support the locality response to any health-related incident that threatens the population of City and Hackney

- ensure Health Protection is incorporated into the ways of working of all Departments and service areas across Hackney and the City of London Corporation, through active engagement and education of staff
- ensure that Health Protection issues are raised in the appropriate internal and external fora, including the Local Health Resilience Partnership, the City of London Resilience Forum and the Hackney Borough Resilience Forum
- ensure that plans set out the key arrangements needed to respond to incidents and events, including the release of clinical resources, handover protocols, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- provide a forum for effective multi-agency working with the City of London Corporation, the London Borough of Hackney, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, Commissioning Support Services, Health and Social Care Providers, National Commissioning Board and Public Health England
- ensure clear lines of communication in planning and response with multi-agency partners

### **Accountability**

11. The Health Protection Forum will be chaired by the Director of Public Health, or nominated Deputy, and will report to the Health and Wellbeing Boards in both the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

### **Key relationships**

12. The Health Protection Forum will need to establish effective working relationships with the following:
  - All internal Directorate and Service Areas concerned with health protection in the City of London and Hackney
  - Local Clinical Commissioning Group and Support Unit
  - Local Public Health England Unit
  - NHS Commissioning Board Local Area Team
  - City of London Resilience Forum and Hackney Borough Resilience Forum
  - London Local Health Resilience Partnership
  - Equivalent bodies in neighbouring Boroughs

### **Additional Membership**

13. The following agencies are also to be represented at the committee:
  - London Ambulance Service representative
  - Voluntary sector representative
  - NHS Provider Organisations
  - City of London Police

- British Transport Police
- Metropolitan Police Service
- London Fire Brigade
- Other organisations as may be required

### **Proposals**

14. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of this report and supports the formation of the City and Hackney Local Health Protection Forum.
15. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes their evolving role with regards to emergency planning and emergency response as the system evolves over time.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Diagrams showing health and local authority emergency planning and response arrangements

### **Néstor A. Alfonzo Santamaría**

Contingency Planning Officer, Security and Contingency Planning Group, Town Clerk's Department

T: 020 7332 3914

E: [nestor.alfonzosantamaria@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:nestor.alfonzosantamaria@cityoflondon.gov.uk)