

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection
DATE	30 May 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/158
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert/Alan Thomson
REPORT AUTHOR	Hazel Stevenson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) places a duty on health boards and local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the 2008 Act, to co-operate with any relevant person (e.g. health board, special health board, local authority, integration joint board, common services agency, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Scottish Ministers) who appears to have an interest in or a function relating to the protection of public health and produce a Local Health Protection Plan. This report seeks to update the Committee on any changes to the Joint Health Protection Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

- 2.1 Notes the updates and achievements in relation to the Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan (“the Plan”); and
- 2.2 Notes that the Plan will be reviewed again in 2026.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council works closely with partners in the National Health Service (NHS) Grampian, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council, and other agencies to deliver services to protect the health of the Grampian population. Health Protection is now the accepted term to describe the work that encompasses the surveillance, investigation, control and prevention of communicable disease and environmental hazards to human health. In terms of Public Health the Plan covers the activities carried out by Protective Services

such as air quality, contaminated land, general public health activities, health and safety and food safety. This area of public health does not cover issues such as addiction to alcohol and drugs or tackling obesity. The Plan will be reviewed again in 2026.

3.2 Health Protection Challenges

Recommendations from the Grampian health protection needs assessment finalised in January 2024 are reflected in the Joint Health Protection Plan (JHPP) 2024/26. These are presented in the plan in relation to both the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Public Health's identified challenges to population health. The challenges are listed at a high strategic level and comprise of:

1. The climate emergency
2. Widening health inequalities/ higher cost of living
3. Sustainability of health and social care services
4. Infectious diseases including antimicrobial resistance and future pandemics

The actions listed under each of these headings are also of a high strategic level and section 3 of the Plan in Appendix A gives further information on how these will be looked at with details of the lead partnership for each.

The actions presented and the various aspects of work highlighted in the Plan have been and continue to be undertaken by the relevant services as a matter of normal business. Appendix 2 of the Plan details the operational plans of each agency. This is how Aberdeen City Council Protective Services will help support the priorities, provision and preparedness of the plan.

3.3 Challenges Not listed In Plan

There is presently a national shortage of qualified enforcement staff both in Environmental Health and Trading Standards, meaning Protective Services have been operating for some time with greatly reduced numbers of staff.

Work has been undertaken to ensure that the highest risk activities are prioritised in any work plan. Different ways of working have been developed to allow officers to become more multifunction and help build in resilience and succession planning.

Professional bodies have acknowledged the lack of availability of qualified staff and recruitment issues across this sector in Scotland and have recently introduced updated access routes to the profession. This has allowed Protective Services to appoint two trainee Authorised Officers in Environmental Health, links have been established with a variety of tertiary education providers to promote opportunities in Environmental Health careers. In addition, a Trainee Trading Standards Officer has recently been appointed within Protective Services.

3.4. Governance arrangements for the Joint Health Protection Plan

Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group oversee the drafting of the Joint Health Protection Plan, comprising representatives from NHS Grampian (Health Protection Team, Infection Prevention and Control Team, Medical Microbiology), Aberdeen City Council (Protective Services), Aberdeenshire Council (Protective Services), Moray Council (Environmental Health and Trading Standards), and Animal and Plant Health Agency. NHS Grampian Head of Protecting Health is the lead author of the draft Joint Health Protection Plan.

North East Leaders Group for Public Protection provide multiagency oversight of the Joint Health Protection Plan. NHS Grampian Population Health Committee scrutinise and approve the Joint Health Protection Plan. NHS Grampian Health Board publish the Joint Health Protection Plan into the public domain.

Each local authority is requested to present the revised plan to their relevant committee for approval on approval of the plan by the North East Leaders Group for Public Protection. .

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account	*Does Target Risk Level Match
----------	-------	---------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------

			controls/control actions	Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Unable to deliver service due to acute disruptive events.	Business continuity plans in place to continue key service provision	L	Yes
Compliance	The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 places a statutory duty on health boards and local authorities in carrying out their functions under the 2008 Act to co-operate with any relevant person (e.g. health board, special health board, local authority, integration joint board) who appears to have an interest in or a function relating to the protection of public health.	Process already in place to deliver statutory duty	L	Yes
Operational	Qualified officers not available to carry out interventions	Only qualified officers undertake regulatory duties. Risk prioritisation of duties when	M	Yes

		insufficient offices available. Appropriate training, needs identified through CR+D ,1-2-1 discussions, effective management of staff workloads. Resilience and succession training built into service.		
Financial	No significant risks identified.			
Reputational	Failure to implement may result in reputational damage and may require emergency measures to be put in place to rectify any failings	Ensure co-operation on the protection of public health as per the Grampian Health Protection Plan	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:</p> <p>A Prosperous City, delivering a interventions programme that assists stimulate sustainable economic development in the business sector and protecting the public from threats to their health, safety and wellbeing.</p>

<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 2- . Working towards 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026</p> <p>Conducting an interventions programme and providing advice and support to people starting up new businesses will assist them to comply with the relevant legislation. This reduces the risk to them as individuals of criminal proceedings and/or litigation and secures public protection. New business start-ups are beneficial to the economy as a whole.</p>
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 11 “Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026” Ensuring that acceptable standards of health, safety and welfare are being met in Aberdeen will contribute towards this outcome.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	<p>The proposals within this report support the Regional Economic Strategy by assisting local businesses to thrive and prosper by providing advice to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.</p>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Vikki Cuthbert, Chief Officer, Governance on 17/5/2024.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	yes
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A. Joint health Protection Plan 2024-2026

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Hazel Stevenson
Title	Protective Services Manager
Email Address	hstevenson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 523390