

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Health Board
Meeting date:	11 April 2024
Item Number:	7
Title:	Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan 2024/2026
Responsible Executive:	Susan Webb, Director of Public Health
Report Author:	Chris Littlejohn, Head of Protecting Health

1 Purpose and recommendations

This is presented to the Board for:

- Endorsement

The Board is asked to– endorse the proposals contained in this paper.

This report relates to:

- Legal requirement

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

The Joint Health Protection Plan for 2024/26 is a statutory plan which sets out a strategic assessment of health protection hazards to the Grampian population, alongside the operational arrangements to prevent, control and respond to these.

2.1 Situation

The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 places a duty on every health board “to make provision, or secure that provision is made, for the purpose of protecting public health in its area”. To this end, the Act requires every health board publish a Joint Health Protection Plan in consultation with its coterminous local authorities, and in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. Current guidance is to publish a Joint Health Protection Plan every two years. The Joint Health Protection Plan for 2024/26 is the current iteration consistent with the guidance.

2.2 Background

The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 defines the protection of public health as involving the prevention, control, and response to infectious diseases; contamination involving biological, chemical or radioactive substances; and “other such hazards” which constitute a danger to human health.

2.3 Assessment

Health protection hazards to the Grampian population are strategically contextualised by the four priorities identified by the Director of Public Health and the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland:

- The climate emergency (extreme weather events and vector migration)
- Widening health inequalities/ higher cost of living (variations in susceptibility, exposure, severity)
- Sustainability of health and social care services (diagnosis, treatment, notification)
- Infectious diseases (antimicrobial resistance, future pandemics, vaccinations)

Appendices give details of staffing resources for health protection and environmental health, and tactical and operational arrangements and plans, as required by Scottish Government guidance.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

NHS Grampian Health Protection Team (HPT) work in partnership with medical microbiology, the microbiology diagnostic laboratory, infection prevention and control team (IPCT), clinical services, and patients (cases) and their families. The HPT investigate and identify sources of infection or contamination, case find and contact trace, and instigate controls to prevent further transmission or exposures, protecting people from harm; the IPCT does likewise within hospital settings.

2.3.2 Workforce

NHS services included in the Joint Health Protection Plan 2024/26 will be in scope for the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019. The implications of the implementation of the Act are currently being considered.

External organisation workforces are determined by their respective organisations.

2.3.3 Financial

No additional financial implications arise as a result of the Joint Health Protection Plan 2024/26.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

2711	Civil Contingencies Risk Register	Public Health Emergency Plans (Mass Prophylaxis, and Staff prophylaxis)	High
2673	Civil Contingencies Risk Register	Pandemic Flu Planning/Major Infectious Diseases Plan	High
2671	Public Health Risk Register	Exercising of plans - testing of Emergency Plans and Business Continuity Plans for Public Health	Medium
2686	Public Health Risk Register	Inability cover all the 1st on-call sessions without staff undertaking additional hours	Medium
3434	Public Health Risk Register	Risk to Health Protection business continuity of a large scale outbreak in an asylum hotel	High

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) screening undertaken and no discriminatory impacts identified.

2.3.6 Other impacts

No additional impacts have been identified.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Joint Health Protection Plan for 2024/26 has been drafted by the Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group.

The Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group comprises representatives from Aberdeen City Council (Protective Services), Aberdeenshire Council (Protective Services), Animal and Plant Health Agency, Moray Council (Environmental Health and Trading Standards), and NHS Grampian (Health Protection Team (HPT), Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT), Medical Microbiology).

Grampian Joint Health Protection Coordinating Group held a stakeholder workshop on Wednesday 20 September 2023 which reviewed the priorities for the Joint Health Protection Plan for 2022/24 and informed priorities for 2024/26. The stakeholder workshop included participants from Animal and Plant Health Agency, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Food Standards Scotland, Moray Council, NHS Grampian, and the Royal Environment Health Institute of Scotland.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

The Director of Public Health approved submission of a draft of the plan to the NHS Grampian Population Health Committee for scrutiny and approval. The Population Health Committee approved the Joint Health Protection Plan for 2024/26 at its meeting of 15 March 2024.

2.4 Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- **Endorsement** – endorse the proposals contained in this paper.

3 Appendix

The following appendix/appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 - Joint Health Protection Plan 2024/26