

Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan**Report by Eibhlin McHugh, Acting Director, Communities & Wellbeing****1 Purpose of Report**

This report asks the Cabinet to approve the Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan (JHPP) for the period 2012/2014.

A copy of the Plan has been made available in the Members' Library.

2 Background

- 2.1 Section 7 of The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 requires that, in conjunction with the relevant Local Authorities, the Health Board must prepare a Joint Health Protection Plan for its area. The 2012/14 plan, which is the subject of this report, is an update of the first JHPP developed for the period 2010- 2012, that plan having been approved by the Midlothian Council Cabinet on 22 June 2010. In accordance with the guidance relating to the implementation of the Act, which requires that such plans are formally submitted to the relevant Local Authority Committee, the 2012/14 JHPP is now presented for Cabinet approval.
- 2.2 The Plan has been developed through a consultative process via a working group comprising NHS Lothian's Director of Public Health and Health Policy, a Consultant in Public Health Medicine and the Chief Officer(s) Environmental Health of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.
- 2.3 The plan aims to:
 - Provide clarity about which agency and persons have overall responsibility in protecting the public health, for example lessons learned from the fatal accident inquiry into the Central Scotland E. coli O157 outbreak.
 - Ensure preparedness and enhance co-operation among agencies in combating major emergencies, for example bio-terrorism and lessons from SARS.
 - Resolve gaps and uncertainties in the adequacy of statutory powers that might be required for communicable disease control particularly for emerging hazards, for example early interventions in avian or pandemic flu.
 - Update the principles and concepts underpinning public health legislation for the twenty-first century to reflect changes in public health ethics and values, new scientific developments and the response to globalisation.

- 2.4 There is a statutory duty that the Plan is to be a public document published by the relevant NHS Board on their website and made available on request. Reference to the plan will be made on the Midlothian Council website with a link to the Lothian Health website.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no known resource implications arising from this report at this time.

3.2 Risk

Environmental Health is a statutory function and the JHPP is produced in pursuance of the requirements of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008. Failure to fully contribute to the production and publication of a Joint Health Protection Plan (JHPP) for the relevant NHS area would leave the local authority open to the challenge of failing in its statutory duty.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- x Community safety
- x Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Due to the wide ranging health implications, the plan contributes across the Midlothian Council corporate objectives, in particular it reflects:

- (i) Corporate Objective No.3 Maintaining Midlothian as a safe place to live, work and visit;
- (ii) Objective 4 Conserving and Improving Midlothian's Natural Environment; and
- (iii) Objective 6 Delivering Responsive, Efficient and Effective Services to the People of Midlothian.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The JHPP is focused on partnership working through activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills, abilities and confidence of organisations to take effective action.

It contributes to ensuring that emerging situations covered by the plan have swift intervention to prevent crises escalation.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

This plan was developed utilising a consultative process which engaged NHS Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and West Lothian Councils.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

An EqlA has been completed for the JHPP. There are no equalities implications arising.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications arising from this report

4 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) approves the Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan(JHPP) 2012/2014;
- (b) remits the JHPP to the Chief Executive to sign off the joint plan.

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Background Papers:

The Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2010.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2008/asp_20080005_en_1

JHPP Guidance 2009 - specifically Annex D.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/NHS-Scotland/publicact/Part1Guidancefinal/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>