

Issue: the threat of infection from increased antimicrobial resistance, and poor dental hygiene

Actions

- Improve oral care across health and adult social care.
- Continue work to reduce UTIs across health and social care.
- Ensure appropriate use of antimicrobials across health and social care, sexual health and substance misuse services, to reduce the risk of infection and prevent resistance.

Issue: the threat posed by Pandemic infections

Actions

- Utilise data and learning from COVID-19 pandemic to develop plans, response and recovery from pandemics.
- Continue to work with partner agencies and communities to ensure mutual understanding of impact and implications of future pandemics.
- Work with partners to test plans to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Issue: the threat of increased inequalities due to the poor uptake of national screening programmes

Actions

- Address inequalities to screening access by identifying and removing barriers.
- Provide accessible information to those who do not attend or have never accessed screening.
- Target outlying areas and practices with bespoke initiatives, social marketing, local community support and interventions, to improve access to and uptake of screening.

Issue: the threat from zoonotic diseases and maintaining food and water safety

Actions

- Inspections and licensing of premises where animals are housed, sold, or bred, to prevent spread of disease between animals and humans.
- Inspections of Dudley borough abattoirs.
- Ensure, through inspections and interventions, that all food premises within Dudley borough comply with The Food Standards Agency's Food Law Code of Practice.
- Work in partnership with UKHSA to respond to potential outbreaks of foodborne-related illness.
- Complete water sampling and provide advice and guidance, where necessary, regarding legionella.

Issue: the threat posed by extreme weather to those most vulnerable

Actions

- Ensure plans are up-to-date, reflect national guidance and meet the needs of the people of Dudley.
- Apply the Weather Health Alert system.
- Work with local and regional partners to ensure a collaborative, coherent and timely response.
- Apply latest data and learning to inform preparedness, response and recovery actions.
- Test and exercise plans to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Issue: the threat of vaccine-preventable infections caused by declining rates of immunisation

Actions

- Establish, maintain and grow partnership working.
- Work with communities to reduce health inequalities.
- Increase appropriate information for intended audience, to counteract disinformation.
- Work as a system to improve access to vaccines for those in low uptake areas and at-risk groups.
- Support the transition of delegation for immunisation programmes to Integrated Care Boards (April 2025).
- Work with and support commissioners to develop innovative service models to reduce inequalities.
- Improve access to vaccination data across the system.
- Work to improve seasonal vaccination uptake in vulnerable groups.

Issue: the threat from poor air quality

Actions

- Improve use of air quality data in Dudley planning policies.
- Educate residents about positive changes they can make to improve air quality.
- Improve quality of greener spaces in Dudley borough.

Issue: the threat of communicable disease

Actions

- Increase knowledge and understanding of IPC and PPE use across community, public and private health and social care settings.
- Maintain and strengthen management of outbreaks through early identification and response.
- Improve TB treatment compliance, for example through video-observed therapy.
- Learn from and apply lessons learnt from incidents of infection.

Issue: the threat of major incidents and emergencies

Actions

- Work with partners to share understanding of local, national and global threats.
- Complete exercises and scenarios to ensure plans and workforce are prepared to respond to emergencies and incidents.
- Develop community resilience to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and incidents.

Dudley Health Protection Strategy 2024-26
Protecting the people of Dudley

