

Health Protection Assurance

July 2018.

Annex 1

System Responsibilities for Health Protection

The Secretary of State for Health has the overarching duty to protect the health of the population.

From 1 April 2013, the NHS reforms arising from the Health and Social Care Act 2012, transferred health protection responsibilities to the following organisations:

- Public Health England (PHE) brings together a wide range of public health functions and is responsible for delivering the specialist health protection response to incidents and outbreaks
- NHS England (NHSE) is responsible for the commissioning and implementation of national screening and immunisation programmes across Yorkshire and Humber
- NHS England is responsible for the co-ordination and support for the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP), which along with preparedness, co-ordinates any NHS multi-agency response to an emergency. The local authority Director of Public Health is co-chair of the LHRP. City of York Council is represented by the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire County Council who fulfils this role for both local authorities currently.
- The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for commissioning treatment services where this is required as part of a strategy to control communicable disease.

City of York Council Responsibilities.

City of York Council, in addition to existing responsibilities for environmental health and emergency planning, is responsible for commissioning sexual health services and is an associate commissioner for community infection and prevention control service provision e.g. in Care Homes

The Council has a statutory duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and associated regulations, to provide information and advice to relevant organisations and to the public and has an oversight function to ensure that all parties discharge their roles effectively for the protection of the local population. This duty is discharged through the Director of Public Health.

The City of York Council Director of Public Health is a member of the North Yorkshire Health Protection Board whose remit is to seek assurance regarding outcomes and arrangements relating to most aspects of health protection for residents in North Yorkshire and York.

The Director of Public Health is also a member of the Yorkshire and Humber Directors of Public Health, Health Protection Assurance Group. The membership of this group includes Public Health England and NHS England colleagues and provides oversight of the screening and immunisation programmes commissioned by NHSE as well as general assurance across the public health system.