

The Role of the Local Health Protection Unit in respect of Healthcare Associated Infection & Infection Prevention & Control



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The Health Protection Units



The network of local health protection units (HPUs) operating in England are the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Agency.

The HPUs continually monitor health issues in local areas and give advice and support to the social care sector, local NHS, civil and emergency authorities if a medical or environmental incident or outbreak happens.

The HPU Teams



- **Each unit has specialist nurses, doctors and consultants in communicable disease control, ready to respond to incidents around the clock.**
- **Other members of the team gather and interpret local information to create a picture of diseases and other hazards which is used in planning and coordinating our work.**
- **We are supported by regional health emergency planning advisors, environmental public health units and surveillance teams.**
- **We also use the regional microbiology network for laboratory analysis.**

Our work in HPUs



We have two types of work - proactive and reactive.

Proactive work is about preventing health incidents from happening.

This includes:

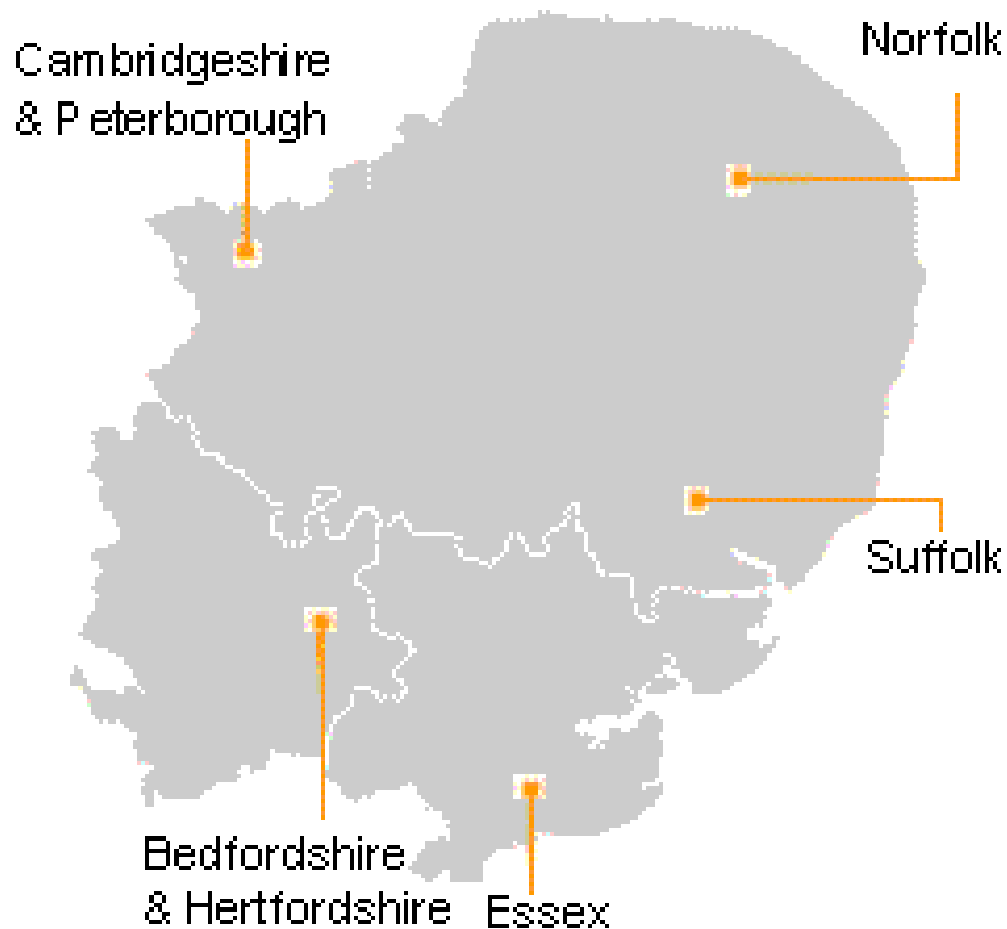
- working with health and social care partners to provide effective immunisation programmes
- helping prevent healthcare associated infections e.g. MRSA and *C. difficile*

***Reactive work* is about minimising the risk to the general public once an incident happens.**

Our priorities include:

- advising how to stop infectious diseases from spreading.
- carrying out risk assessments to find out how outbreaks occurred, and recommending ways to prevent them happening again.
- tracing people who may have come into contact with, or be carrying an infectious disease.
- compiling statistics on notifiable diseases e.g. mumps and measles.

East of England Region



What is common to all HPUs



- **Small Independent/ National Group/County Council locality and contracted partners within our HPU boundaries**
- **Commissioned NHS beds/placements for PCT**
- **Access to Infection Control Advice**
- **Policies and Procedures**

Infection Control Focus



- **Care staff/manager should know who, how and when and where to seek infection control advice**
- **Sharing information is a two way process**

Reporting an incident or an outbreak



- **Local HPU**
- **PCT IPC Team**
- **EHO**
- **CQC**

Early recognition is key....

What information is need

- **Date & time of onset**
- **Case details**
- **Symptoms**
- **Numbers affected (staff/residents/day cases)**
- **Capacity for residents/day cases**
- **GPs of residents**
- **Use of antibiotics**
- **Any further relevant info about others who may be affected e.g. visitors/relatives**



When it happens

- **HPU, PCT and EHD will work to support you**
- **Prevent further cases**
- **Identify the cause**
- **Implement control measures**
- **Return to normal**
- **Lessons learned**

In Cambridgeshire.....Standard for Infection Prevention and Control Training in Care Homes



Local Infection Prevention and Control for Commissioning & HPA produced a draft document which outlines the standards for Infection Prevention and Control training for staff working in Care Homes within Cambridgeshire County Council locality and contracted partners.

It is designed to assist Managers and staff in understanding their duties and responsibilities to reduce the risk of cross-infection when caring for people.

The standards comply with the regulatory requirements of the following:

- The Care Quality Commission**
- The Health and Social Care Act 2008**
- Saving Lives (DH, 2007)**
- Essential Steps (DH, 2007)**
- Prevention and control of infection in care homes (DH, 2006 – currently under review)**

How your local HPU can work to help you



- HPU and PCT work in collaboration
- ‘Champion’ nominated by home - acts as a link for Cambs & Peterborough/Education and training
- Newsletter
- Conference
- Educational materials
 - web site www.hpu.org.uk
 - DVD
- General advice and support

Summary



Your local HPU can provide experts and advice for infection control, emergency planning and environmental health issues to safeguard the people living in that area.

- We can make sure that any threats to public health are identified, tracked and recorded**
- offer advice and operational support to the NHS**
- provide advice and support to the public**
- monitor health issues with local partners giving advice and support to the social care sector, local NHS, civil and emergency authorities if a medical or environmental incident or outbreak happens.**
- conduct research and development to minimise health risks**