

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK PLAN FOR WALES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for the adoption of The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales published by the Welsh Assembly Government, September 2012 (Appendix A).

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The adoption of The Wales Outbreak Plan connects to the following corporate themes:

- Strong Communities - the adoption of the document is essential for the timely response and control of any communicable disease outbreak to maintain a safe community.
- Healthy Living – the maintenance of healthy living depends on the effective control of any communicable disease outbreaks that may occur.
- Corporate Governance - one of the key messages from the plan is that communication between partner agencies is important from the onset of any investigation into an outbreak. This ensures the effective and efficient use of resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Public Protection Department is delegated to enforce infectious disease control legislation within the County Borough under the Control of Disease Act 1984 (as amended), The Health and Social Care Act 2008 and relevant regulations written thereunder.

- 3.2 Between October 2011 and April 2012, the Welsh Government's Health Protection Committee's Outbreak and Incident Subgroup met to consider lessons from the 2010 "Heads of the Valleys" Legionnaires disease outbreak and the VTEC O157 PT8 2011 outbreak in the UK. Following this work, a number of recommendations were made to amend the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales, including:

- An evaluation template;
- Legionella sampling protocol; and
- Advice on proactive media engagement.

The Cabinet is requested to note that there will be rare occasions where an outbreak or incident may develop into an overwhelming communicable disease

emergency or there is suspicion of a bioterrorism event. In such a scenario, the Wales Resilience Emergency Planning structures may need to be invoked and the Outbreak Control Team would need to consider escalation to involve the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Chair.

3.3 The plan is required to be subject to full Council approval for formal adoption.

4. Current Situation/Proposal

4.1 The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales, September 2012, requires Council approval for adoption.

5. Effect Upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan is not included in the Council's Policy Framework.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The Authority has a duty to adopt an Outbreak Control Plan plan. The plan does not have any equality implications, although work completed by an Outbreak Team, for the purpose of the investigation and control of a specific outbreak, may be subject to further Equality Impact Assessments and this will be assessed on a case by case basis.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The Public Protection Department has a legal duty to participate in the investigation and control of a communicable disease outbreak with public health implications. The need to instigate the provisions of the plan cannot be foreseen neither can the costs of investigation and control of an outbreak.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That Council adopts of The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales published by the Welsh Assembly Government, September 2012.

P. A. JOLLEY

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

10 September 2013

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Background Papers

None