

WESTERN ISLES

JOINT HEALTH PROTECTION PLAN

2010 - 2012

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INTRODUCTION

The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008¹ requires NHS Boards to prepare plans relating to the protection of public health in their area. These plans must be made in consultation with the relevant local authority and prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Scottish Ministers².

This is the first Western Isles Joint Health Protection Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide an overview of health protection (communicable disease and environmental health) priorities, provision and preparedness within the NHS Board area and covers the two years from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012.

This is a public document and available to members of the public on the NHS Western Isles website (www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar website (www.cne-siar.gov.uk)

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¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2009/ssi_20090388_en_1

² www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/924/0079967.doc

DEFINITIONS

Health Protection is the branch of public health which seeks to protect the public from being exposed to hazards which damage their health and to limit any impact on health when such exposures cannot be avoided. The hazards are categorised as biological (bacteria, viruses), chemical and radiological.

Health Protection historically was known as Communicable Disease and Environmental Health (CD&EH)

Health Protection services carry out a range of functions relating to the above including surveillance, assessment, prevention and control, communication and co-ordination of the public health response to such incidents or outbreaks.

Environmental Health is the branch of Public Health that is concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect human health. This remit is delivered within local authorities.

The Environmental Health Service has a lead role in Health Protection through its regulatory core functions of Food Safety, Health and Safety at Work, Communicable Disease control, Public and Private Water Supplies, Monitoring bathing water quality, Contaminated Land, Air Quality, Noise control, Nuisance abatement, Smoking Enforcement, and prevention and control of Zoonotic diseases.

OVERVIEW

Of 1a the population and 1b the provision of health protection services in NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area

1a Demography and geography of the population served

Demographic and Geographic Challenges

It is recognized that the Western Isles face a number of challenges in both the delivery of health services and in maintaining and improving the health and well-being of its population. A long recognised challenge to all services in the islands has been the demographic and geographic challenge faced from both declining and ageing population and the impacts from its remoteness and rurality.

Population Changes and Projections

The starting point for many challenges facing policy development and service delivery in the Western Isles is the challenging demographic trends facing such a fragile community. After long period of population decline there had been signs in recent years of small upturns in overall population from 2003-05. However, the declining trend reappeared in 2006 and has continued again into latest 2008 mid-year population estimates giving a net population decrease over the two-year period of 0.6% (150 persons) to 26,200 persons (1). Net migration has decreased from 110 persons in 2006 to 39 persons in 2007 and -1 in 2008.

Figure 1 below shows Western Isles population estimates from 1998 to 2008, and demonstrates that in the last decade there has been a decline in the number of persons aged 0-14 and 25-44 years (decreases of 16% and 15% respectively), whilst the number of persons aged 45+ has increased by 8%.

Figure 1: Western Isles population by age groups, 1998-2008

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
1998	5023	3023	7212	7066	5216	27540
1999	4918	2893	7083	7096	5220	27210
2000	4768	2777	6888	7145	5212	26790
2001	4599	2599	6794	7202	5256	26450
2002	4507	2519	6674	7254	5246	26200
2003	4458	2574	6540	7264	5264	26100
2004	4442	2615	6546	7378	5279	26260
2005	4391	2602	6520	7507	5350	26370
2006	4327	2575	6487	7551	5410	26350
2007	4244	2668	6300	7650	5438	26300
2008	4206	2651	6135	7676	5532	26200

Source: GRO(S) 1998-2008 Mid-Year Population Estimates

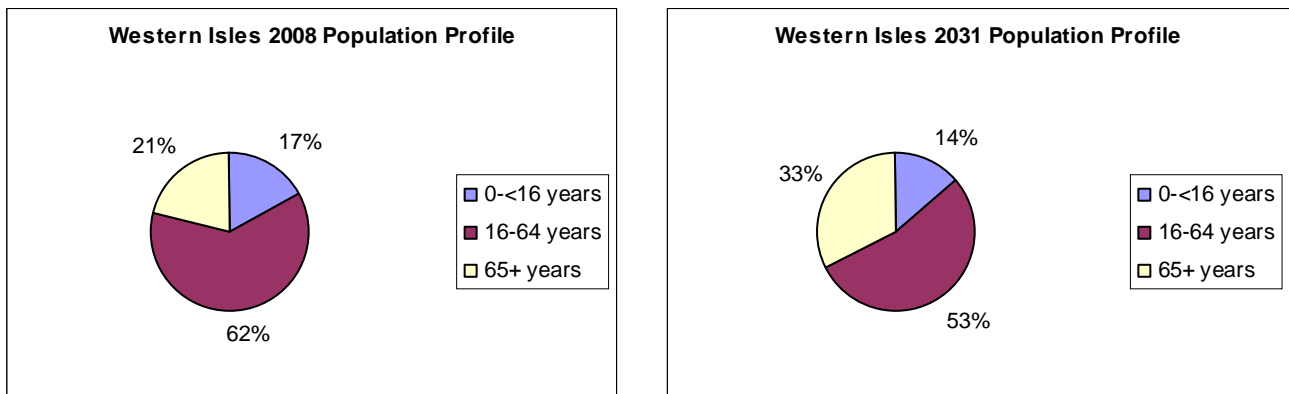
In a comparison across all 40 Community Health Partnerships in Scotland in 2008 the Western Isles had the lowest percentage of the population of working age while the percentage aged 65 and over was the second highest. (2)

Latest population projections from the General Registrars Office Scotland (GRO) predict that there will be an overall 5% decrease in the population between 2008 and 2031. This will include:

- a decrease of 23% in the population aged 0-16 years
- a decrease of 18% in the working age population (16-64 years)
- an increase of 47% in the population aged 65+

Figure 2 below shows the percentage change in these population categories.

Figure 2: Western Isles Population Profiles for 2008 and 2031

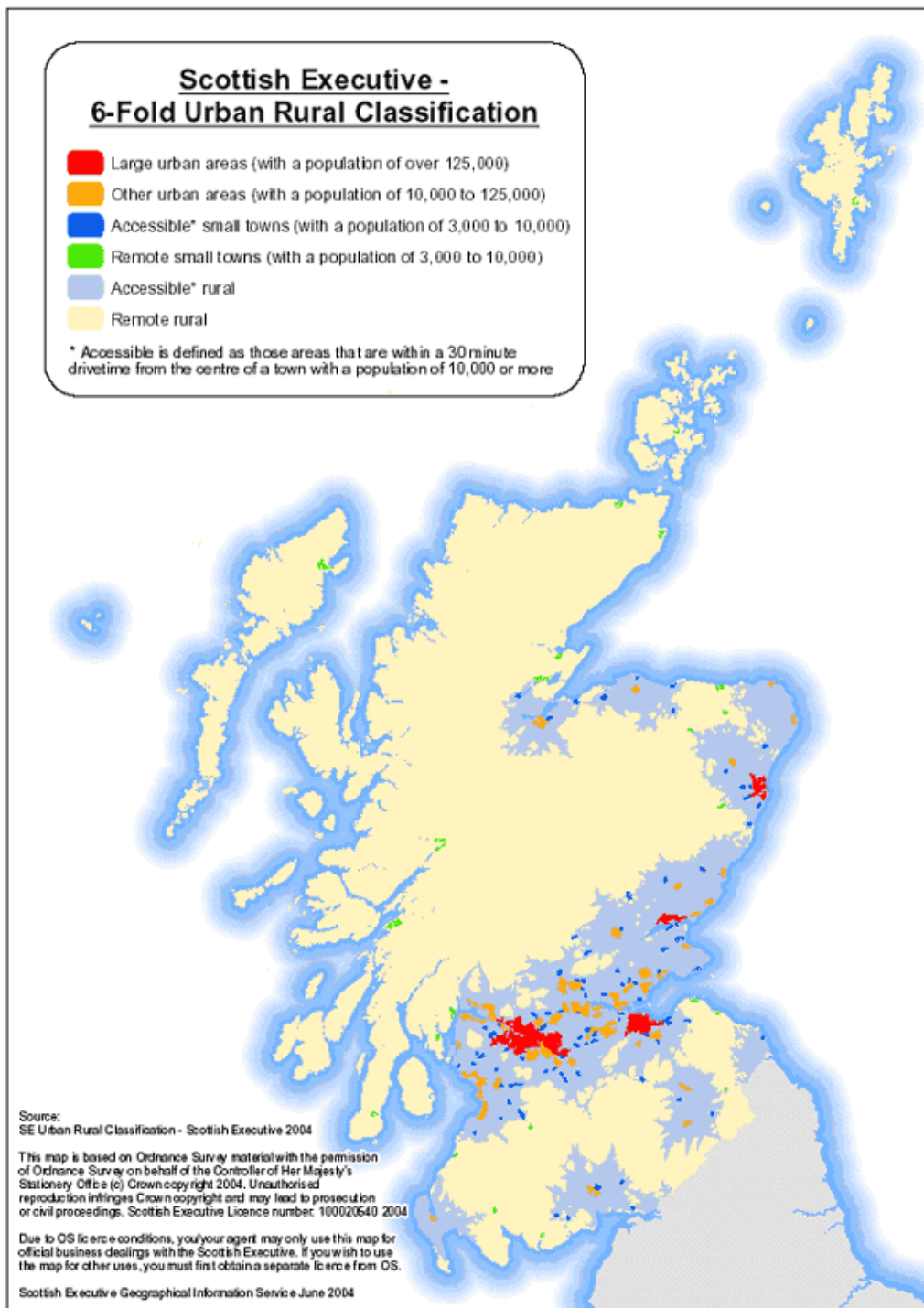


Sources: GRO(S) 2008 Mid-Year Population Estimates and GRO(S) 2006 population projections

The Western Isles continues to face challenges of a declining and ageing population. This presents particular pressures in service delivery and in sustaining remote communities.

Remoteness and rurality

Inextricably linked to the islands population decline in its effects on both service delivery and many aspects of health and well-being of the population are the areas geographic challenges both in terms of its remote islands status and the overwhelmingly rural nature of its communities.



78.9% of the Western Isles population live in areas classified as very remote-rural compared to 3.0% in Scotland as a whole, which is the largest proportion of any health board area.³ Similarly, the Western Isles has second lowest population density at 8.5 persons/square km of all Scottish health boards while Scottish average is 65.2 persons/sq. km.⁴

³ Scottish Executive Urban-Rural Classification, 2005-06

⁴ General Registrars Office Scotland

1b Provision of health protection services

Greater detail is provided in later sections of this document regarding the make up of health protection services within the Western Isles and how organisations work together to deliver these functions. The health board and local authority have a duty to co-operate with each other and also with any relevant person that appears to have an interest in or a function relating to the protection of public health⁵.

NHS Western Isles

Each NHS health board has a duty to make provision for, or secure provision for, protecting public health in its area. This remit is outlined in a letter from the Chief Medical Officer⁶. Essentially this includes provision for the public health aspect of infectious diseases, environmental hazards, deliberate release, outbreaks and incidents, emergency preparedness and response. In NHS Western Isles this responsibility is delegated to the Director of Public Health. On a day to day basis work is carried out by a Health Protection Team which consists of a doctor, public health practitioners, infection control nurse, and public health intelligence and public health administration leads. There is representation by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Environmental Health at Health Protection Team meetings. NHS Western Isles also has an Emergency Planning Officer.

The NHS Western Isles Health Protection Team can be contacted by phoning 01851 708033 during office hours and by phoning Western Isles Hospital switchboard 01851 704704 out of hours.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Local authorities have a similar duty. The health protection remit for the local authority Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is undertaken by Environmental Health within the Development Department and includes air quality, contaminated land, pollution, food safety, environmental health and safety and private water supplies.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Environmental Health can be contacted by phoning 01851 703773 during office hours and in an emergency out of hours by phoning 01851 701702.

⁵ A 'relevant person' refers to a health board, special health board, local authority, the common services agency or the Scottish Ministers.

⁶ [www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2007\)02.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2007)02.pdf)

HEALTH PROTECTION PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE

2a Key Health Protection Plans (Communicable Disease & Environmental Health)

Key national strategic guidance, documents and policies informing Western Isles health protection plans include:

Guidance on Managing Incidents Presenting Actual or Potential Risks to the Public Health⁷

Preparing Scotland (Scottish Guidance on Preparing for Emergencies): Guidance Providing Public Health, Environmental, Scientific and Technical Advice to Emergency Co-ordinating Groups in Scotland⁸.

There are also strategic guidance documents produced for NHS Boards by the Scottish Government's NHS Scotland Resilience Team such as NHS Resilience and Business Continuity Management Guidance on Road Fuel Supply Disruption.

In addition Health Protection Scotland provides guidance and maintains a web based Scottish Health Protection Information Resource (SHPIR) containing key guidance documents on managing incidents and outbreaks as well as more specific core guidance.

⁷ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/01/16243/17308>

⁸ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20093421/41>

Table 1 Key Western Isles Health Protection Plans

Plan	NHS	CnES	Date last review	Date next review	Date last test	Date next test	Comments
Western Isles Outbreak Control Plan	✓	✓	Feb 2010		Feb 2010		
Scottish Waterborne Hazard Plan (Local)					June 2007	2010	Develop from national plan in conjunction with Scottish Water
Blue/Green Algae Plan	✓	✓	Feb 2010				
Rabies Plan							Develop in conjunction with national plan
Enteric Disease Protocols	✓	✓	Nov 2009				
Tuberculosis Plan	✓						TB Action Plan development was postponed due to the additional pressures from H1N1 pandemic. CMO letter dated 10 March 2010 requests Boards work to the timescale of draft plans to be developed by November 2010. TB Action Plan Working Group to be established
Norovirus in care homes	✓	✓	Jan 2010		Jan 2010		
Pandemic Influenza Plan (Multiagency)	✓	✓	Feb 2010		Oct 2009		
NHS Major Incident & Emergency Plan	✓		Feb 2010			2010	
CnES Emergency Plan		✓	2007	2010	Not tested.	2011	Due to staffing difficulties there have been delays in dealing with review and testing. However, they are now programmed.
Sexual Health Strategy 2007-2012	✓	✓	Dec 09	Dec 10			Joint Action Plan being updated annually
Business Continuity	✓	✓					CnES working on BC plans at present.
NHS Western Isles Winter Contingency Plan	✓	✓	2009	2010			

HEALTH PROTECTION NATIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

3a National health protection priorities being addressed at a local level

The Health Protection Advisory Group is tasked with advising the Chief Medical Officer and National Services Scotland on the strategic framework and priorities for health protection in Scotland⁹.

Table 2 National health protection priorities being addressed in the Western Isles

National priority	How priority is being addressed at local level 2010 - 2012
Implementation of actions required by the Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008	Joint working to ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the various parts of this legislation including review of mortuary facilities and arrangements, the development of a Joint Health Protection Plan, the appointment of Health Board and Local Authority Competent Persons, and the development of systems to support new duties regarding the notification and reporting of infectious diseases
H1N1 Pandemic Influenza	Comprehensive response by all relevant agencies including formation and activation of multi agency Western Isles Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee. Ongoing review of lessons learned will be used to inform improvements to multi agency plans.
Healthcare associated infections	NHS Western Isles has for the last 18 months been involved in a National MRSA Pilot screening programme along with 2 other NHS Boards. This involved screening all admissions to WIH and U&B except maternity, paediatric, and psychiatric patients. A report on the pilot findings has been submitted to the government. NHS WI continues to have a low rate of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI). This may be attributed to several initiatives e.g. the Scottish Patient Safety Programme and the National Hand Hygiene Campaign. Staff compliance and cooperation remains an essential component to the success of these programmes and contribute to the low rate of infection. Further information on HAI is available from the Infection Control Committee (ICC).
Antimicrobial resistance	NHS Western Isles continue to address this through the ICC, Pharmaceutical Advisor and Medical Director
Vaccine preventable diseases	Continued implementation of established core vaccination programmes including the childhood and seasonal flu vaccination programmes. Respond to additional programmes in accordance with national guidance or local need e.g. H1N1 2009. Historically the seasonal influenza vaccination uptake in the Western Isles Board area is low. For 2010/12 work will focus on improving uptake rates for the occupational health seasonal influenza vaccination programme including reviewing the delivery model for WI NHS staff and developing a staff vaccination programme for social care staff.

⁹ [www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2008\)00a.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2008)00a.pdf)

National priority	How priority is being addressed at local level 2010 - 2012
Environmental exposures which have an adverse impact on health	CnES Environmental Health undertakes monitoring of air quality, land and soil quality, drinking water, swimming pool and recreational water, background radiation and environmental noise
Gastrointestinal and zoonotic infections	NHS WI receives reports of notifiable gastrointestinal infections from registered medical practitioners and laboratories and has systems in place for working closely with CNES Environmental health in the investigation and control of any outbreaks. Health Protection Team works where appropriate with veterinary and animal health services and a joint outbreak control plan is regularly reviewed and exercised.
Scottish Hepatitis C Action Plan Phase II 2008-2011	NHS WI will continue to implement the Scottish Hepatitis C Action Plan Phase II 2008 – 2011 and Scottish HIV Action Plan 2008 – 2011 Through the implementation of the locally developed Action Plan. Negotiation is underway to become part of the NHS Highland Managed Clinical Network.
Tuberculosis	New WI NHS guidelines have been developed Tuberculosis: Clinical diagnosis and management of tuberculosis, and measures for its prevention and control in the Western isles. These were approved by SECC 17-06-09. A local TB action plan is to be developed by November 2010.
Promotion of sexual health and prevention of sexual ill health	Sexual health work is coordinated through the local multi-agency Sexual Health Committee which recognises the need for work with adults and young people to consider current cultural stereotypes, and focuses on sexual well-being not just sexual health problems. NHS Western Isles in collaboration with partners are committed to taking forward the local Western Isles Sexual Health Strategy 2007 – 2012 'Respect and Responsibility'.
Effective information systems for managing incidents and outbreaks	Efficient documentation and evidence of all outbreaks and incidents following local SOPs. Admin team briefings held after incidents/ outbreaks. Training received on access and input of electronic systems – SIDSS, ECOSS, SCI Gateway and SEISS. Public Health Intelligence team has remit for public health surveillance. This will require the mapping, coordination and governance of all data collection and reporting relating to health protection functions using above systems. In addition this will involve maintaining awareness and contributing to future information system developments nationally such as the developments around SHPIMS. The development of local capacity for undertaking epidemiological analysis across partners is to be pursued by the PHI dept.
Capacity and resilience of health protection services in responding to actual or potential significant threats to public health	This has recently been reviewed and tested in the H1N1 Pandemic Influenza response. Partnership agreements are utilized where necessary to ensure robust and sustainable service. Health Protection capacity and resilience are included in the Public Health Division Business Continuity Plan.
Developing means to assure the quality of health protection services and facilitate their continual improvement	Both organisations have robust procedures for dealing with enquiries and complaints. Most CnES procedures are subject to internal and external audit. Regular audit of health protection incidents takes place. Lessons learned are acted upon.

National priority	How priority is being addressed at local level 2010 - 2012
Continuing professional development especially with regard to strengthening evidence based good practice	All staff are expected to participate in continued professional development. Regular liaison meetings with partner organizations and attendance at events (locally and nationally).
Improving communications with the public on risks to health and securing a greater degree of their involvement in health protection services	Public information awareness raising initiatives. Communications plan. Seasonal awareness raising of Health Protection risks.

3b Local health protection priorities

In addition to national priorities the following local health protection priorities have been identified for action:

Local priority	How priority is being addressed at local level 2010 - 2012
Single Outcome Agreement 2009-10 Outcome 4 The physical and mental health and wellbeing of the people throughout the Outer Hebrides is improved.	<p>There are particular priority health areas which especially benefit from partnership approaches. These include areas such as alcohol misuse (2nd highest level of alcohol related hospitalisation across Scotland's 63 Community Health Partnerships), mental well-being, the rising prevalence of long term conditions (particularly for heart-related conditions including coronary heart disease, heart failure, hypertension, etc.) in our ageing communities and opportunities for health gain such as through greater physical activity.</p> <p>4A Increase the number of young people participating in society and decision making 4B Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our population 4C Reduce the number of people living in BTS accommodation 4D Reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty 4E Meet the long term needs of vulnerable children, young people and families at risk 4F Decrease numbers of children, young people and families affected by their own or parental substance misuse</p>
Air Quality Plan	Annual Air Quality Update and Screening Assessments have not highlighted and specific air quality issues in the Outer Hebrides. Further information is available at http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/envserv/qualityofair.htm
Tobacco Control	Continued enforcement of the smoking ban. Preventative measures with regard to the sale of tobacco products to under 18s. We have also established a Western Isles Tobacco Control Alliance which is a multi-agency group
Private water supply sampling	Sampling of all type A (commercial) private water supplies is undertaken and on all other supplies where requested. Grants available to offset the costs of improving the quality of the water supply to an acceptable standard.

Local priority	How priority is being addressed at local level 2010 - 2012
Food standards / Food Hygiene Enforcement	Implementation of intervention strategy to target resources more effectively on food premises requiring improvement. This will help drive up overall food safety standards in the Outer Hebrides. Provision of food hygiene and food safety training to business community and general public. Alternative interventions to target resources more effectively. Participation in national campaigns as directed by FSA. Investigation of food-borne illnesses.
Contaminated land	Potentially contaminated land sites were identified and investigated throughout the Western Isles. Sites where pollutant linkages were identified underwent intrusive site investigation and remediation where required. Sites with contaminated land issues are now dealt with by using the planning process. Sites experiencing pollution incidents are dealt with using EPA 1990.
Enforcement of health and safety legislation.	Working towards section 18 compliance. Implementation of an effective inspection programme based upon a risk-rating approach. Investigation of workplace accidents
Licensing of skin piercers and/or tattooists	Framework in place to licence all skin piercers and tattooists to ensure that they comply with statutory provisions in particular those relating to the cause/spread of infection.
Control of use of sunbeds	Arrangements in place to inspect and regulate sunbed premises in order to ensure they are complying with the provisions of Section 8 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008.
Control of sale of fireworks.	Inspections undertaken to ensure compliance with the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005.

3c Health protection risks specific to the Western Isles

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 provides a framework for civil protection in the United Kingdom.

The Highlands and Islands Strategic Co-ordination Group (HISCG) is the Strategic Co-ordinating Group for the Western Isles. It liaises very closely with the Scottish Government Civil Contingencies Division and is formed primarily from those agencies with a legal duty to respond to any major incident or emergency within the Highlands and Islands Area. HISCG maintains the Highlands and Islands Community Risk Register and has created six capability groups tasked with producing generic integrated arrangements for dealing with the consequences of any major emergencies.

The Community Risk Register is an assessment of these risks within the Highlands & Islands Area including the Western Isles. It is a public document and can be accessed on

the HISCAG website (www.handiprepared.gov.uk/hiscg.asp). Under the Act Category 1 Responders are required to undertake risk assessments for events or situations which may constitute an 'emergency'.

Categories of risk identified for the Western Isles include:

Industrial accidents & environmental pollution

Transport accidents

Severe weather

Structural

Human health

Animal health

Public protest

Industrial technical failure

International events

Industrial action

In addition specific Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) plans are co-ordinated and maintained by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and exist for the following sites and situations within the Western Isles:

Plan	Nature of risk
SGN Off Site COMAH Plan	LPG Gas Storage Plant, Sandwich Road, Stornoway

The diverse geography and logistical difficulties of an island community represents a significant challenge to the delivery when responding to any health protection incidents or outbreaks. The importance of joint working, planning and preparedness to overcome these risks and challenges especially in periods of adverse weather or where capacity is limited has been demonstrated on many occasions.

3d Significant public health incidents in preceding two years

A range of incidents and outbreaks have been investigated and managed by NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar both on a single and joint agency basis. Debrief meetings are always held at the end of significant incidents or outbreaks. Some recent examples are given below and illustrate the effectiveness of joint working arrangements:

Incident or Outbreak	Learning points and improvements to plans and services
H1N1 Containment & Mitigation	Multiagency response with Pandemic Flu Plan & Business continuity plans updated.
H1N1 immunisation programme	H1N1 Targeted Immunisation Plan developed and implemented. H1N1 web site to aid local communication developed.
Tuberculosis in School 2008	Infection Control Nurses trained in Mantoux testing. Close working with education department. Over 500 contacts traced.
Norovirus outbreaks 2008 & 10	Good communication with the Public aided with control measures. Guidance for care homes made available.
Stranding ashore (cruise) 2007	Ability for GP Practice-based response to be integrated into emergency plans recognised

HEALTH PROTECTION RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

4a Resources currently available to health protection services (CD & EH)

NHS Western Isles

Job Title	Comment
Director Public Health	Dr Sheila Scott* *NHS Board Competent Person
Consultant in Public Health	(vacant)
Public Health Practitioner	(vacant)
Emergency Planning Officer	Tom Laverty
Public Health Admin Manager	Angela Grant
Head of Public Health Intelligence	Martin Malcolm

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Job Title	Comment
Environmental Health Manager	Colm Fraser* *CnES Competent Person
Team Leader, Environmental Health	Christine Schofield* *CnES Competent Person
Environmental Health Officer	Ruth Macaskill
Environmental Health Officer	Christine Morrison
Animal Health Officer	Kenny Macleod
Head of Devolved Services, Uist & Barra	Alasdair MacEachen* *CnES Competent Person

Health Protection Team (Interim arrangements)

Job Title	Comment
GP Health Protection	Dr Louise Scott
Public Health Practitioner	Sara Bartram
Infection Control Manager	Denise Wilson
Head of Public Health Intelligence	Martin Malcolm
Public Health Admin Manager	Angela Grant
Senior Environmental Health Officer (CnES)	Christine Schofield *CnES Competent Person

CPHM & NHS Competent Person interim support	NHS Highland (SLA)
OOH support	GP Practice (SLA)

The out of hours on call rota for public health is staffed by 3 GPs and the Public Health Practitioner from the Health Protection Team with 'second on call' advice provided by NHS Highland.

4b IT and communication technology to facilitate health protection work

Technological resource	NHS	CnES
Desktop and laptop computers	✓	✓
Netbooks		
Printers (black and white and colour)	✓	✓
Photocopiers	✓	✓
Fax machines	✓	✓
Office and mobile telephones	✓	✓
Single page scanner	✓	✓
Document feed scanner	✓	
Mobile broadband access		
Personal digital assistant	✓	✓
Pagers (with text screen)		
Audio-teleconferencing equipment	✓	✓
Video-conferencing equipment	✓	✓
On call folder of health protection resources	✓	
MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access)	✓	✓
Secure email	✓	✓
Dictaphone	✓	✓
SIDSS (Scottish Infectious Disease Surveillance System)	✓	✓
Local computer networks and to the world wide web	✓	✓
NHS Western Isles intranet	✓	
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar intranet		✓
ECOSS (Electronic Communication of Surveillance in Scotland)	✓	
SCI Store (to access laboratory results)	✓	
SCI Gateway (Notifications)	✓	
SHPIR (Scottish Health Protection Information Resource)	✓	✓
TRAVAX (travel advice), Toxbase (toxicology database)	✓	
SEISS (Scottish Environmental Incident Surveillance System)		✓
Access to NHS Western Isles IT team which, if required, can set up a health protection operations room.	✓	
Ability to convert a meeting room into a call centre to support a helpline with six lines being able to take calls from a single helpline number.	✓	✓
Support from and access to members of organisation communications teams	✓	✓
Access to resources provided by NHS24	✓	
UNIFORM system to record details of all food businesses along with enforcement actions.		✓

4c Organisational arrangements in place to facilitate collaborative working between NHS Western Isles, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and other health protection agencies

Group	Comment	Frequency
Health Protection Team	NHS, CnES, other invited as relevant e.g. veterinary	Monthly
Infection Control Committee	NHS, (COO, Hospital Departments, Infection Control Team, Pharmacy, Microbiology)	
Public Health Water Liaison	NHS (HPT), CnES (EH), Scottish Water	Quarterly
Drinking Water Quality Regulator	NHS, CnES, DWQ Regulator	Annual
Emergency Public Health Incident Group (EPHIG)	NHS, CnES, Police, SAS, HIFRS, Scottish Water, Scottish & Southern	6 weekly
Western Isles Emergency Planning and Co-ordinating Group	Multi agency emergency planning and response Police, Fire, NHS, CnES, MCA, SEPA, Utilities and commercial, HIAL, Voluntary agencies, other	

Public health incidents are reviewed locally and lessons learnt shared through the regular meetings above. Additionally, where required, specific post incident or exercise hot and cold debrief meetings are held with reports shared and cascaded between and within agencies appropriately.

4d Arrangements to respond out of hours

NHS Western Isles

A Health Protection On Call Rota provides cover 24/7 including out of hours and public holidays. Out of hours this service is accessed through the switchboard at the Western Isles Hospital by phoning 01851 704704. The on call person for public health will then be contacted by mobile phone or landline.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

In case of an emergency situation out with office hours Environmental Health can be contacted by phoning 01851 701702.

4e Arrangements for reviewing health protection guidance

There are several key local documents and plans which contain health protection guidance. These are listed in Table 1 (Section 2a) above and are reviewed regularly by the Health Protection Team. Many of these guidance documents are jointly owned and produced and some are of a multiagency nature. They provide a framework for supporting operational procedures.

Plans and guidance are updated in line with national recommendations and any changes in legislation. All are subject to document control and the relevant governance arrangements of NHS Western Isles and committee approval of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

4f Corporate arrangements for ensuring the maintenance of knowledge skills and competencies for staff who have health protection duties

NHS Western Isles members of staff involved in daytime and out of hours health protection work are required to have a personal development plan and maintain and develop their health protection knowledge, skills and competencies through continuing professional development activities and include their health protection work in annual appraisal.

All staff participating in the on call rota are required to have undertaken on call training and also to confirm they have knowledge and understanding of NHS Western isles Health protection policies and procedures, take part in peer review and audit and have knowledge and understanding of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008.

Also, where SLAs for Health Protection are in place staff are encouraged to video link into training and development meetings with neighbouring health protection teams.

Staff also attend local educational events e.g. MRSA, C.diff and ESBL Seminar

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar corporate strategy includes commitment to performance management, developing corporate standards and implementation of a quality assurance framework. Environmental Health staff are expected to participate in continuing professional development.

Staff are routinely briefed or trained on new or emerging legislation and practice.

HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES: CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE

5a Assessment of the capacity and resilience of health protection services

NHS Western Isles
<p>Capacity and resilience within Health Protection was reviewed at regular intervals throughout 2009 due to staff absence. As a result of this review service level agreements have been formed including arrangements to ensure maintenance of a robust and sustainable service that is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Staff were identified to support implementation of HPV and H1N1 immunisation programme.</p> <p>Capacity and resilience has been tested in recent outbreaks and the response to H1N1. Mutual aid arrangements are in place between the 5 participating NHS Boards across the North of Scotland Public Health Network to provide assistance in the event of a</p> <p>NHS Western Isles needs to continue to support training programmes to develop additional competent person resource and maintain capacity of local response.</p>

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
<p>No formal review, but resilience and capacity has been tested during several outbreaks and incidents over recent years. Although there have been professional staff shortages in the Service due to recruitment and retention difficulties over past 10 years, the service has maintained the ability to respond.</p> <p>A process of multi skilling staff has increased the capacity of the existing staff complement to be utilised in several environmental health disciplines, including the training and use of staff to deal with private water supply sampling and environmental health enquiries. A programme of retraining authorised officers to become EHOs has been well received by staff and has further increased capacity.</p> <p>Business Continuity Plans are being prepared.</p> <p>There have been no reductions in frontline environmental health posts as part of 2010/11 budget savings, although a senior management post has been disestablished.</p>

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 200510 details the duties that NHS Western Isles, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and other Category 1 responders have to co-operate.

¹⁰ www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2005/20050494.htm

HEALTH PROTECTION: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

6a Public involvement in the planning and delivery of health protection services

Both NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar public web sites have information on several aspects relating to health protection including information on the NHS website (www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk) H1N1 Pandemic Influenza and healthcare associated infections and on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar site (www.cne-siar.gov.uk) FAQs and food safety feedback form.

NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Health Protection Team joint information and awareness raising initiative provides information to the public and local media by rolling programme which during 2009/10 included:

Ecoli 0157	Ticks
Camping and Barbecues	Blue green Algae
Firework safety	Food Hygiene
Norovirus	Hydatid
H1N1 Pandemic Influenza	Dog fouling
Seasonal Influenza	

This programme is updated to reflect any local or seasonal health protection risks.

The NHS / CnES joint Outbreak Control Plan includes a section on public involvement in the management of any outbreak and messages are routinely issued through the relevant media officer where public co-operation is sought.

Health Protection, Environmental Health and Infection Control services are represented at various public events and practical presentations e.g. hand washing programmes in schools, infection control presentations to residential homes

Both NHS and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar undertake public and stakeholder consultation when required in the development of new policy and strategy. Community Councils and Locality Planning Groups are regularly consulted on developments.