

The Association of Directors of Public Health

Local Health Protection System Assurance and Quality Improvement

Background

The Future of the Health Protection System (FHPS) is a collaboration between Health Protection system partners to enhance the resilience, effectiveness, and scalability of the national and local health protection system.

Driving the work of FHPS is a Co-Design Group currently co-chaired by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Association of Directors of Public Health UK (ADPH). The Co-Design Group brings together system partners to design, develop, and deliver improvements to the health protection system.

A priority for the FHPS Co-Design Group focused on delivering tools to support local health protection systems to assess assurance regarding the arrangements to protect the health of their local communities and also identify and facilitate quality improvements.

This has been achieved by utilising two existing products:

- Adapting the 'East Midlands Health Protection Assurance Framework' (developed by the East Midlands Health Protection Community of Improvement) for national use.
- Reviewing and refreshing the 'What Good Looks Like for high quality Local Health Protection Systems' developed jointly by ADPH and Public Health England (PHE), originally published in 2019.

Purpose

To provide tools that guide users through a series of considerations to enable them to:

- Conduct assurance exercises, to ensure statutorily adequate local health protection functions are in place.
- Identify and agree mitigation measures with partners where elements may be identified as inadequate.
- Identify and facilitate sector led improvements.
- Regularly reassess and continuously improve.

Principles

Health Protection systems work through a cyclical process using the tools provided to:

- Assess where the system is currently. Baselineing against the HP Assurance Framework, using What Good Looks for high quality Local Health Protection Systems Must Do's / Should Do's as examples of practical application.
- Identify actions to improve and strengthen by focusing on the gaps identified through the HP Assurance Framework and using What Good Looks for high quality Local Health Protection Systems Must Do's/ Should Do's to agree specific actions.
- Implement the agreed changes.
- Re-assess and evaluate the impact/improvement as a result of the implemented changes.

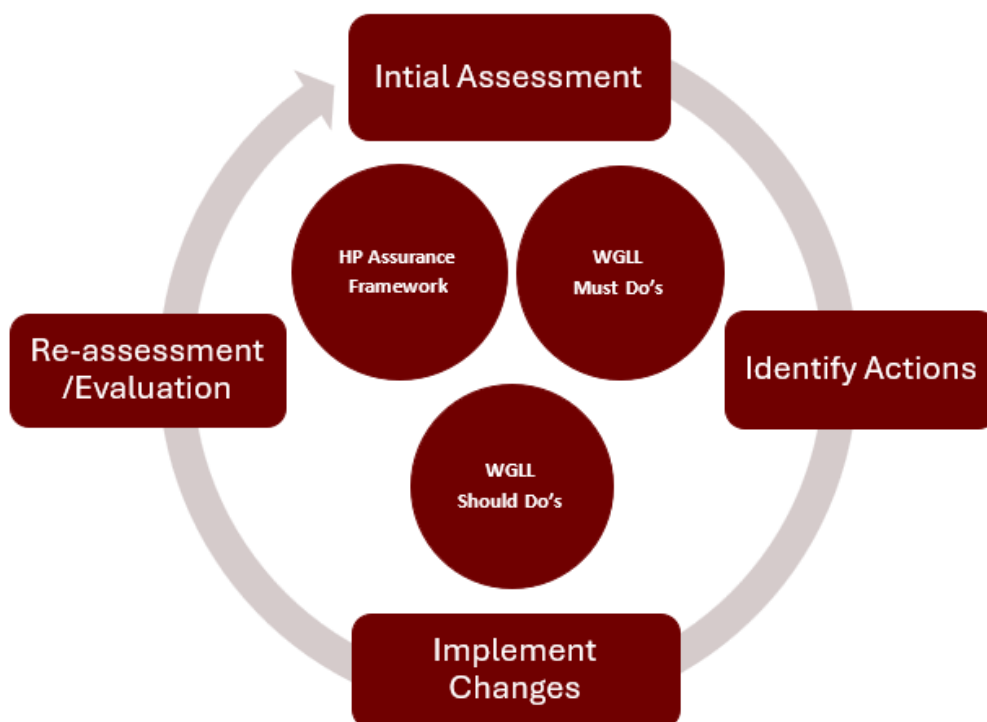


Figure 1. The continuous improvement cycle of Health Protection Assurance and Quality Improvement

Resources

- [The Health Protection Assurance Framework](#)
- [What Good Looks Like for high quality Local Health Protection systems](#)

Acknowledgements

The Health Protection Assurance Framework was adapted from the East Midlands Health Protection Assurance Framework, which was developed by a Task & Finish Group of the East Midlands Health Protection Community of Improvement. Special thanks to the members of this Task & Finish Group: David Clark (Lincolnshire County Council), Iain Little (Derbyshire County Council), Nadine Hilliard (UKHSA East Midlands), and Deborah Watson (UKHSA East Midlands).

The original What Good Looks like for high quality Local Health Protection Systems, was collaboratively produced by PHE and ADPH What Good Looks Like Thematic Group on Health Protection. Special thanks to the members of this group: Meng Khaw (PHE), Angela Hardman (PHE), and Helen Atkinson (ADPH).