

# Climate change and Health Challenges to HPA



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# **HPA's approach**

**Assessing the challenges**

**Developing practical responses**

**Helping the public and other agencies implement these responses**

**Monitoring effectiveness**

**Research**

# Assessing the challenge of climate change



**Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK. A report published by the Department of Health and HPA in 2008**

**Recognised as a landmark report**

**Written by group of distinguished experts**

**Group chaired by HPA**

**Quantitative approach**

# **What are the key challenges?**

**Increased frequency of heat waves**

**Increased occurrence of flooding**

**Increased exposure to UV radiation**

**Increased risk of infectious and vector-borne disease**

**Increasing concentrations of ozone**



# **The HPA response – Heat waves**

**Development with DH of National Heat-wave plan**

**Assessing the impact of heat-waves**

**Developing real-time mortality surveillance**

**Working with the WHO Euroheat project to develop  
advice**

**Undertaking research into adaptation to increased  
temperatures**



# **The HPA response – Flooding**

**Responding to the Pitt Review: ‘Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods’**

**Coordination of emergency responses with other agencies**

**The Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Reduction**

**Training for Environmental Health Professionals and Public Health doctors**



# **The HPA response – UV radiation**

**Undertaking research on the effects of UV radiation**

**Advising Government, media and public on effects of  
UV radiation**

**International work on prevention of skin cancer and  
cataracts**

**Monitoring exposure to UV radiation**

# **The HPA response – Infectious and vector-borne disease**



**Assessing risk of disease associated with flooding**

**National Focal Point for International Health  
Regulations and EU Early Warning and Response  
System**

**Providing expert advice to Public Health doctors**

**Research**



# **The HPA response – Rising concentrations of ozone**

**Contributing to UK Air Quality Strategy**

**Developing cost-benefit tested policy initiatives with Defra**

**Advising Defra on the UK Banding System for air quality**

**Providing advice to groups susceptible to effects of air pollutants**

**Advising on the DH air pollution research programme**

# Conclusions



Climate change poses a major threat to health in the UK

HPA has developed a wide-ranging response including assessing the threat, collaborating with other agencies, providing advice, supporting front line services and undertaking research

This response involves all parts of the HPA – expert scientists and local/regional public health professionals