

## Welcome

This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA and the Overseas Territories

If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: [UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk)

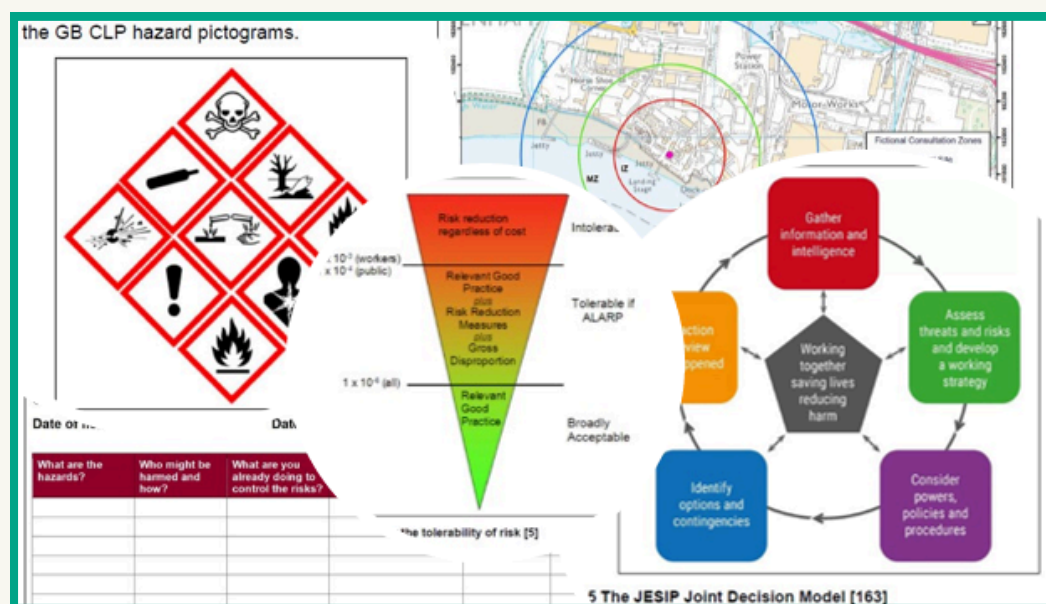
## In this edition

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## Framework for the development of a Code of Practice for Chemicals Management

Chemical incidents are well documented to have the potential to significantly impact on the health of people, animals and the environment, as well as other broader consequences such as economic and reputational damage. With the input of the UK Health and Safety Executive and a steering group, a **Framework for the Development of Codes of Practice for Chemicals Management** in the territories has been produced.

The Framework presents good practice approaches for safe on-site and off-site chemicals management, import, storage, transport and use of chemicals, including high hazard chemicals and fuels. The Framework can be used as needed by all territories to develop or enhance systems of safe chemical management for improved prevention, preparedness and response to chemical incidents. The Framework is designed for territories to be able to target topics of relevance or to use the whole document as a framework for developing legislation, policies or guidance, as appropriate.



Example figures from the Framework

The project was initiated due to needs identified in the Cayman Islands. As these needs are common in many territories UKHSA partnered with the Health and Safety Executive to deliver the framework, working closely with the Cayman Islands and members of a steering group. The steering group provided input on the content and design of the framework and review of the draft, with the aim of ensuring the framework is as relevant as possible to territories.

Steering group members included representatives from six territories, namely Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar and Falklands, as well as representatives from UK governmental agencies: the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Environment Agency, and the Joint Nature Conservation Commission.

On the 9th October there will be an interactive workshop presenting the framework and providing an opportunity for participants to become familiar with the content and to practice elements of its use. If you haven't already signed up for the workshop, there's still time.

**Please Register Here:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/5ae54c72-9065-42a1-9abf-edf00951c3ee@ee4e1499-4a35-4b2e-ad47-5f3cf9de8666>

## Supporting the development of a Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy in St Helena

From the 27th July to 11th August, Sunita Sturup-Toft (Consultant in Public Health), Lara Kontos (Workforce Development Lead) and Anna Tirion (Behavioural Science Advisor) visited St Helena to support the development of a Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy. Working closely with the Director of Health and Social Care and the Chief Medical Officer, the aim is to develop a plan to increase resilience and flexibility to secure the long-term future of the health and social care workforce in St. Helena.

With a relatively small population of just over 4000 people, St Helena struggles to recruit, retain and train the health and social care workforce required to meet the community's needs. This is due to a combination of low wages, high cost of living, limited resources and younger people leaving the island for (higher paid) work opportunities. Furthermore, there is a significant burden of ill health on the system due to an ageing population who require more expensive care.

Over the course of two weeks, meetings and interviews were held with key stakeholders from health and social care staff, wider departments including Education, Immigration, Finance and Sustainable Development to understand the context and gather data to inform the strategy development. Furthermore, workshops were held to brainstorm and prioritise creative solutions fit for the St Helena context.

Going forward, this work will support ongoing initiatives of what the healthcare offer should look like, what skills are needed in the future and setting a strategic direction. Ultimately, this will lead to improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population of St Helena by providing a framework to ensure accessibility, availability and quality of a motivated and skilled health and social care workforce.



Anna Tirion, Lara Kontos, Nigel Phillips (Governor) and Sunita Sturup-Toft



Workshop with colleagues in St Helena

## Antibiotic guidelines

Antibiotic guidelines are an essential standard for an antimicrobial stewardship programme. All UKOTs have access to their own antibiotic guidelines through the Microguide app. This gives prescribers clear guidance on infections and choices of empirical treatment. Clearly these treatments may need to be reviewed in the light of results from the microbiology laboratory.

The multitarget PCR panels (Biofire and Genexpert) have proved invaluable, as well, in guiding appropriate antibiotic use in respiratory and bloodstream infections. An important aim is for each UKOT to have an antibiotic lead to update the territory guidelines and to train health care staff in antimicrobial stewardship.

The Microguide will be migrating to a new platform (Eolas) in the next few months. This will increase the functionality by allowing population of other medical guidelines on the platform and access to UK national guidance eg NICE.

This link gives an overview of the transfer <https://support.eolasmedical.com/transitioning-to-eolas-medical-platform-from-microguide>.

