

# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment



**Rob Johnston**

**Health Protection Specialist (Environmental Health)**

<http://www.hpa.org.uk>

# **The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment**



**Who or what is the Health Protection Agency (HPA)?**

**How is the Agency structured to deliver services locally?**

**What opportunities are there for students in the HPA?**

**How did we go about recruiting to the 2 student posts?**

**Project work**

# **The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment**



**There's only one thing predictable about life as an Environmental Health Practitioner. No two days will ever be the same. And that's because of the amazingly wide scope of our work.**

**We're here to protect the public's health and improve the general quality of life.**

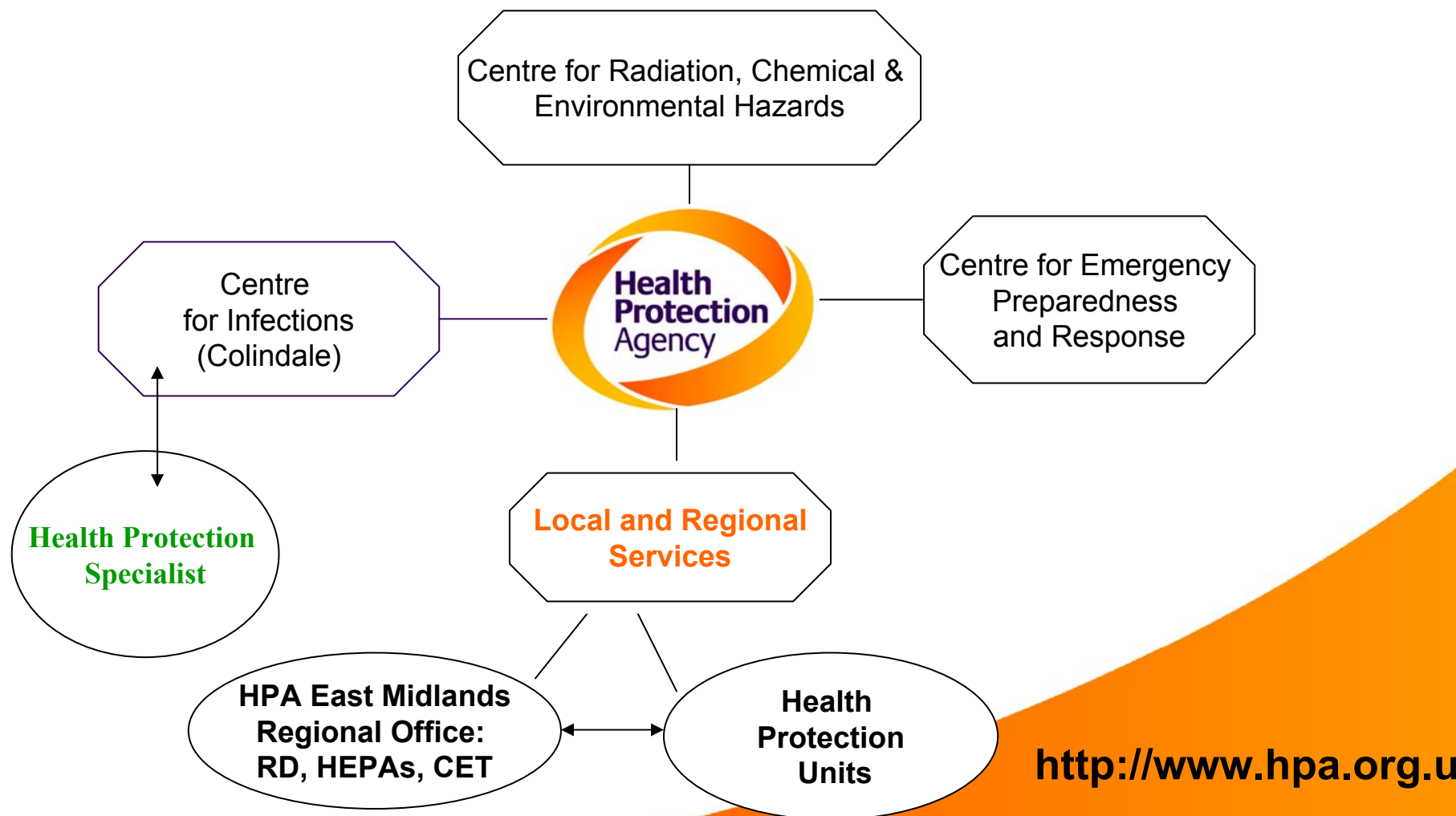
**Everything from the air we breathe and the food we eat, to the water we swim in, the houses we live in and the places we work in... all of these things affect our well-being. Not surprisingly, we're here, there and everywhere. ....**

**<http://www.cieh.org/>**

# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

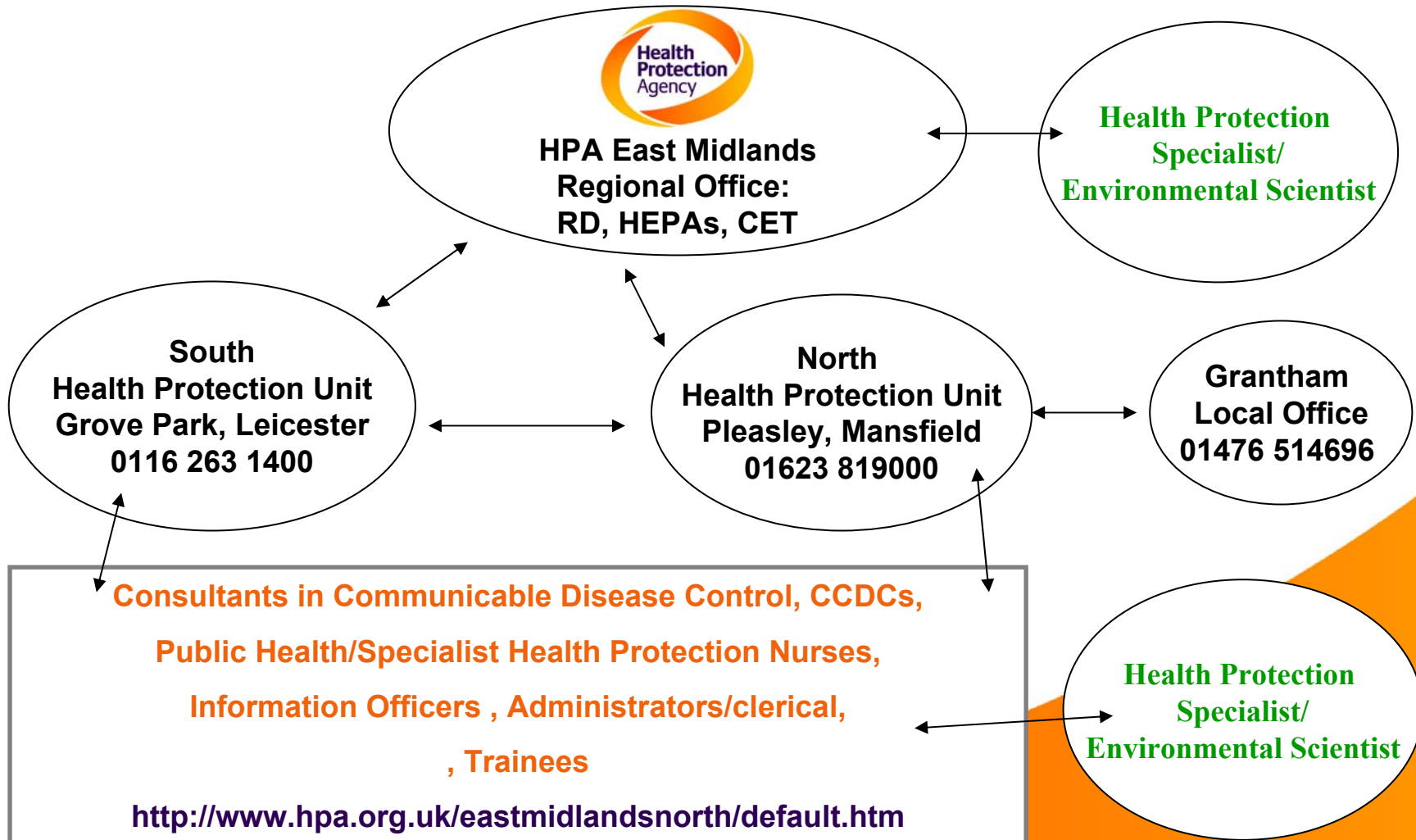


## HPA Organisational Structure



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

Local and Regional Services in the East Midlands



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

## Local and Regional Services in the East Midlands



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment Inter-Agency Working/Liaison



GPs and  
hospital doctors

*Private Sector Companies*

Primary Care Trusts

Trent  
Strategic Health Authority



LACoRS



Laboratories and Acute Trusts



Environmental Health Services – Local Authorities

# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment Inter-Agency Working/Liaison



**Working with and supporting other agencies on  
contaminated land and other contamination issues –  
chronic and acute**





# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment Inter-Agency Working/Liaison



**Working with and supporting other agencies on infectious disease, microbiology or other public health issues**



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment



## Student/Trainees in the HPA

### South West Region and West Midlands

Opportunities for student EHPs

1 year training

Insufficient interest

### East Midlands

Opportunities for two bursaries

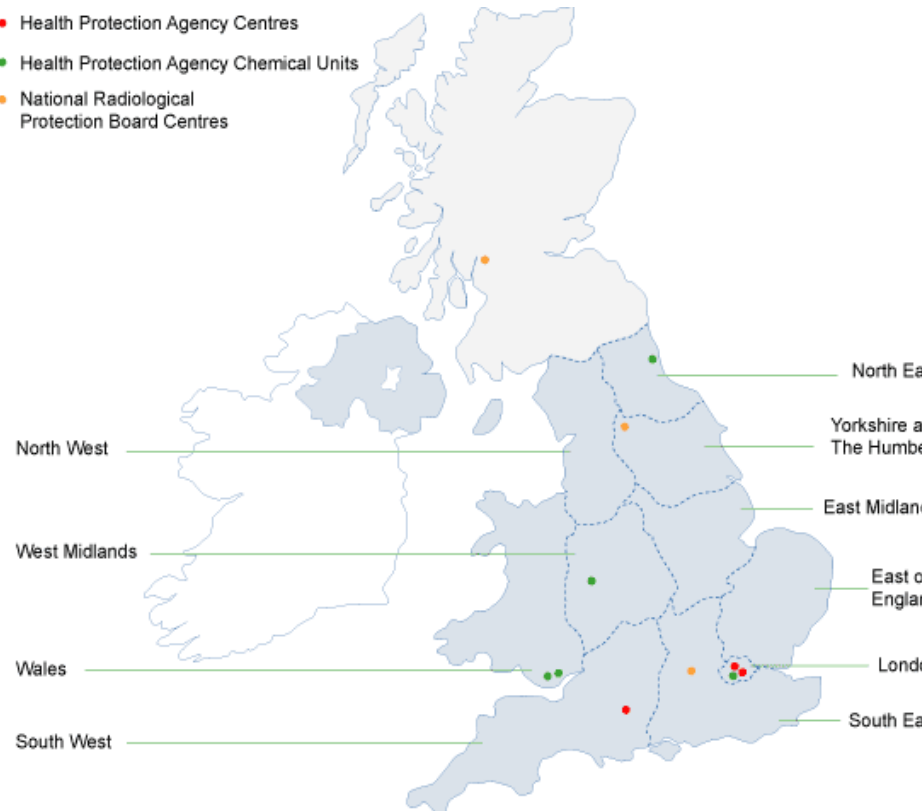
3 month supported placements

Positive interest

• Health Protection Agency Centres

• Health Protection Agency Chemical Units

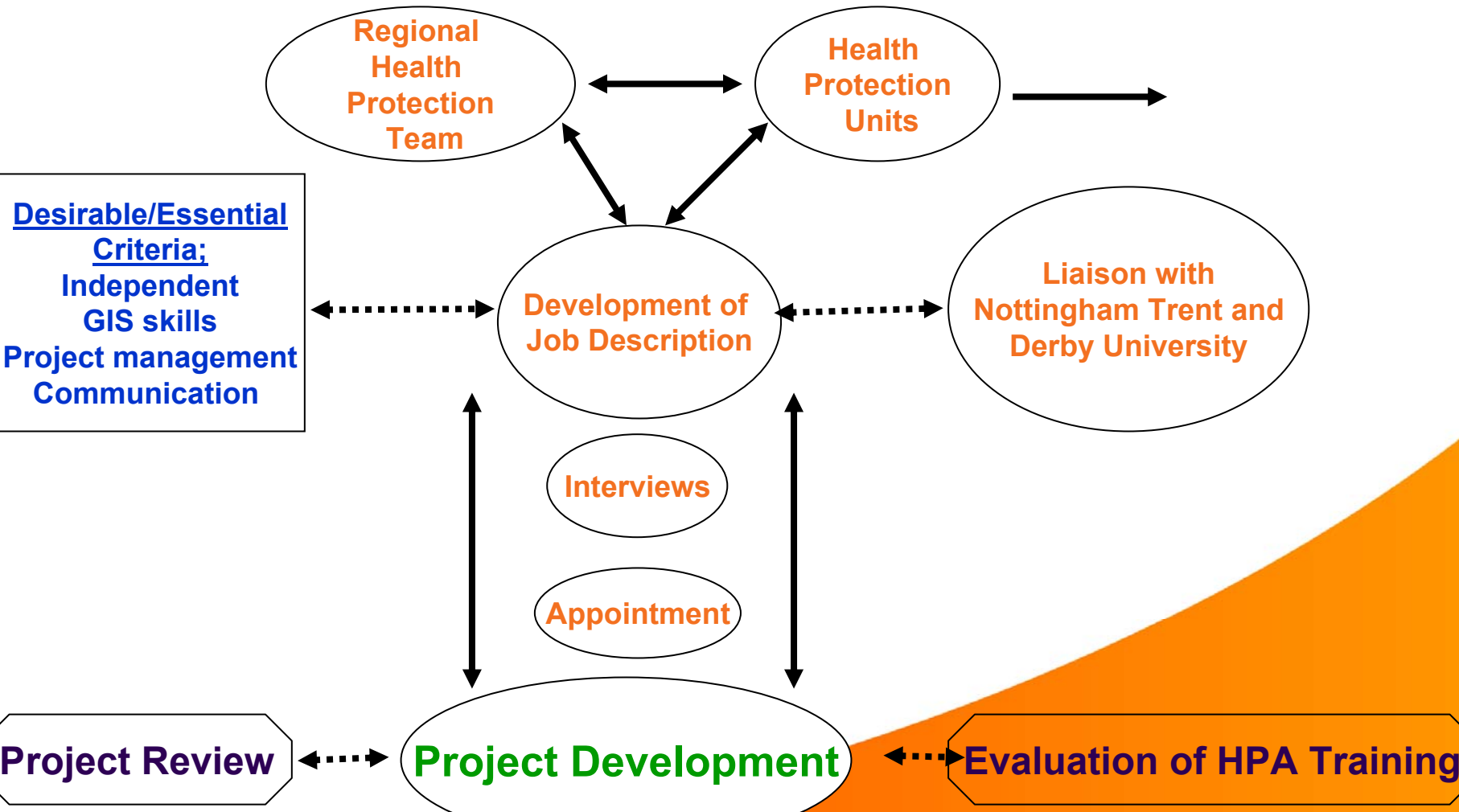
• National Radiological Protection Board Centres



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment



## Student/Trainees in the HPA



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

## The Project



**Named in 1976 after an outbreak  
of fatal respiratory disease in  
Philadelphia**

**Cases noted in 1947 (and before)**

**Around 30 deaths, approx. 200  
cases of illness**

**Belle View Stratford Hotel**



# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

## The Project



### FEATURES

## Legionnaires' Disease - Testing Positive



Forum 28 in Barrow

**BBC Cumbria webcast a special programme - Testing Positive - investigating the devastating impact of Legionnaires' Disease in Barrow-in-Furness.**

[Listen to the programme online >>](#)

In autumn 2002, people in Barrow were told their town was at the centre of Britain's biggest outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease.

A type of bacteria called legionella had grown inside an air conditioning unit at the town's arts centre Forum 28 - then steam containing the bug leaked into a passageway outside the building.

The police investigated the deaths of 7 people in connection with the outbreak, 5 of whom died as a direct result of it. More than 150 were infected, many of them needing intensive care.

In "Testing Positive" reporter, Claire Barrowdale, investigates the effect the disease has had on the town and the lessons learned from the tragedy.

more from this section

Choose here

GO

features

- [Countryside Alive](#)
- [Housing hell & help](#)
- [Barrow lifeboat](#)

what's on - events

news in brief

meet the team

contact us

BBC Cumbria  
Annetwell Street  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA3 8BB  
Tel: (+44) 01228 592444  
[cumbria@bbc.co.uk](mailto:cumbria@bbc.co.uk)

#### SEE ALSO

[Legionnaires' Disease timeline of events](#)

#### WEB LINKS

##### Briefing

Medical notes on Legionnaires' disease from BBC News.

##### NHS Direct

Information on Legionnaires' disease

##### Health & Safety

A guide to Legionnaires' disease

##### Barrow Council

The outbreak announcement from the council.

##### Public Health

More information.

# The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment

## The Project



BC NEWS | England | Hereford/Worcs | New Legionnaires' victim reported - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Search Favorites

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hereford/worcs/3739516.stm

Home TV Radio Talk Where I Live A-Z Index Search

Graphics version | Change edition Contact us | Help

**BBC NEWS** UK EDITION WATCH BBC NEWS IN VIDEO

Last Updated: Wednesday, 13 October, 2004, 12:50 GMT 13:50 UK

E-mail this to a friend Printable version

### New Legionnaires' victim reported

**A fourth victim of a Legionnaires' outbreak which killed two women has been diagnosed.**



A man in his 60s from Redditch, Worcs, is seriously ill in hospital after contracting the disease.

His illness comes a month after two women in their 60s were killed by the infection. A man was discharged from hospital after being treated.

More than 70 sites across Redditch were tested after the outbreak but experts were unable to find the source.

Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia and is not passed from person to person. It is spread through contaminated water systems such as air conditioning units.

A statement from health officials said: "A man from Redditch in his 60s is in a serious condition but improving in hospital after being diagnosed with the illness."

**'Clean and disinfect'**

**SEE ALSO:**

- Bug source 'may never be traced' 24 Sep 04 | Hereford/Worcs
- Second Legionnaires' victim dies 17 Sep 04 | Hereford/Worcs
- No further cases of Legionnaires' 13 Sep 04 | West Midlands
- Search for source of Legionnaires 11 Sep 04 | Hereford/Worcs
- Legionnaires' disease 08 Feb 03 | Medical notes

**RELATED INTERNET LINKS:**

- Redditch and Bromsgrove Primary Care Trust
- Health Protection Agency

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

**TOP HEREFORD/WORCS STORIES NOW**

- Plans to curb protests criticised
- Paperboy grabbed in shop

Internet



# **The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment**

## **Student/Trainees in the HPA**

### **Evaluation**

**Student interviews by HPA training coordinator**

**Interviews of student trainers working in the HPA**

**Other HPA staff involved, including Regional  
Director/local Health Protection Unit Leads**

**Contact with Local Authorities involved**

**University**

**Project evaluation**



# **The Health Protection Agency, Health and the Environment**

## **The Future?**

- **Raising the national profile of Trainees in the HPA**
- **Possible further HPA supported student placements and wider career opportunities**
- **Local Authority/NHS etc joint student/trainee placements**
- **Inter-agency project work**
- **Seconded students/trainees**
- **Inter-agency liaison and training exercises – joined up working**



## **Acknowledgements;**

**LAs in the East Midlands**  
**Ashfield District Council**  
**Charnwood Borough Council**

**Nottingham Trent University**  
**Derby University**

**Primary Care Trusts**

**HPA-EM**

<http://www.hpa.org.uk>

