

	Health and Wellbeing Board 9 March 2017
Title	Screening update
Report of	Director of Public Health
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix 1: NCL Joint Health and Oversight Scrutiny Committee - Review of Adult Immunisation and 7a Screening Programmes.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board has previously expressed concerns about inconsistent reporting of screening performance data and low uptake, particularly for cancer screening programmes.</p> <p>An annual reporting cycle has been suggested and what was intended as the first annual report was presented to the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd February 2017.</p> <p>The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked for another report in 6 months time providing a summary of performance, actions to address areas of concerns and a clear schedule for improvement. It also requested that NHS England work in partnership with the boroughs (through the North Central London Adult Screening Assurance Group) to develop this.</p> <p>Screening uptake in Barnet remains below national targets in cervical, breast and bowel screening.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations</p> <p>1. The Health and Wellbeing Board notes the NHSE Annual Report on screening programmes that was presented to Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd Feb 2017.</p>

2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board seeks assurance that a clear reporting cycle is established with a clear implementation date.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board seeks assurance that a recovery plan setting out clear actions and schedule to improve performance against screening uptake targets.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Cancer screening aims to identify early signs of a disease in otherwise healthy people before symptoms become apparent. Screening helps to detect physiological changes that may lead to cancer if not treated and to identify existing cancer as early as possible when the options for effective treatment are greatest. Cancer screening both prevents cancer and extends survival.
- 1.2 There are three cancer screening programmes; Breast, Cervical and Bowel. All three programmes are commissioned by the NHS England.
- 1.3 The local authority, through its Director of Public Health, has responsibility for assurance of these programmes.
- 1.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed performance of adult screening programmes in September 2014. The Board requested further updates and referred the report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that performance concerns are adequately addressed through the work of the London Screening Board. A scheduled update in 2016 was delayed in expectation of an annual report. An annual report was completed in January 2017 and presented to the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.5 Whilst the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Diabetic Retinopathy Screening programmes appear to be performing well and are meeting targets, cancer screening performance remains a significant concern with approximately one third of eligible patients for breast and cervical screening and over a half of patients eligible for bowel screening not being screened.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Robust reporting of screening performance for local authority assurance has not yet been established.
- 2.2 In response to the failure to achieve national targets for cancer screening coverage/uptake, a longstanding issue for London, a London Coverage Technical Group was established by NHS England in 2014 to ensure commissioning and implementation of best practice services across London. The performance concerns are persistent though.
- 2.3 The North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recognising common concerns across the North Central London Boroughs requested an annual report to address the issues. Whilst the report produced failed to do this, some coordination across North Central London does have

the potential to both reduce replication in requests to NHS England and to coordinate support from partners.

- 2.4 It is suggested that a North Central London Adult Screening Assurance group, which was formed by the Directors of Public Health, work with partners to help support NHS England in developing an annual report incorporating plans for recovery of under performance.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 We have previously looked to NHS England to resolve these reporting and performance issues. Given the persistence of these issues, recognising the limitations of resources available to NHS England, and the challenges of serving 33 Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees across London, the prospect of any resolution appears slim.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The lead consultant in Barnet (Jeffrey Lake) has taken over chairing the North Central London Adult Screening Assurance group and is currently seeking agreement for a way forward with NHS England before revision of Terms of Reference which will then be shared with Directors of Public Health and partner agencies for agreement.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015-2020) makes a commitment to reducing premature mortality due to cardiovascular disease and cancers.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Funding for cancer screening programmes sits primarily with NHS England although some elements are commissioned by CCGs.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Not applicable, as this is not a procurement activity.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board are contained within the Council's Constitution (Responsibility for Functions, Annexe A) Specific Responsibilities include: *To receive assurance from all relevant commissioners and providers on matters relating to the quality and safety of services for users and patients.*
- 5.4.2 Under paragraph 8 of the Local Authorities Regulations 2013, made under section 6C of the National Health Service Act 2006, local authorities have a duty to provide information and advice to relevant organisations to protect the population's health; this can be reasonably assumed to include screening and immunisation. Local authorities also provide independent scrutiny and challenge of the arrangements of NHS England, PHE and providers to ensure all parties discharge their roles effectively for the protection of the local population.

5.4.3 It is NHS England's responsibility to commission screening programmes as specified in the Section 7A agreement: public health functions to be exercised by NHS England. In this capacity, NHS England will be accountable for ensuring local providers of services will deliver against the national service specifications and meet agreed population uptake and coverage levels, as specified in the Public Health Outcome Indicators and KPIs. NHS England will be responsible for monitoring providers' performance and for supporting providers in delivering improvements in quality and changes in the programmes when required.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 We do not have access to NHS England's assessment of risks and mitigations. At the population level, we would expect a higher rate of delayed diagnoses amongst those who have not accessed screening.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Very limited data is available on access to screening amongst protected groups. The North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted its concern over this in discussion of the annual report and asked that it be given closer attention.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 We are not aware of any consultation or engagement work that has taken place in relation to screening beyond work with practices to examine variation in screening uptake and promotional activities.

5.7.2 Healthwatch have indicated that they are giving some attention to this area.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Data presented in the annual report is provided by NHS England.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Health and Wellbeing Board, 18th September 2014.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=7782&Ver=4>

6.2 NHSE Annual Report on screening programmes that was presented to Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd Feb 2017.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=360&MId=8804&Ver=4>