

	Health and Wellbeing Board 21 July 2016
Title	Update on childhood immunisations 0-5 years
Report of	Dr Andrew Howe, Director of Public Health Jo Murfitt, Director of Public Health Commissioning for NHS England (London) Dr Catherine Heffernan, Principal Advisor for Immunisations and Vaccination Services, NHS England (London) Amanda Goulden - Population Health Practitioner Manager, NHS England (London)
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 - NHS England report on Update on childhood immunisations 0-5 years July 2016
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Summary
<p>In May 2016, a report was presented to the Health and the Wellbeing Board by representatives from NHS England (London) public health commissioning team which explained the reasons for why the routine childhood immunisation rates (as measured by COVER) in Barnet were lower than WHO recommended levels of 95% and lower than national averages.</p> <p>It was noted that the decline in rates was not representative of the proportion of children in Barnet receiving the recommended vaccinations but was reflecting a data reporting problem.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board asked for further assurance that sufficient action is being taken to address this issue through an audit of immunisations at all GP practices across Barnet. NHSE representatives were asked to report back at the next meeting.</p>

This report provides an update to work that has been done by the NHS England (London) screening and immunisation team and their partners since the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in May 2016.

It builds on the assurance that appropriate governance arrangements are in place within NHS England in relation to immunisations for 0-5 year olds, in order to protect the health of people in Barnet.

Recommendations

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the work done by NHS England, since the last meeting in May, to assure the Board that sufficient action is being taken to address the poor childhood immunisation rates in Barnet.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In May 2016, a report was presented to the Health and the Wellbeing Board by representatives from NHS England (London) public health commissioning team which explained the reasons for why the routine childhood immunisation rates (as measured by COVER) in Barnet were lower than WHO recommended levels of 95% and lower than national averages.
- 1.2 This followed two previous reports in September 2014 and November 2013 where a number of actions were identified and assurance was given by NHS England to deal with the significant drop in reported childhood immunisation rates identified at that time.
- 1.3 It was noted that the decline in rates was not representative of the proportion of children in Barnet receiving the recommended vaccinations but was reflecting a data reporting problem.
- 1.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board asked for further assurance that sufficient action is being taken to address this issue through an audit of immunisations at all GP practices across Barnet. NHSE representatives were asked to report back at the next meeting.
- 1.5 The NHSE report in Appendix one, provides an update to work that has been done by the NHS England (London) screening and immunisation team and their partners since the last Health and Well Being Board meeting in May 2016.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Barnet council has a responsibility to scrutinise immunisation rates in Barnet to assure that there is sufficient uptake of vaccinations across all age groups. If enough people in a community are vaccinated, it is harder for a disease to pass between people who have not been vaccinated. The London target for childhood immunisation 0-5 years is 95%. Immunisation rates for children in

Barnet are below this target.

- 2.2 NHS England has previously stated that the data is inaccurate and is an underestimate of childhood immunisation rates in Barnet. However, this problem has remained unresolved since April 2013 and therefore represents a significant risk in itself. Without accurate data, Barnet council cannot effectively monitor immunisation rates and cannot provide assurance that residents are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- 2.3 This issue has been escalated for a third time to the Barnet Health and Wellbeing Board to highlight these significant concerns, facilitate discussion with partners at a senior level and to assure that sufficient and timely action will be taken to address the problems identified.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Without adequate immunity in the community, outbreaks of disease can occur– as demonstrated with measles in the last decade. Effective immunisation is central to preventing disease and death.
- 3.2 The Public Health team has been and will continue to monitor immunisation rates in Barnet. They have been working with NHS England to understand the underlying issues and have sought assurance that the problems would be resolved in a timely fashion. However, given the importance of this element of public health activity and the length of time the issue has remained unresolved, it is now appropriate to escalate discussions to the Health and Wellbeing Board who can provide strategic support to partners.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 It is currently not possible to accurately monitor immunisation rates in Barnet and assure that the population of Barnet is protected from threats to their health. It is anticipated that NHSE will continue to meet with CLCH to follow up on process and operability. Also, the ongoing issues with TTP System One will be raised nationally.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2020 recognises Public Health as a priority theme across all services in the Council.

- 5.1.2 This work supports the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 aim to give every child in Barnet the best possible start to live a healthy life. Specifically, the Health and Wellbeing Board have committed to a performance measure to increase uptake of childhood immunisations to be at or above the England average.

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

- 5.2.1 Commissioning of immunisation services is the responsibility of NHS England. There are no financial implications for the council.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Not applicable.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Under regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) 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.
- 5.4.2 It is NHS England's responsibility to commission immunisation programmes as specified in the Section 7A of The NHS Act 2006 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.
- 5.4.3 The terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board is set out in the Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions Annex A and includes the following responsibilities:
- To consider all relevant commissioning strategies from the CCG and the NHS England and its regional structures to ensure that they are in accordance with the JSNA and the HWBS and refer them back for reconsideration.
 - To receive assurance from all relevant commissioners and providers on matters relating to the quality and safety of services for users and patients.
 - To directly address health inequalities through its strategies and have a specific responsibility for regeneration and development as they relate to health and care. To champion the commissioning of services and activities across the range of responsibilities of all partners in order to achieve this.
 - To promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including the use of joined-up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health. To explore partnership work across North Central London where appropriate.
 - Receive the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health and commission and oversee further work that will improve public health outcomes.

- Specific responsibilities for overseeing public health and developing further health and social care integration.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 Absence of accurate data about immunisation rates in Barnet presents a significant risk to the health of the population. The implication is that real changes in vaccination uptake remain undetected, early warning signs of potential outbreaks of disease are missed and opportunities for mitigating action are delayed. Further, it is not possible at present to accurately monitor the impact of media stories or vaccination campaigns or analyse and improve pockets of poor coverage in vulnerable populations.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The burden of infectious, including vaccine-preventable diseases falls disproportionately on the disadvantaged. There tends to be lower than average uptake for all vaccines amongst socially deprived and ethnic minorities.

- 5.6.2 Availability of data is vital to examine coverage by different age groups and inequalities, such as coverage in disadvantaged groups.

- 5.6.3 The general duty on public bodies is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

N/A

5.8 Insight

N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Health and Wellbeing Board, 12 May 2016, Agenda item 8, Update on childhood immunisations 0 – 5 years
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=8712&Ver=4>
- 6.2 Health and Wellbeing Board, 18 September 2014, Agenda item 13, Report on immunisation coverage in Barnet
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=7782&Ver=4>

- 6.2 Health and Wellbeing Board, 21 November 2013, Agenda Item 4, Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2012-2015)
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7559/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Nov-2013%2009.00%20Health%20Wellbeing%20Board.pdf?T=10>