

Committee: Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Date: 25th January 2024

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Childhood Immunisations

Lead officer: Jane McSherry, Executive Director of Children, Lifelong Learning and Families

Lead member: Cllr Brenda Fraser, Cabinet Member Children's Services

Contact officers: Dr Mike McHugh, Consultant in Public Health (Interim)

Ruth Eager, Head of Immunisations PMO and Planning, NHS South West London

Recommendations:

- A. To note the content of this cover report and the detailed report from NHSE (London) Immunisation Commissioning Team.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To update the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Vaccination and Immunisation uptake and work in SW London and Merton.

2 DETAILS

General Immunisation and Vaccination

- 2.1 SW London has the highest uptake of immunisations in London although coverage is lower than the England average. Merton has a general uptake just below the SW London average. This reflects the lower coverage found in urban areas which tend to have highly mobile populations and large immigrant populations. Lower uptake is also observed in more deprived communities.
- 2.2 Communications and engagement activities over Q3 has concentrated on vaccine uptake and focused on engaging local communities. In Merton there has been targeted advertising at tram link stops, localised radio scripts for different target audiences, on street engagement activity with low uptake groups, promotion of the winter vaccination offers in low uptake areas and engagement with local partners at key meetings.

Childhood Immunisations

- 2.3 Childhood immunisations for Merton has a general uptake of 84.5% which is currently below the 95% national target. This is in common with all London boroughs. Merton performs lower than the SW London average with the exception being MMR1 at 24 months and 5 years where the Merton coverage exceeds SW London and London averages. Please note the percentage of unvaccinated children for MMR 1 and MMR2 at age 5 has reduced in Merton by 2% between Q1 and Q2 as a result of the Phase 1 MMR initiative.
- 2.4 We have recently recruited two additional Childhood Immunisation Co-Ordinators across SW London and dedicated resource will be allocated to Merton in late January 2024.

2.5 We anticipate an announcement of a national measles incident following an increase in confirmed cases across the country. London and the Midlands have seen the greatest number of cases, and we currently have two confirmed cases in SW London. Our response to this will be an acceleration of current plans to improve uptake in all childhood immunisations but particularly MMR at all ages. Working with the National phase 2 polio/MMR programme we plan to:

- Increase targeted patient engagement in geographic areas with low uptake and develop open community clinics as a walk-in offer. The focus will be on children's centres with the lowest MMR uptake.
- Develop MMR promotional videos in GP surgeries/community settings to promote the importance of the MMR vaccine and we will build on this to produce similar videos with community leaders as trusted voices to promote MMR.
- Target our outreach activity to identified community groups with low uptake and host clinics in low uptake areas through alternate venues e.g. religious venues, organised community groups (i.e. parent and toddler groups), children's centres and housing estates. We will also increase our offer at wider health and wellbeing events.
- Develop an Engagement and Outreach MMR MECC module through the SW London Training Hub to enhance practice engagement and delivery at every point of contact. Concentrating on staff not normally involved with vaccinations and immunisations e.g. allied HCP and non-clinical staff
- Collaborate with health visiting service to offer vaccination, including their point of contacts with parents, e.g. 'Well Baby' clinics, post-natal groups, parenting support and breastfeeding clinics.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. N/A

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. N/A.

5 TIMETABLE

6.1 Work undertaken during the period September to December 2023 and proposed activity for January to March 2024N/A

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. As outlined in the report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. As outlined in the report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. As outlined in the report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. As outlined in the report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1 – Report on Vaccination Services in the London Borough of Merton

Appendix 2 - Merton Immunisations Update January 2024

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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