

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 November 2019	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Improving Immunisation Coverage in Southwark	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Kevin Fenton, Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing	

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the work going on locally to improve immunisation coverage in Southwark.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Immunisations are the safest and most cost-effective way of protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. They prevent disease at the individual level and also can achieve a level of population coverage that confers herd immunity; a form of indirect protection that occurs when a large percentage of the population has become immune to an infection.
3. Globally, immunisation programmes are considered one of the greatest public health interventions in terms of measurable impact on population morbidity and mortality. Despite this, we continue to see regular outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases locally, nationally and internationally.
4. Recent work undertaken in Southwark has identified that local vaccination coverage for several vaccination programmes has declined and some have now fallen below both locally and nationally agreed targets.
5. This has led to a call for local strategic action and leadership to combat these declining coverage trends and protect our population against preventable diseases.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. We have integrated national, regional and local policy to ensure we take an evidence-based, whole-systems approach to improving immunisation coverage. This has involved bringing together all partners involved in commissioning, quality assurance and provision of immunisations in Southwark, including consideration of opportunities in the developing primary care organisations.
7. A detailed action plan has been developed, covering immunisation programmes across the life course – pre-school, school aged and adult. Ambition targets have been set: to achieve a 5% relative increase in coverage for each programme by March 2021.

Pre-school immunisations

- Immunisations in pre-school children are mostly delivered in primary care. Exceptions are BCG in babies which is delivered on behalf of the maternity unit by GSTT Community team, and the first dose of hepatitis B for babies

- born to hepatitis B positive mothers which is given in the maternity unit.
- Uptake of pre-school immunisations in Southwark generally falls below targets although it is fairly consistent with the rest of London.
- For pre-school immunisations the main areas of work are:
 - Promoting the MMR vaccine to all age groups
 - Improving the process and for hepatitis B in high risk babies
 - Increasing uptake of flu vaccine in 2 and 3 year olds, particularly those at risk

School-aged immunisations

- Immunisations given in schools to school-aged children include HPV, Meningitis ACWY, Td/IPV booster as well as flu.
- In Southwark, immunisations to school-aged children are delivered by HRCH Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare.
- Uptake is generally comparable or better than for London, although recently HPV uptake has decreased.
- For school-aged immunisations the main areas of work are:
 - Improving uptake of HPV in girls and introducing self consent
 - Introducing HPV in boys
 - Improving flu uptake in primary school children with use of e-consent

Adult immunisations

- The routine immunisations offered to adults are Pneumococcal (PPV), shingles and pertussis for pregnant woman while flu is offered to those aged 65+ years of age and to those in clinically at-risk groups.
- All are administered in the GP setting however; PPV and Flu are also commissioned for delivery through pharmacies while a pilot has taken place in 2018 to commission pertussis through maternity clinics in Southwark.
- Coverage for PPV and Shingles in Southwark was lower than the London average and below target.
- For adult immunisations the main areas of work are:
 - Improving uptake and reducing the large variation in shingles uptake by introducing call/recall systems in practices
 - Improving flu uptake in clinically at risk groups

8. We have identified the five key priority areas that we need to focus on in order to achieve our vision over the next two years (2019-2021):

- Reducing inequality and improving uptake in the underserved
- Community engagement and promotion
- Data sharing and quality improvement
- Service delivery, call and recall
- Guidance, training and development

9. Implementation of the action plan has started, with detailed work being undertaken around:

- local guidance for practice call/recall systems
- development of a practice dashboard

- standardizing EMIS searches and coding
 - promotion of MMR
 - improving access for home-schooled children
 - engagement in Latin-American communities
 - improving the consent process in schools
10. Oversight and monitoring of the action plan comes from the Lambeth & Southwark Immunisation Steering Group.

Community impact statement

11. The action plan aims to improve vaccination coverage across the whole of Southwark and across all immunisation programmes. Certain actions will target underserved and low uptake groups specifically, in order to ensure that work reduces inequalities.

Resource implications

12. There are no immediate resource implications as all actions being taken rely on improving current systems and processes, utilizing existing resources and depend on the goodwill of staff working within the field of immunisations to undertake extra work where necessary.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Improving Vaccination Coverage

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kevin Fenton, Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing	
Report Author	Sarah Robinson, Head of Programmes, Health Protection	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 November 2019	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Director of Law and Democracy	No
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No
	Cabinet Member	No
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	7 November 2019