

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 14 December 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	9
SUBJECT:	Health protection update
BOARD SPONSOR:	Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health, Croydon Council

BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:

This report addresses the following local priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Increased healthy life expectancy and reduced differences in life expectancy between communities
- Local organisations will work together to address the factors that drive health problems amongst the poorest and most disadvantaged.
- Everyone’s health will be protected from outbreaks of disease, injuries and major emergencies and remain resilient to harm.
- Earlier diagnosis and intervention means that people will be less dependent on intensive services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No immediate financial implications.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report.
- 1.2 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are requested to actively support the implementation of actions to improve local performance around areas highlighted in the report (BCG, MMR and cancer screening).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 One of the four domains of public health practice is health protection, which includes infectious diseases, chemicals and poisons, radiation, emergency response and environmental health hazards.
- 2.2 The Croydon Health Protection Forum (HPF) was established in July 2015 with the purpose to have a strategic overview of health protection matters and with the aim to provide assurance to the Director of Public Health that arrangements in place to protect the health of residents, are robust and implemented appropriately to local health needs. The health protection issues discussed at the Forum include adult and children immunisation programmes, and national screening programmes.

- 2.3 This report provides an update on Health Protection Forum work since the last report to the board, including agreed actions around TB, BCG, MMR and cancer screening, and plans for the Forum meeting in December.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The Health Protection Forum meets quarterly bringing together various agencies including Croydon Council, Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group, Croydon University Hospital, NHS England, Public Health England and other agencies relevant to the particular theme under discussion.

- 3.2 Following the annual work plan, the September meeting focussed on the National Screening Programmes:

- Antenatal and Newborn Screening – six programmes
- Non-Cancer Screening programmes – Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Diabetic Eye Screening
- Cancer Screening – Bowel, Breast and Cervical

- 3.3 Having an overview of each programme and considering performance, the forum was able to prioritise local actions and agreed the following:

3.3.1 Antenatal and New born Screening programmes

Following recommendations by the Public Health England External Assurance visit earlier this year:

- CHS, CCG and NHSE are to work together to ensure that booking bloods for pregnant women are no longer undertaken by GPs;
- Raise awareness about early booking in maternity service among younger age groups;
- Information is to be provided in other languages;
- CHS, CCG and NHSE to work together to support stopping the use of faxes in making referrals by GPs to the Maternity Unit at Croydon University Hospital.

3.3.2 Diabetic retinopathy/diabetic eye screening (DES)

- Maternity commissioner to work with CUH to ensure that pregnant women with pre-existing diabetes should be screened in each trimester.

3.3.3 Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening

- NHSE to keep partners updated on re-procurement of services.
- Improve communication of AAA eligibility from GPs.

3.3.4 Cancer Screening

- To convene a separate meeting to discuss key priorities and agree actions.

3.4 Updates on actions from previous meetings and task and finish groups are as follows:

3.4.1 TB and BCG update

The January meeting discussed a wide range of issues around TB but focused on neonatal BCG vaccination and latent TB screening. The following issues, priorities and actions were identified:

- There has been a global shortage of BCG vaccine since 2013, which has affected BCG vaccine supply in the UK. Consequently, BCG vaccination was temporarily suspended in Croydon in May 2016, but is due to restart in December 2016. In addition, universal neonatal BCG is due to be rolled out by April 2017.
- A strategy for BCG vaccination is due to be developed jointly by a sub-group of the Health Protection Forum.
- Screening for latent TB infection has been commissioned by Croydon CCG, and a local pathway has been designed.
- It is envisaged that GPs in areas with the highest rates of TB will begin screening individuals at risk of latent TB in early 2017.

3.4.2 MMR Task and Finish Group

The May meeting identified concerns about childhood immunisations and from this a meeting was convened to understand the challenges of MMR/DTaP vaccination in Croydon, identify gaps in the vaccination programme, develop priorities and actions.

The percentage of Croydon children vaccinated by the following birthdays in 2015/16 was:

	1st birthday	2nd birthday	5th birthday
DTaP/IPV/Hib* (primary)	89.6%	91.2%	91.8%
DTaP/IPV (booster)	-	-	76.1%
MMR 1 st dose	-	84.8%	90.2%
MMR 1 st & 2 nd dose	-	-	75.3%

*Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis (whooping cough), Hib

The meeting identified the following areas of work:

- A priority was improving links between the council and NHS England immunisation colleagues. Contacts are being made, including with the looked after children commissioner and Gateway teams, and this is ongoing.
- We are working with NHS England to review GP call and recall processes to improve coverage of the MMR vaccine, they are undertaking a London wide piece of work for good practice due in February. We are working with the NHS England team to see which strategies we can put in motion before this date.
- Robust performance monitoring is key to underpinning a successful immunisation program. Actions were agreed to revisit performance management systems and identify potential areas for improvement in collection and reporting, and underperforming GP practices.

- There are opportunities for better placement of health promotion messages and focused prompts for vaccination in key populations such as gypsies and travellers and women of child bearing age as well as GPs and practice nurses via their networks.
- NHS England has developed monthly web based training for practice nurses due to be rolled out in the New Year.

3.4.3 Cancer Screening

A separate sub-group meeting on cancer screening met in October 2016 to review current rates of cervical, breast and bowel screening in Croydon, gather information on the actions being undertaken by various partners, identify priority areas for action and agree an action plan to increase screening rates.

Areas of good practice to increase screening uptake were identified, such as engagement with GP practices by Cancer Research UK, Macmillan and the CCG's variation team. However, while rates of cervical screening are better than London, rates are lower in those aged under 50, breast screening rates are lower than the London and England averages, and bowel screening rates, while better than London, are significantly lower than the England average. The group agreed that breast and bowel screening should therefore be priorities for action but that engagement in cervical screening among young women could also have an impact on engagement with other screening programme later in life.

Three main areas of action were identified:

- Engagement with GP practices and pharmacies, building on existing good work and communications routes;
- Integrating screening and/or screening awareness raising into other settings, such as schools, the voluntary sector, the Integrated Sexual Health Service and Live Well providers;
- Developing a positive attitude to screening, including general communications and roadshows and engagement of young people through integrating screening awareness into other settings.

In addition, bowel screening has been identified as a priority for the South West London Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

- 3.5 The December meeting of the HPF will be a look back and review of the actions for TB and BCG, screening, and immunisations.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS