

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 JANUARY 2018**

### **UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S IMMUNISATIONS**

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#### **Summary**

The aim of this report is to provide the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the NHS England Commissioned Childhood Immunisation Programme in Medway.

The Committee had previously received a report on the current status of the childhood immunisation programme in Medway at its meeting on 5 October 2017. At this meeting members requested additional clarification from NHS England in relation to the governance and oversight of childhood immunisation programmes in Medway.

This paper describes the measures NHS England have taken to gain assurance that Medway children are being immunised against vaccine preventable diseases. It sets out the steps taken locally to verify that data collection and reporting of immunisation in Medway is accurate. It also provides the Committee with information about the percentage of children in Medway receiving specified vaccinations, as requested by the Committee.

The paper provides an overview of action taken to improve the uptake of immunisations in Medway. It also updates Members on changes to the information management system NHS England use to record and manage childhood immunisations - Child Health Information System (CHIS). As part of a national IT programme, the CHIS IT system is being joined up with other national IT systems that capture information about child health. This change should lead to greater efficiency in terms of recording, reporting and sharing information between all the organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of children in England.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 Achieving a good rate of childhood immunisation contributes to local priorities including: Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority: Giving every

child a good start and Medway Council Local Plan priority: Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential: Healthy and active communities.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 On the 5 October 2017, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing some of the factors that may be contributing to low immunisation rates amongst children in Medway. Following a wide ranging debate, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested further assurance from NHS England of action being taken to improve performance and increase the uptake of childhood vaccination in Medway. At this meeting the Committee also requested further clarification regarding the quality of the data used by NHS England to report on childhood immunisation in Medway. Following discussion of the item, the Committee requested a further report setting out clearly the position of childhood immunisation in Medway and in particular to provide the Committee with Medway childhood immunisation rates as a percentage of children in Medway receiving specified vaccinations.
- 2.2 This paper provides an update on these issues and describes further work being undertaken to improve the delivery of childhood immunisation in Medway.

## **3. Advice and analysis**

- 3.1 NHS England are responsible for commissioning immunisations programmes.
- 3.2 The childhood immunisation programme in Medway is not performing to the required national standards (the national target is 95% of children should be vaccinated within each cohort). Although there have not been any major outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in Medway, there is a need to address the long term decline in performance if herd immunity is to be maintained amongst the Medway population. The current performance in Medway for childhood immunisations is set out in Appendix 1 (tables 1-3).
- 3.3 There are many things that influence the overall proportion of children who receive childhood vaccinations. These include: parental attitudes to immunisation, accessibility of immunisation services, and having in place systematic arrangements to invite children and remind parents to vaccinate their children.
- 3.4 The report set out in Appendix 1 outlines the actions that NHS England are taking to improve childhood immunisations in Medway. These include:
- establishing a Medway immunisations programme board;
  - improving the quality of data collection on children's immunisation in Medway;
  - improving accessibility to children's immunisation services in Medway; and
  - working with providers commissioned to deliver immunisation to improve uptake amongst the population of immunisations.

#### **4. Risk management**

- 4.1 NHS England maintains risk registers relating to the commissioning of childhood immunisation programmes. The NHS England risk register contains a range of control measures focussed on addressing the issues that lead to underperformance of the Medway childhood immunisation programme. Medway Council Public Health Directorate have included the underperformance of the childhood immunisations programme in the Directorate risk register. A joint Medway Childhood Immunisation Board has been established to bring together all local stakeholders and improve performance.

#### **5. Implications for Looked After Children**

- 5.1 In Medway specific tailored arrangements are in place to provide immunisation for all looked after children. Currently rates of immunisation in Medway are inline with the national average for looked after children.

#### **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications for Medway Council arising from this report. All costs associated with the delivery of the childhood immunisation programme rest with NHS England.

#### **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

#### **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 It is recommended the Committee note the actions being taken by NHS England, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to improve the uptake of childhood immunisations in Medway.

#### **Lead officer contact**

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#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Update on Children's Immunisations in Medway

#### **Background papers**

None



## **Appendix 1:**

### **Update on Children's Immunisations in Medway**

#### **Introduction**

In order to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, it is important that sufficient numbers of a population are vaccinated. The term 'Herd Immunity' is used to describe a situation when a high percentage of the population is protected through vaccination against a virus or bacteria. This makes it difficult for a disease to spread because there are few susceptible people left to infect. The proportion of a population which must be immunised in order to achieve herd immunity varies for each disease. The underlying principle is to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and become immune to the diseases.

In England, all children are offered vaccination to protect them against a range of diseases. Initial vaccination programmes start at 8 weeks of age. Children receive some of the most important vaccinations during their early years (age 0-5). This is an important period and critical to build herd immunity to reduce the likelihood of disease outbreaks at a time when they start to mix with other children and potentially become exposed to viruses or bacteria that could cause harm.

#### **Current performance**

The childhood immunisation programme in Medway is not performing to the required national standards (the national target is 95% of children having received each vaccination). Although there have not been any major outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, there is a need to address this long term decline in performance, to maintain herd immunity amongst the Medway population. The current performance in Medway for childhood immunisations can be seen in tables 1-3 below.

There are many things that influence the overall proportion of children who receive childhood vaccinations. These include: parental attitudes to immunisation, accessibility of immunisation services, and having in place systematic arrangements for inviting and reminding parents to vaccinate their children.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

NHS England commissions immunisations programmes on behalf of the Department of Health in England. They are directly responsible for ensuring all childhood immunisation targets are met. NHS England commission providers to deliver the childhood immunisation programme. Providers include General Practitioners (GPs) as well as specialist immunisation teams. The local authority have a role in oversight of population health including assurance (independent challenge and scrutiny) of immunisations arrangements and supporting partnership working in this area.

## **Actions being taken to improve childhood immunisations in Medway**

There are a range of actions being taken to improve childhood immunisations performance in Medway. These are:

### **1. Establishment of a Medway Immunisation Programme Board**

A Medway Immunisation Programme Board has been established and met for the first time in December 2017. The Board will have oversight of the leadership of childhood immunisations programmes in Medway. The Board will also identify and implement actions which partners across Medway can take to increase uptake of childhood immunisations across Medway.

Membership of the Board includes: NHS England (Screening and Immunisation Team), Medway Council Public Health, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Practice Nurses/Managers, Health Protection Team (which investigates and manages outbreaks), Local Medical Committee, Lead for Health Visiting, Children's Centres, Child Health Records Department and input from parents.

Following the first meeting, a Medway action plan to address underperformance has been developed. Key actions include: Parents and health staff to be surveyed to identify barriers to immunisation. Specific work with Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and local GP practices to review and improve arrangements for inviting and reminding parents of child immunisations.

### **2. Plans to improve the quality of child health information system (CHIS)**

Nationally, as part of the Digital Child Health Strategy, there are plans to improve child health through better information sharing. As part of a national IT programme, the CHIS IT system is being joined up with other national IT systems that capture information about child health. This change should lead to greater efficiency in terms of recording, reporting and sharing information between all the organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of children in England.

In addition to this, for Medway, NHS England is reviewing the quality of local immunisations data with the help of external expertise from NHS digital (the organisation responsible for storing and managing NHS data and information). This work includes a detailed plan of action to improve the transfer of immunisation data from GP systems to the data held by the Child Health Information System and NHS England immunisation team.

The Medway Public Health intelligence team are also supporting NHS England by undertaking further analysis of children's immunisations data in Medway. An independent review of the Kent Integrated Database (KID) is being performed. The KID contains a central data record on GP practices in Medway. This analysis will be completed in early 2018 and will provide the Council with an objective view of any data discrepancies should they be present.

### 3. Improving accessibility of immunisation services

NHS England are currently procuring additional ways of offering childhood immunisations to children who have not attended their GP for vaccinations as part of the re-procurement of community and schools based immunisation services for 0 to 19 year olds. This new service will be in place by September 2018.

Feedback from young people and other stakeholders is being used to inform the procurement.

### 4. Working with immunisation providers to improve uptake of immunisations

NHS England is working with existing providers of immunisation services to improve uptake of childhood immunisations. Actions include:

- regular monitoring and feedback to GP practices about immunisations uptake;
- holding providers to account for underperformance (with CCG support); and
- sharing information and best practice.

### Childhood Immunisation Performance

Children receive different vaccinations and boosters at specific ages as part of the NHS routine immunisations programme. Tables 1 to 3 provide an overview of the percentage of children who are immunised (vaccination coverage) for specific conditions for children aged 1, 2 and 5 years in Medway in 2017.

Table 1: For children aged 1 year in April-May 2017

	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis/ polio/haemophilus influenza	Pneumococcus	Rotavirus	Meningitis B
England	93.0	93.3	90.2	92.2
<b>Medway</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>79.1</b>

Table 2: For children aged 2 years in April-May 2017

	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis/ polio/haemophilus influenza	Pneumococcal booster	Haemophilus influenza/ meningitis C	Measles/ mumps/rubella - dose 1
England	95.2	91.0	91.2	91.0
<b>Medway</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>88.7</b>

Table 3: For children aged 5 years in April-May 2017

	Diphtheria/tetanus/ pertussis/polio/ haemophilus influenza	Measles/ mumps/ rubella – dose 1	Measles/ mumps/ rubella - dose 2	Diphtheria/ tetanus/ pertussis/ polio	Haemophilus influenza/ meningitis C
England	96.0	95.6	87.6	86.2	93.0
<b>Medway</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>91.3</b>

Data published by Public Health England, source: Child Health Information System.