

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 9 December 2015
AGENDA ITEM:	8
SUBJECT:	Health Protection Update
BOARD SPONSOR:	Dr Ellen Schwartz, Acting Joint Director of Public Health, Croydon Council
BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
<p>Health protection seeks to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable diseases and minimise the health impact from environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation.</p> <p>Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to protect the health of their population from all hazards, and to prevent as far as possible, those threats arising in the first place. This duty includes advice and information to key agencies on where to target resources to maximum effect.</p> <p>This report informs the Health and Wellbeing Board on current health protection priorities for Croydon's Health Protection Forum.</p>	
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	
None	
1. RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the health protection priorities identified by the Health Protection Forum.</p>	

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a previous update by the Director of the SW London Health Protection Unit, the Board requested annual updates on local health protection issues.

In March 2015, the Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the establishment of a Health Protection Forum for Croydon to advise the director of public health and to facilitate the regular review of health protection priorities, appropriateness of local plans and horizon scanning of potential risks to the local population.

3. DETAIL

The Croydon Health Protection Forum was established in June 2015 and has met twice, in July and September 2015. The main achievements have been the development of a joint communications strategy between local partners on health protection issues and contributions to a local joint Seasonal Flu plan for 2015/16.

Croydon's Health Protection Forum priorities fall in the following categories:

3.1. Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- Childhood infections (measles, mumps, whooping cough, meningococcal disease)
 - Croydon's childhood immunisation rates have consistently been below the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended herd immunity level of 95%. An action plan is in place to increase uptake of immunisations in Croydon through partnership work amongst NHSE, PHE, local authority, CCG and the community provider.
 - There was a fall in uptake of immunisations in Quarters 2 and 3 of 2014/15. This area is being kept under active review and co-operation between NHSE and local partners has been stepped up to improve the situation.

3.2. Sexually Transmitted Infections (including HIV)

- HIV prevalence in Croydon is high (5.1/1000 population)
- A high proportion of people with HIV are diagnosed at a late stage of the infection (57%) and are unlikely to benefit fully from treatment. This is mainly due to the fact that the HIV infection in Croydon is found in risk groups (people of African origin and heterosexual transmission) where HIV is highly stigmatised. Targeted health information and testing has led to an increase in testing activity over the last two years. Continued improvement in this area may lead to a further increase in the detection of people with late stages of HIV infection in the short term before an improvement of this indicator can be expected.
- High rates of diagnosis with gonorrhoea, syphilis and genital herpes.
- Coverage of young people testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea is high and the proportion of young people testing positive for chlamydia continues to increase. This indicates an appropriate targeting of testing services, but also high levels of infection among young people.

3.3. Tuberculosis

- There are moderately high rates of diagnosis with tuberculosis in Croydon, but variations exist across the borough. Relatively high rates of drug resistant TB compared to other boroughs in London.
- Rates of TB in Croydon continue to reduce year on year. Croydon CCG is in the process of implementing screening for latent TB, which will bring down active TB cases in the longer term. Croydon meets the public health outcome framework target of 85% completion of treatment. We aim to broaden awareness with affected communities over the next few months.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The Health Protection Forum is a mechanism whereby the director of public health can engage and consult with relevant local stakeholders and partners.

5. SERVICE INTEGRATION

5.1 The forum enables partners to collaborate and to identify areas where further integration would improve outcomes for local people.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 The forum gives an opportunity to identify negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics and to advise the director of public health on how these may be mitigated.

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