

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 14 September 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	10
SUBJECT:	To provide a quarterly update to the board on the Croydon Health Protection Forum
BOARD SPONSOR:	Rachel Flowers, director of public health, Croydon Council
BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
<p>This report addresses the following local priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.** This report is for information. The health and wellbeing board is asked to note the contents of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

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.

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 An annual work plan has been developed to understand and tackle local health protection issues and support planning of the meetings.
- 3.3 In 2015/2016, the meetings discussed and developed actions for the seasonal flu plan, tuberculosis in Croydon and the joint pandemic flu exercise. An overview of activities of the Forum in 2015/16 was reported to the HWBB in December 2015.

For 2016/2017 the work plan is:

May 2016	Childhood immunisations, overview of programmes and performance, universal neonatal BCG, maternal pertussis and flu, priorities for local action - MMR
September 2016	Local Screening programmes, overview of programmes and performance, local priorities and actions
December 2016	Potential topics: HIV, environmental hazards (air pollution)
March 2017	Review progress for the year

- 3.4 A local dashboard which will be reviewed at each meeting, is in the process of being compiled and will be agreed at the September meeting to give the Forum an overview of performance of local programmes e.g. immunisations, screening programmes, to highlight concerns and agree actions.
- 3.5 The January meeting focused on Tuberculosis (Tb) concentrating on screening, early diagnosis, vulnerable groups, treatment and contact tracing. Latent Tb screening is a service provided by Croydon GPs and is aimed at new entrants to the UK where they have been in the country less than 5 years. The plans and time line for the start of Neonatal Universal BCG screening were discussed.
 - 3.5.1 Actions agreed at the meeting:
 - To produce a briefing paper summarizing Tb services, programmes and who the commissioners are
 - Discuss with sexual health commissioners about opportunistic testing
 - To clarify universal provision of BCG vaccination in Croydon

3.6 The May meeting identified concerns about childhood immunisations. Data since 2013 shows that London has significantly lower uptake of childhood immunisations including MMR2 (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and DTaP, [diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough (pertussis)], when compared to England. NHS England data for Croydon quarter 4 2015/2016 shows that by age 5 years, both the coverage of DTaP (69.6%) and MMR2 (68.9%) is significantly lower than the London average of 77.4% and 80.4% respectively. However, when compared with the same time period in 2014/2015, there is a significant increase in percentage of children aged 5 years whom have had the DTaP and MMR2 vaccinations. In quarter 4 of 2015/2016, of the South West London boroughs, Wandsworth had the highest coverage of MMR2 (87.3%) and Kingston of DTaP (81.3%).

3.6.1 Actions agreed at the meeting:

- To review the “call and recall” process of children for vaccination in Croydon.
- To review the NHS England Croydon Immunisation Action plan 2016/2017 which is underpinned by NHS England’s immunisation strategic objectives to reduce inequalities, improve patient choice and increase immunisation uptake and coverage across London
- To convene a task and finish group to focus on improving MMR vaccinations

3.7 Measles Outbreak: Between February 2016 and 21 August 2016 there were 110 confirmed cases of measles in the South London Boroughs. Of these, 7 were in Croydon with Lambeth having the highest number (50) of cases. Over half of the 110 cases are in those aged 15 years and over. Of the 7 cases in Croydon, 4 are aged 0-14 years and 3 cases are in the 15-44 age group.

3.7.1 A press release from PHE England urged parents to have their children vaccinated. Locally, letters went out to all schools and colleges notifying them of the outbreak, highlighting the importance of vaccination and signposting where to access vaccinations.

CONTACT OFFICER: Dawn Cox, Public Health Principal, Croydon Council
Dawn.cox@croydon.gov.uk; 020 8726 6000 x 84489

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: Nil