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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>   | <b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON)</b><br><b>30 October 2019</b>  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>   | <b>Health Protection update: Immunisation Steering Group and Annual Seasonal Flu Plan (For Information only)</b> |
| <b>BOARD SPONSORS:</b>  | <b>Rachel Flowers</b><br><b>Director of Public Health</b>  |
| <b>BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b><br>HWBB strategy priorities and outcomes, in particular 'A better start in life' (Priority 1) and 'A stronger focus on prevention' (Priority 7)   |  |
| <b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b><br><br>All actions within the draft Seasonal Flu Plan will be absorbed within current resources, hence there are no financial implications.  |  |
| <b>1 RECOMMENDATIONS:</b><br><br>1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report and to encourage its members to work in an integrated manner regarding the delivery of the actions derived from the draft Seasonal Flu Action Plan. |  |

## 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the four domains of public health practice is health protection.

It is the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority Director of Public Health to obtain assurance from partners across the system that the health of the local population is protected from communicable disease as well as environmental hazards.

- 2.1 The Croydon Health Protection Forum (HPF) was established in July 2015 as the local mechanism by which to deliver against this statutory duty. It does so by:
- Obtaining & feeding back to members, a strategic overview of current and emerging health protection matters
  - Seeking assurance that arrangements currently in place to protect the health of residents are robust and implemented appropriately to local health needs.
- 2.2 The health protection issues discussed at the Forum include (but are not limited to) adult and child immunisation programmes, national screening programmes.
- 2.3 This report seeks to inform The Board that the Croydon Immunisations Steering Group, as a subsidiary group of the HPF, has undertaken system wider work to develop a local seasonal flu action plan.

2.4 The seasonal flu action plan follows a coordinated and evidence-based approach to planning for the demands of flu across Croydon and is one part of a wider winter preparedness work stream. Flu vaccination aims at reducing the transmission of seasonal flu across the community, and to minimise disruption of care to vulnerable people.

2.5 A brief summary of flu vaccination rates in Croydon residents in Croydon for 18/19 are illustrated in the table below:

| Population group<br>(and 2019/20 target)            | Vaccination rate<br>(%)     | London<br>vaccination rate<br>(%) | GP Variation                |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Over the age of 6 months with a long-term condition | 45.5%                       | 44.4%                             | 35.1% to 65.6%              |
| Aged 2-3 years (>50%)                               | 32.5%                       | 32.4%                             | n/a                         |
| Reception to Year 5<br>(aged 4-10 years) (65%)      | 53.8%                       | 49.4%                             | n/a                         |
| Aged 65 and over (75%)                              | 65.0%                       | 65.4%                             | 49.9% to 78.2%              |
| Women who are pregnant (55%)                        | 41.1%                       | 39.1%                             | 21.4% to 65.6%              |
| Living in care                                      | No data currently available | No data currently available       | No data currently available |
| Carers  | 32.3%                       | Not available on Immform          | 8.1% to 83.3%               |
| Frontline health and social care workers            | 60.0%                       | Not available on Immform          | 42.5% - 71.1%               |

Sources:

Where possible, figures taken from publicly released data <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-gp-patients-winter-2018-to-2019> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-primary-school-age-winter-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/annual-national-flu-programme-2019-to-2020-1.pdf>

Where unavailable (carers, healthcare workers and GP variation), figures taken directly from Immform website <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

2.6 There is a particular risk of severe illness from flu for the following cohorts:

- older people
- the very young
- pregnant women
- those with underlying disease, particularly chronic respiratory or cardiac disease
- those who are immunosuppressed

2.7 Croydon's systems approach to flu is based on a strong partnership approach between the CCG, Public Health, more recently the Immunisation Steering Group and local stakeholders. This winter, there are no issues anticipated with the supply chain nor with venues (such as GP practices and pharmacies) having access to adequate supplies of flu vaccinations.

2.8 Eligibility criteria for free flu vaccination have recently been widened by NHS England to include an extension of the programme to children in school year 6. This means that all primary school aged children will now be offered the vaccine for the first time in England.

- 2.9 The local draft action plan has proposed work streams covering the following areas:
- Work with national and regional teams to ensure local delivery of ambitions and targets
  - Work in partnership with local providers to establish a multi-agency steering group
  - Communication (joint communication is being planned between the CCG, Public Health and local partners)
  - General Practice Preparedness
  - School Age Children
  - Care Home Residents and Staff
  - Frontline Health Care Workers (FHCW)
  - Monitoring Performance & Improving Reporting
- 2.10 In addition to the local action plan, Croydon CCG submitted a local action plan to NHS England, as part of their annual requirement around flu planning. The local version includes reference to the Croydon system approach.
- 2.11 The London region of NHS England have developed some local targets which include the following:
- To increase vaccination uptake rates in clinical 'at risk' groups (6 months to 64 years) to 50%
  - To increase vaccination uptake rates of >65s in London to 2018/19 national level of 71.3%
  - To increase vaccination uptake rates of pregnant women to 2018/19 national level of 45%
  - To increase delivery of child 'flu vaccination services across all primary school year groups and increase uptake to >50%
  - To attain 40% national standard for age 2 and age 3 child 'flu vaccinations in general practice
  - To streamline the time-consuming multiple reporting processes on 'flu vaccination rates during 'flu season
  - To assure that all general practices are prepared for the extra demand and capacity that 'flu vaccinations place on winter primary care services
  - To increase uptake amongst frontline health care workers to 80% including primary care staff
  - To improve access to vaccinations for London's homeless population by bringing vaccinations to them via pharmacy, general practices that specialise in caring for the homeless populations and voluntary organisations that do outreach work
- 2.12 Consistent communication and awareness raising to staff groups across Croydon is being planned. This communication will be targeted at staff who work with high risk groups such as those working with patients, young people, disabled people and older people.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Feedback has been collated from members of local and regional organisations involved in the commissioning and provision of flu vaccinations as well as allied partners as part of the immunisations steering group processes.

### **4. SERVICE INTEGRATION**

- 4.1 Both the immunisation steering group, and the flu action plan require a continuation of close synergy between all partners involved, CCG, Croydon Council, NHSE, Public Health England, and local stakeholders committed to delivering this work stream.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 All actions within the draft Seasonal Flu Plan will be absorbed within current resources, hence there are no direct financial implications from this report

*Approved by: Josephine Lyseight, Head of Finance on behalf of Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and S151 Officer*

### **6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that there are no further legal considerations arising from this report.

*Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer*

### **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 7.1 The flu action plan aims to address inequalities and improve outcomes of all those with protected characteristics. Improved vaccination rates protects vulnerable members of society who are the most at risk if there is an outbreak of flu and may lack protection if they are unable to have vaccination due to underlying conditions.

- 7.2 There is a particular risk of severe illness from flu in the following cohorts:

- Older people
- The very young
- Pregnant women

*Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager*

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**CONTACT OFFICER:**

Dr Ellen Schwartz, Consultant in Public Health, Croydon Council  
[Ellen.schwartz@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Ellen.schwartz@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 Ext. 61644

Bernadette Alves, Consultant in Public Health, Croydon Council  
[Bernadette.alves@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Bernadette.alves@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 Ext. 61317

Damian Brewer Public Health Principal, Croydon Council  
[damian.brewer@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:damian.brewer@croydon.gov.uk)

**APPENDICES**

None

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None