

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **UPDATE ON THE 'SLOUGH LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR IMMUNISATION' AND SCREENING**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide an update on the Slough immunisation and screening work since the last update to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

##### **2. Recommendations**

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Review the proposed Local Action Plan for Immunisation which aims to ensure that appropriate actions are in place, which are tailored to the needs of Slough and all key stakeholders are working collaboratively addressing the relatively lower uptake and health inequalities in immunisation.
2. Request a further annual update on the Local Action Plan for Immunisation and screening update in 2021.
3. Review the update on the national and local screening efforts.

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

###### **3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The current programme is aimed at supporting local residents to improve their health and wellbeing through improved prevention from disease, disability, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases in children and adults as provided through the national immunisation programmes. In particular, this work supports the Wellbeing board strategy priorities:

- Priority 1- Starting well
- Priority 3 - Strong Health and attractive communities

Data from the immunisation activities contribute to further developing the base of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and understanding the needs and health inequalities of our population.

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The primary outcomes where delivery will be enhanced by the paper are:

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

### 4. **Other Implications**

#### (a) Financial

There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report and outlined activities are within the current budget and resources.

#### (b) Risk Management - None

There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions.

#### (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications to the content of this report

#### (d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The content of this report does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

### 5. **Supporting Information**

#### **Background**

- 5.1 Historically, Slough has had some of the lowest uptake of screening and immunisation programmes in the South East of England, contributing to poor health in both adults and children and health inequalities. Over the last 5 years, there have also been various changes in the organisation of the commissioning and delivery nationally. The combined annual report in Jan 2019, for the first time, outlined the picture of immunisations and screening in Slough, their current provision, the challenges and opportunities and the future plans. This annual report was presented to Health Scrutiny in June 2019. The 2020 annual report is on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- 5.2 While NHS England is responsible for commissioning screening and immunisation programmes in England, locally across Thames Valley this is co-ordinated and managed across by the Public Health Commissioning team at NHS England, South East under an agreement known as Section 7a. Through concerted local partnership

working, there has been some encouraging progress in recent years however considerable challenges remain across the various immunisation and screening programmes in Slough.

## **Immunisations**

### **Local Action Plan**

- 5.3 Slough Borough Council continues to chair the local immunisation partnership which is made up of key local providers from NHS England (NHSE), East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (EBCCG), Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) and Healthwatch Slough. The partnership work was initially paused during the first coronavirus lockdown due to the redeployment of staff and change in priorities of associated organisations. The work is re-launching on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- 5.4 The most up to date 'Slough Local Action Plan for immunisations' is attached as **Appendix 1**. A few of the key highlights from the last 12 months are highlighted below:
- The partnership ran the first ever immunisation conference in the borough. This was held in October 2019 with c.50 attendees from across the health and care system. The partnership is exploring the options of running another conference in 2021.
  - In spring 2020 the partnership re-launched the #IamVaccinated campaign with an initial focus on MMR catch ups following lockdown, followed by the flu vaccination for the 2020/21 winter
  - A comprehensive flu plan has been developed for the 20/21 winter in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. This flu plan is attached as **Appendix 2**.
  - The partnership, working alongside colleagues in primary care, was successful in securing the alternative non gelatine based childhood flu vaccine for primary school children from National NHS team. This has now been expanded under the current national enhanced NHS flu offer for 2020/21, and the school immunisations team are working on plans to administer locally. (See 5.5)
  - Working alongside Slough Borough Council's HR team, the partnership was able to influence decision makers to offer the flu jab to all council staff (outside of those that can access the free NHS vaccine).

### **Coronavirus vaccine**

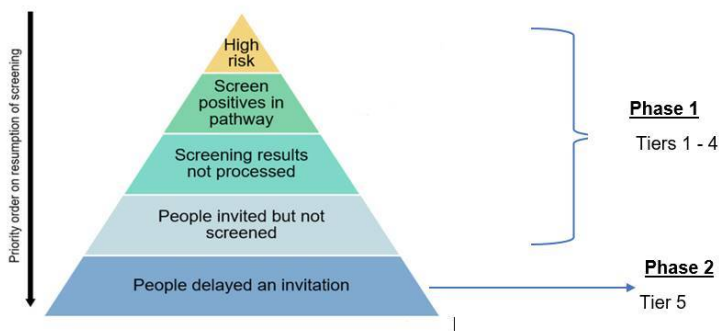
- 5.5 Leading vaccine candidates for the COVID vaccine remains in phase 3 trial to understand efficacy. Development of the mass delivery of the vaccine sits with NHS and administration is being organised at Frimley Integrated Care System (ICS) level. The vaccination is planned to start in December 2020. There is a prioritisation framework as to who would be offered vaccine first. The local authority is supporting this work and helping identify potential vaccination sites. Slough Public Health team will be promoting the comms messaging to the Slough residents in line with the system wide communication plan.

## Screening – National update

- 5.6 All screening services were temporarily affected by the COVID pandemic, however a clear set of national principles were drawn up that informed the plan to restore and recover local screening services.
- 5.7 All screening services were asked to prioritise activity as outlined in Figure 1 below. This ensured a consistent approach, with emerging capacity used first for people at highest risk first.

**Figure 1.**

### Priority order for restoration of screening



## Cancer Screening

- 5.8 All women in Tiers 1-4 (see Figure 1) within breast screening have now been seen. Invitations are now being sent out as normal and services are working through the backlog in tier 5 of women who were delayed an invitation.
- 5.9 A short pause was implemented in April and May for cervical screening invitations but these are now being sent out within the normal parameters. Screening has continued within primary care where possible throughout the pandemic and practices are being encouraged to clear any backlogs of women who were delayed an appointment following an invite, or who chose to defer an appointment due to concerns relating to COVID. Hospital colposcopy services also continued throughout the pandemic.
- 5.10 Invitations for the bowel screening programme were switched off and have now restarted. Prior to routine invitations being switched on again services focused on clearing those in tiers 1-4 of the pyramid above.

## **Non Cancer Screening**

- 5.11 Invitations have resumed for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening following an initial pause. Diabetic Eye Screening has also resumed for routine invitations with those considered high risk e.g. pregnant women seen throughout in line with national guidance on prioritisation.

## **Antenatal and Newborn Screening**

- 5.12 All Antenatal and Newborn Screening programmes have been maintained throughout the pandemic.

## **Screening – Slough Update**

- 5.13 The East Berkshire CCG has been working with the Thames Valley Cancer Alliance (TVCA) and has locally signed the cancer Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) with primary care to support the Quality Improvement Scheme. The LCS aims to improve cancer screening and early cancer diagnosis. In Slough, all 16 GP practices have signed up to the LCS.
- 5.14 The new Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) used both for screening and for patients with symptoms was rolled out in October 2019 and is already contributing to the improvement in the uptake of screening and diagnoses in bowel cancer.
- 5.15 Current local data shows 4 practices are achieving national target which is 60%. The highest uptake in Slough is 79.19%. Although screening was stopped during the COVID period, it has now resumed and the practices are now on track to reach pre-covid figures.

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

- 6.1 The 'Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisation' and 'Annual Report on Immunisations and Screening in Slough – Jan 2019' was presented to both the Slough Wellbeing Board and Slough Health & Care Partnership Board who welcomed the recommendations for a Local Action Plan.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1.1 Immunisation uptake remains a significant challenge within Slough. There has been a positive change, although the overall uptake remains lower than the national and Berkshire uptake.
- An increase in uptake of flu for age 2-3 (37.3% 2019/20 up from 28.0% in 2017/18)
  - Two dose MMR (87.7% 2019/20 up from 81.1% in 2017/18)
  - Hib/Men C (89.1% in 2019/20 up from 87.2% in 2017/18)

7.1.2 Other vaccine uptake (Including adult flu vaccine (Including at risk groups and pregnant women), HPV vaccine and DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and pertussis) remain a challenge. The national Immunisation programme provides important opportunities for protecting health and wellbeing and preventing avoidable disease in Slough with cost-effective and evidence-based interventions. However, their uptake also acts as marker of health inequality in certain groups which we must be vigilant to.

7.1.3 Slough Public Health is leading local partners to implement the Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisations (Appendix 1). We would welcome an annual review and hope to see an increase in overall immunisation uptake and reduction of inequalities across key groups.

7.1.4 Screening was significantly impacted by Covid -19 and there may be further impacts as we move through wave two - the challenge, over the next 18 months, for primary care which is already under pressure supporting Covid-19 management, will be to 'catch-up' on all the screening appointments that have been delayed by the pandemic and to encourage residents to re-engage with the screening programme.

## 8. **Appendices**

1. Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisations
2. Slough flu plan 2020/21

## 9. **Background Papers**

None