

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tim Howells, Public Health, Slough Borough Council  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875144

Dr Liz Brutus - Service Lead Public Health (SBC)

**WARDS:** All

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **UPDATE ON IMMUNISATIONS AND THE SLOUGH LOCAL ACTION**

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

1.1 Provide an update on the immunisation uptake work in Slough and the Slough Local Action Plan that was presented to the Board on 26 Mar 2019.

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

The Board is recommended to:

1. Take note of the current work happening across the system for immunisation, including the work of the Slough Immunisation Partnership.
2. Review the current draft of the Local Action Plan for Immunisations to ensure it has actions tailored to the needs of Slough and relevant partners are addressing the relatively lower uptake and health inequalities in immunisation.

##### **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 as provided through the national immunisation programmes. In particular, this work supports the Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities

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. The JSNA**

###### **3c. 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. **Summary**

During the past year we have been able to galvanise the boroughs work and approach to immunisation uptake.

Historically, Slough has had challenges with vaccination, which includes low rates of Flu and MMR uptake, as well as pockets of challenges with the HPV vaccination and other childhood vaccinations contributing to poor health in both adults and children and our health inequalities. This led to the formation of the Slough Immunisation Partnership, which was a partnership formed between Slough Borough Council, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT), the Berkshire shared public health team, the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the NHS.

This work has included the first ever Slough Immunisation Partnership Conference, the growth of the #IamVaccinated campaign, new local insight research and other key projects led by BHFT and the CCG.

#### 6.0 **Supporting Information**

##### **Background**

- 6.1 While NHS England is responsible for commissioning screening and immunisation programmes in England. Locally this is co-ordinated and managed across Thames Valley 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.

## **Slough Immunisation Partnership and the Local Action Plan**

- 6.2 A small working group has been established and formed a cohesive partnership to support immunisations across the system. The working group has met numerous times throughout the year and includes representation from Slough Borough Council public health, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the Berkshire shared public health team, NHS England and more recently, Healthwatch Slough.
- 6.3 Slough Public Health, supported by the immunisation partnership, has created the Local Action Plan for immunisations. It is in the Appendix but its key objectives and areas of focus are summarised below.
- 6.4 The objectives of the Local Action Plan over the next 18 months (ie. to end of Apr 2021) are to (1) Increase overall immunisation uptake and coverage for Slough residents and (2) Reduce inequalities across Slough's population groups. The main areas of action are:
- Galvanising the Immunisation system in Slough
  - Understanding population need
  - Improving data quality & sharing of data
  - Reducing variation in Immunisation Coverage
  - Improving uptake in agreed priority groups
  - Increasing awareness and addressing vaccine hesitancy

## **Slough Immunisation Partnership Conference**

- 6.5 One of the first and larger roles of the new Slough Immunisation Partnership was the planning and delivery of the first ever Slough Immunisation Partnership Conference. The conference was designed to help highlight the issues in Slough, to share good news stories and best practise, and to create a shared vision of immunisation for the future
- 6.6 Held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, the conference had just under 50 attendee's from across the system and included representation from all corners of health including primary and secondary care, the voluntary sector and key local and regional partners who have a role in helping shape the health of local residents.
- 6.7 The conference included a range of presentations from local GP practices, the Slough Primary Care Network status, the link with Immunisations and our behaviour change programme (Active Movement), regional and national overviews and a variety of group tasks which have helped grow and expand the Local Action Plan. It was agreed that this will become an annual event.
- 6.8 We have created a bespoke page on our new Public Health website which allows people to download the presentations, view the group work notes and links to the wider immunisation work. It is available here:  
<https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/immunisation-partnership-conference/>

## **Slough Health Beliefs insight project**

- 6.9 Throughout the first half of 2019 the Public Health team, supported by the Leisure Team, commissioned an appreciative enquiry research project to better understand the health of local residents, their attitudes towards health and how we can better support people to look after their own health. The project focused on the key underlying issues that we face from a health perspective in Slough, one of which was immunisations.
- 6.10 To gauge awareness residents were asked whether they thought a range of statements about vaccinations were true or false. An example of some of those outcomes are as follows:
- Just under six in ten (58%) residents were aware that the chance of having a severe reaction to the MMR vaccine is around 1 in 1 million. with 16% of residents believing this statement to be false.
  - 37% of the population believe that vaccine preventable diseases are just part of childhood, that natural immunity is better than vaccine related immunity. This figure rises to 43% for those from an Asian background and falls to 32% for those from a White background.
  - 19% of the population believe that vaccines cause autism and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. This rises to 30% amongst the 25-34yr old population.
- 6.11 Residents were also asked to indicate from a list of possible sources, where they would have gone for advice on vaccinations if they had needed it. The majority would go/have gone to their GP; nine in ten indicated this. This rises to 97% for those aged 65 and over.
- 6.12 For the full immunisation related outcomes of the research project please refer to the link in 6.9 above.

## **Child Health Information Services**

- 6.14 NHS South, Central and West (SCW) Child Health Information Services (CHIS) offer support to local GP practices by:
- Continually validating the 0-19 population database with the patient demographic service data
  - Having a database within SCW CHIS IT System that tracks children across the whole of the South Central region
  - Sending weekly lists to general practices informing them of all of the children for who we have sent an invitation letter to and for which immunisation they are due
  - Continuing to recall children (send parents/ carers an invitation letter) every 28 days until either the immunisations have been given or we are in receipt of an official parental/ guardian refusal document
  - On a monthly basis CHIS send a report to general practices highlighting all of the children under 6 years, within their practice who have missing immunisations
- 6.15 The Thames Valley NHS England commissioned SCW's Improving Immunisation Uptake Team (IIU) work across the Thames Valley to reduce the significant variation

in immunisation uptake between general practices and to increase overall immunisation rates to achieve effective health protection for children. The IIU team facilitate multi-professional practice meetings with the aim of:

- Reviewing practice-wide processes
- Producing and providing products to support the practice's delivery of the immunisation programme; including customisable templates to capture child immunisation details and a general practice toolkit containing key reference and signposting information
- Identifying a practice administration lead to oversee and monitor the immunisation programme by reviewing and cleansing the data in accordance with reports provided by SCW, following up non-attenders who were not responding to SCW invitation letters and deregistering identified ghost patients.

6.16 Since being in post the team have delivered a significant reduction in the variation of immunisation uptake across the Thames Valley and there has been an overall increase in uptake of childhood immunisations.

### **BHFT Inequalities Nurse**

6.17 Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have recently recruited a new "Health Inequalities Nurse 0-19 (25)". This new role, which started in October, will involve engaging, educating and empowering families regarding immunisations and raising the awareness of and promoting immunisations generally (from the childhood immunisation schedule) through partnership working across Reading and Slough. This new role can administer immunisations for the age cohort of 5-19yrs for hard to reach/vulnerable children who are struggling to access their GP surgery – this includes home/community visits. The age cohort up to 25yrs old relates to SEN schools. For children under 5 years old the focus will be on empowering and educating the families regarding immunisations

6.18 The new Inequalities nurse will also be responsible for:

- Managing and leading on outbreaks of infectious diseases pan Berkshire
- Linking with the Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team
- Immunisation updates/training for health care professionals (and also education for families/communities on immunisations)

### **#IamVaccinated**

6.19 The Public Health team has also been working on expanding the #IamVaccinated campaign. This campaign, which is now 12months old, is the front facing platform for all the work that is done around increasing immunisation uptake in Slough. Through the work of the research project and the outcomes from the conference we will be working on expanding on this campaign to target specific areas and specific communities in 2020.

6.20 More information on the campaign can be found at [www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/iamvaccinated](http://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/iamvaccinated)

## 7.0 **Comments of Other Committees**

- 7.1 This Update paper for Immunisations has not yet been seen by other committees but the original paper, '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. An update on immunisations and the launch of the Local Action Plan was presented to Health Scrutiny in January 2019 which approved its development.

## 8.0 **Conclusion**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Slough Public Health is leading local partners to implement this working version of the attached Local Action Plan for Immunisations. We would welcome review every 6 months and hope to see an increase in overall immunisation uptake and reduction of inequalities across key groups.

## 8. **Appendix**

1. Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisations – working draft (01.11.19)

## 9. **Background Papers**

None