

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19 JULY 2018
SEASONAL FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the performance of the seasonal flu immunisation programme 2017/18 and the effectiveness of work to improve uptake rates.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) scrutinise the local approach to seasonal flu vaccinations in Nottingham and work to increase uptake in target groups; and
 - b) identify any recommendations for improvement to inform the seasonal flu immunisation programme 2018/19.

3 Background information

- 3.1 NHS England is responsible for commissioning the seasonal flu immunisation programme and providing system leadership. Contracts to provide immunisation services are held with a range of providers including GP practices, school aged providers and pharmacies. The effectiveness of the programme depends on the uptake of the vaccine being high and equitable across the eligible population. In support of this, the NHS England team has a role in supporting providers as well as monitoring uptake and taking action where uptake could be improved, whilst acknowledging that vaccination is also a choice for those eligible to receive it.
- 3.2 The Local Authority Director of Public Health has an assurance function in relation to ensuring immunisation arrangements are fit for purpose and delivering service of high quality. Locally, work takes place through the Health Protection Strategy Group which has an oversight role.
- 3.3 Over the last few years the Committee has focused on reviewing performance of the seasonal flu immunisation programme because it not only impacts on the individual but also contributes to reducing winter pressures on health and social care services.
- 3.4 In July 2017 the Committee reviewed the seasonal flu immunisation programme 2016/17 and noted that while Nottingham had seen an increase in uptake in 5 of the 6 cohorts then eligible for receiving a

vaccination, the only cohort performing better than the England average was for those aged 65 years and older; and the gap between the national and local uptake rates for those aged 2, 3 and 4 years old was particularly wide. The Committee reviewed the proposed actions for improving uptake during the 2017/18 season and requested that performance of the 2017/18 immunisation programme be reported to the Committee so that the effectiveness of those actions could be assessed.

- 3.5 A report prepared by NHS England and Local Authority Public Health is attached reviewing the seasonal flu immunisation programme 2017/18.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 NHS England North Midlands Screening and Immunisation Team
Review of Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Immunisation Programme 2017-2018

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Reports to and minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 October 2016 and 20 July 2017.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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