

Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board
24 January 2023

Report Title:	Update from the Health Protection Board
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Executive Summary: This report is provided to the Board to provide an update on the statutory responsibilities to assure adequate protection of the health of the local population.	
Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication? No	
Recommendation(s): The Board is asked to: Note the report	

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	
Aims and Priorities	How the recommendation(s) contribute to meeting the Aims and Priorities:
Aim 1: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham through addressing the wider determinants of health and enabling people to make healthy decisions	Providing assurance on adequate services to protect the health of population contributes to increasing healthy life expectancy.
Aim 2: To reduce health inequalities by having a proportionately greater focus where change is most needed	
Priority 1: Smoking and Tobacco Control	
Priority 2: Eating and Moving for Good Health	

Priority 3: Severe Multiple Disadvantage	
Priority 4: Financial Wellbeing	
How mental health and wellbeing is being championed in line with the Board's aspiration to give equal value to mental and physical health:	

List of background papers relied upon in writing this report:	Attendance, presentations and draft minutes of the Health Protection Board.
Published documents referred to in this report:	N/A

Background

The statutory assurance role at local level for health protection sits with local government through the Director of Public Health and is exercised through the Health Protection Board, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). For Nottingham and Nottinghamshire there is a joint Health Protection Board, chaired in annual rotation by a Director of Public Health. The Terms of Reference are attached for reference.

The purpose of the Health Protection Board is to:

1. Provide suitable assurance regarding outcomes and arrangements for the protection of the health of the population to Nottingham City HWBB and Nottinghamshire County HWBB.
2. Provide system challenge.
3. Facilitate information sharing and collaborative working between stakeholders.
4. Ensure health protection opportunities for early intervention are maximised.
5. Make recommendations for action where opportunities for improvement are identified.

Update from meeting held on 18 December 2023

Screening

As reported from previous meetings, screening programmes were back to business as usual (BAU) activity, with some maintained COVID-19 measures.

- Screening for aortic aneurysm at NUH was described as a high performing service, based on uptake for 2022/23. Of positive note was uptake for men living in the most deprived three deciles as it was the third highest in England for this cohort. Work was taking place to encourage higher uptake in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
- NUH were performing well with their diabetic eye screening programme and uptake had increased. To improve on this further, NUH had appointed a patient engagement officer to carry out community engagement and targeted work with practices who had high 'did not attend' (DNA) numbers.
- There were currently no performance concerns with the bowel cancer screening programme. Work was taking place at NUH, through a phased approach, to age-extend the programme to 54+ as of November 2023 and then to phase in those age 50 and 52 from April 2024.
- The NHS antenatal and new-born screening programme had no performance concerns locally. NUH were carrying out a late-booking audit with a view to engaging the community champions in work to encourage earlier booking onto maternity care.

The meeting received a separate report on breast screening services. It was reported that following the return to BAU and timed appointments, NUH had seen an improvement in uptake with coverage catching up with the nationally acceptable threshold of 70%. It was reported that initiatives to increase uptake and reduce health inequalities included working with the ICB to identify the protected characteristics of patients being called for screening so that reasonable adjustments could be planned and offered. Other initiatives to increase uptake included text messaging, extended hours and longer appointments where needed. Going forward NUH would be working with the Public Health team at the City Council to further develop their community outreach.

Immunisation and vaccinations

It was reported that delegation of vaccination services to ICBs had been delayed and was now expected to occur in April 2025. Other key points to note were:

- The long-awaited National Immunisation Strategy had been released on 13 December 2023.
- The new provider of the school-aged immunisation service (SAIS), Intrahealth, was carrying out their programme of influenza (flu) vaccinations in schools.
- A new provider of Child Health Information Services (CHIS) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, South Central West NHS CSU, commenced on 1 December 2023 were planning to work closely with primary care to increase uptake and decrease inequalities.

- The Nottingham City MMR Plan was submitted to NHSE Midlands in October 2023. An MMR working had been set up to develop, and deliver on, a detailed action plan. In 2022/23, uptake of one dose of MMR as measured at two years old was 84.9% in Nottingham City, as compared to the England average of 89.3%. Uptake of two doses, measured at five years old in Nottingham City was 75.1%, as compared to the England average of 84.5%.
- The HPV one-dose schedule (instead of the previous two doses) commenced in September 2023. It was hoped that locally, this would increase the number of young people who were fully immunised thus enabling finite resources to be used for targeting low-uptake cohorts.
- The new shingles immunisation schedule commenced in September 2023.

Influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations

A verbal report indicated that flu vaccine uptake so far was lower than in previous years and was lower in Nottingham City than in Nottinghamshire. Local uptake data of flu and Covid-19 vaccinations would not be released officially until the season ended and data had been verified.

However, the national data for the current season showed that flu vaccination uptake had been declining year-on-year since 2021/22 with poor uptake in the at-risk and pregnancy population. Table 1 shows flu uptake nationally, as at 31 December 2023, and compared with the same point in the last two years, indicating a lower level of protection from flu than is desirable.

Table 1 – National flu vaccination uptake data year-on-year as at the end of week 52 each year (31 December)

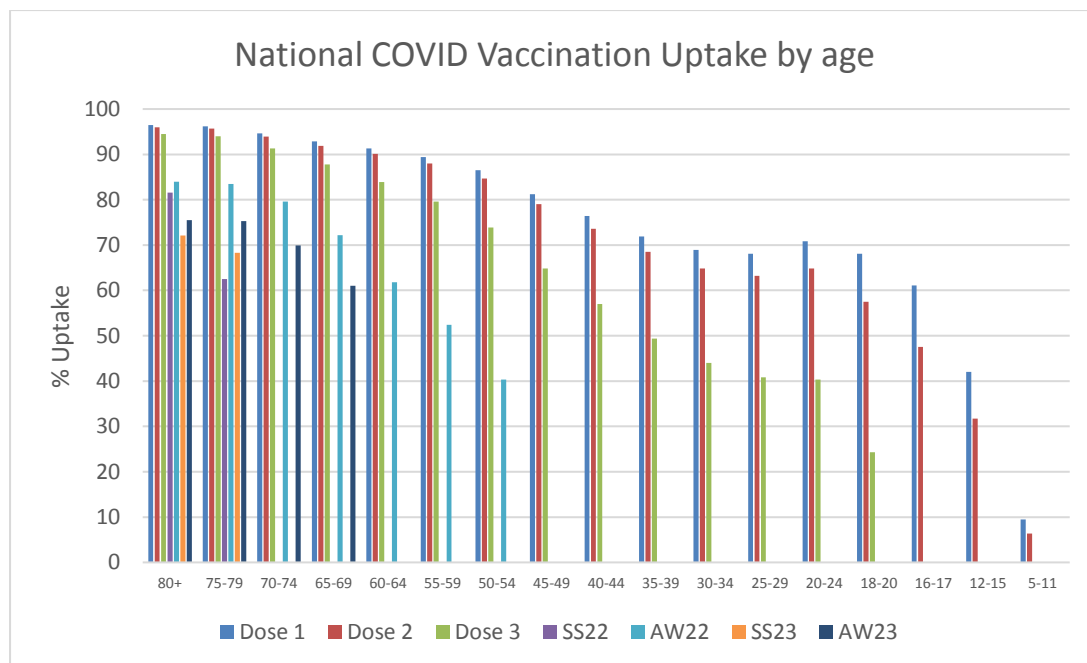
In-year as of 31 December	Flu vaccination age				
	2 years old	3 years old	Under 65 - at risk	Pregnant	65 and over
23/24	42.9	43.0	40.1	30.7	76.9
22/23	39.6	41.9	46.1	33.0	78.3
21/22	46.5	48.9	49.0	37.0	81.3

Source: UKHSA

Locally, a flu pilot had taken place with two- and three-year-olds, delivering the vaccination in nurseries. It was reported that this was being evaluated and that the results and lessons learned would be shared with partners.

Regarding Covid-19 vaccinations, the national data for the current campaign showed that there were fewer people being vaccinated with each campaign. As of, 13 December 2023, 55% of the eligible population of over-65s nationally had received the Autumn Covid-19 booster vaccination. Uptake was lower in more deprived populations and in communities of Black or Pakistani heritage. Table 2 details uptake nationally for each vaccination and booster campaign through to Autumn/Winter 2023 (AW23) by age as of 31 December 2023.

Table 2 – Covid-19 vaccination uptake by vaccination and / or booster campaign aggregated by age as of 31 December 2023



Source: UKHSA

UKHSA Health Protection Team update

It was reported that, despite the measles case reported nationally, none had been recorded in Nottingham or Nottinghamshire and numbers of scarlet fever cases remained lower than at the same point in 2022.

An updated version of the East Midlands Outbreak Management Plan was presented that reflected updated guidance and organisational roles and responsibilities. The plan had been submitted to the LHRPs across the East Midlands for sign-off.

Sexual health

The meeting received a report which discussed the lower-than-average rates of new STI diagnoses including syphilis and gonorrhoea, with no significant change being noticed since the pandemic. The report also highlighted the good work that NUH was going prescribing long-acting reversible contraceptives. Challenges were acknowledged regarding late diagnosis of HIV as well as with Chlamydia screening rates in 15-24s, and STI testing more generally. The low uptake of HPV vaccination among young people was also noted as a concern.

It was agreed that the priorities for 2024 were to:

- Increase early diagnosis of HIV.
- Improve ethnicity coding to allow for targeting to decrease health inequalities.
- Increase health promotion, outreach and co-production.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 4 March 2024 and would include:

- A presentation on the health aspects of private sector housing.
- A report on antimicrobial resistance.
- Aiming for zero tolerance for HCAs.
- TB in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.