

APPENDIX 3: Paper submitted to the LGPPCC on Friday 30th September

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION - A PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT AN INCREASE AN UPTAKE

INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines a plan to support Primary Care to improve the uptake of childhood immunisations and achieve the WHO target of 95% within 2 years.

The plan has been developed to mitigate the emerging impact of changes around the commissioning arrangements with Health Visiting provision. These changes have added to a pre-existing challenge of reaching recommended childhood immunisation uptake levels. Sub-optimal levels of immunisation increases the risk of preventable disease and associated morbidity. A recent outbreak of measles in north Hackney and the death of an unimmunised child from Haemophilus influenza in 2015 are evidence of a situation which, if not tackled, may escalate.

CONTEXT

The UK Childhood immunisations programme includes a series of vaccines given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks and at 1 year and 3 years four months of age:

8 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks	1 year	3yrs 4 months
5in1*	5in1* 2 nd dose	5in1* 3 rd dose		
Pneumococcal (PCV)		Pneumococcal (PCV) 2 nd dose	Pneumococcal (PCV) 3 rd dose	
Rotavirus	Rotavirus 2 nd dose			
Men B		Men B 2 nd dose	Men B 3 rd dose	
			Hib/Men C**	
			Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)	Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) 2 nd dose

*5-in-1 vaccine – a single jab to protect against: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis), polio and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

**Hib/ Men C vaccine - a single jab to protect against meningitis C (first dose) and Hib (fourth dose)

The above schedule requires infants to have 7 injections by 1 year and 4 injections between 1 and 2 years of age. With the exception of rotavirus all the vaccines are by injection.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

Primary Care is the recognised provider of Childhood Immunisations and is commissioned by NHSE via the GMS contract.

DATA reporting and MEASUREMENT of uptake

Immunisation data is submitted to PHE and reported nationally in quarterly COVER (The Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly) reports. Each COVER report includes 5in1 and MMR vaccine coverage data for children who reached their first, second or fifth birthday during the evaluation quarter.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE in City & Hackney (COVER data)

In 2015/16 C&H CCG achieved an average of 83.5% for 5in1 by 1 year, with rates declining from 87% in Q1 to 80% in Q4.

In 2015/16 C&H CCG achieved an average of 90.5% for 5in1 by 2 years, with rates declining from 93% in Q1 to 90% in Q4.

For MMR by 2 years C&H CCG achieved an average of 84.5%, with rates declining from 88% in Q1 to 81% in Q4.

By 5 years more children have been immunised however herd immunity levels (95%) are not currently achieved across C&H.

Practice level data (via CEG) shows that only 2 practices achieved over 95% uptake of 5in1 at 1 year in September 2016. Four other practices achieved 90% - 95%.

Sixteen practices achieved between 80% - 90% and eight practices achieved between 70% - 80%. Twelve practices achieved less than 70% with a range of 37-69.3%.

PAST PERFORMANCE

Achieving recommended levels of childhood immunisations is challenging and typically London, with a more mobile population, performs less well than the rest of the country.

The highest levels achieved by C&H for 5in1 by 1 year was 89% in Q2 of 2013. From 2012/13 to 2014/15 an average uptake of 87% was achieved per quarter. As noted above a steady decline was seen in 2015/16.

A similar trend is evident in Immunisation uptake by 2 years.

COVER data captures childhood immunisations according to a strict timeframe and will not include infants and children immunised outside the specified timeframe.

Therefore local data shows *marginally* higher levels of Immunisation uptake than the official COVER data but levels do not meet the 95% target recommended for herd immunity.

Achieving recommended Immunisation levels is particularly challenging for practices in the north of Hackney with large list sizes and high numbers of children in the Orthodox Jewish community.

RECENT CHANGES

In 2015 the commissioning of Health Visiting was transferred to Local Authorities / Public Health. In many areas a new model of HV has been introduced and immunising children is no longer within the remit of HV.

Health visitors provided between 20-40% of childhood Immunisations across C&H until April 2016. The exact volume is difficult to quantify as reported data does not capture details of the immuniser, rather the location e.g. GP practice.

Prior to April 2016 the call and recall (i.e. invitation and reminders) element of Childhood Immunisation was provided by the Child Health Information Service (CHIS) which sits within the Children's services at HUHT. The CHIS sent an individualised letter to all new parents prior to the start of the immunisation programme with the dates when their child is due. Reminders were also sent prior to immunisations due at 12 and 40 months of age.

The Immunisation call recall function provided by CHIS' officially ended in March 2016 however in City and Hackney the service continued being involved in a 'catch up' initiative funded by NHSE which came to a close on 22 August.

NHSE plans to centralise all CHIS functions from April 2017.

IMPACT of recent changes

The contribution of Health Visitors was particularly relevant for following up children and families who had fallen behind with the child's immunisation schedule. They were supported by the CHIS who produced 'target' lists (also sent to GP practices) combining data from RIO and EMIS.

The CHIS service were responsible for submitting COVER data and engaged in a number of data cleansing steps to improve data quality and ensure the cohort was accurate (e.g. checking RIO information with national spine records).

SHORT TERM REMEDIAL ACTION

In February 2016 NHSE provided two sources of funding to City & Hackney to help address challenges with Immunisation provision. One source of funding was provided to HUHT to deliver a catch up initiative for 5 practices in the north of the borough serving the OJ community. The second source of funding was provided to the GP Confederation to support development of a call and recall system and strengthen admin processes.

What this funding achieved

In the period April to mid August 2016 1,032 immunisations were delivered as part of the catch up initiative. This contributed to a 10% increase in 5in1 uptake at 1 year from Q4 of 2015/16 to July 2016 for the 5 targeted practices.

The GP Confederation funding was used to develop templates (produced by CEG) to code and capture Immunisation data. It was also used to develop performance dashboards for practices to monitor uptake and develop a call and recall system.

PROPOSAL PLAN

Achieving 95% herd immunity is ambitious and therefore a two-year campaign involving collaboration from a variety of agencies is recommended. It would require at least a 15% increase in uptake which roughly equates to immunising 700 more children each year and delivering an additional 5,000 vaccinations. To support this it is proposed that the CCG provide funds for the following aspects:

- To commission the GP Confederation to oversee practice performance.
- To commission the GP Confederation to deliver additional ('mop-up') clinics across the borough to provide greater choice and flexibility for families falling behind with Immunisation.
- To commission the GP Confederation to provide a co-ordination function to include management of the call and recall process.
- To commission the CEG to provide technical support (create call recall search process, performance dashboards).

To support the above funds of £235k are requested broken down as follows:

Team of Immunisation Nurses: £180k (for X1 B6, X3 B5 and 15% overhead costs)

Immunisation Co-ordinator: £40k (for B4 A&C and 15% overhead costs)

CEG technical support: £15k

Other ideas to support a borough wide campaign include PH input with awareness raising and health promotion, community champions and opportunistic immunisation in Secondary care.

Possible contractual arrangements

The input from the GP Confederation could be commissioned as part of the Early Years contract.

Rhiannon England, Clinical Lead / Carol McLoughlin, Programme Director Children's Board C&H CCG