

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 4 October 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Seasonal Flu Plan 2017/18
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report presents an the annual Flu plan with an overview of changes to and requirements of the annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign for the 2017 – 2018 flu season and implications of this for the Local Authority and health and social care partner agencies.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the Annual Flu Plan and note the changes to the national flu vaccination programme for 2017-2018 and for each individual agency to note their requirements in relation to the programme.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 **Background**

Influenza represents a significant cause of morbidity and mortality, and is a particular concern in those with existing health problems. Flu is ultimately preventable and flu vaccination remains an important tool in protecting the health of our population and reducing the burden on local health systems.

Influenza vaccination is a nationally developed programme for local implementation. The details of which are produced by Public Health England and published in the Winter Flu Plan for local adoption and delivery. This year sees some significant changes, predominantly to the extension of the offer of flu vaccine to a wider age range of children.

3.2 **Previous campaigns**

The ambition is to offer the flu vaccination to 100% of all those who are eligible to have it and while the objective is to obtain the maximum uptake possible, national targets are in place which differ by risk group as detailed below:

Target Group	Uptake ambition for 2017/18
Aged 65 and over	75%
Aged under 65 'at risk'	55-75%
Pregnant women	55-75%
Eligible children 2 years – school year 4	40-65%
Health care workers	75%

Uptake of flu vaccination has generally decreased in the last few years in Halton (and nationwide) and the uptake varies considerably by Practice. Variation in uptake across Halton puts some areas at increasing and inequitably higher risk.

Uptake of Flu Vaccines across Halton CCG

Flu vaccine uptake in the last three years (%) was as follows: (National target)	2016/17		2015/16		2014/15		2013/14	
	Eng	local	Eng	local	Eng	local	Eng	local
Patients aged 65 years or older (CCG) (75%)	70.5	71.5 ↓	71.0	72.2	72.8	73.8	73.2	73.5
Patients under 65 years in risk groups (CCG) (55-75%)	48.6	51.0 ↑	45.1	47.6	50.3	50.3	52.3	51.9
Pregnant women (CCG) (55-75%)	44.9	50.5 ↑	42.3	49.1	44.1	46.7	39.8	38.8
Health care workers St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust (75%)	63.0	82.0 ↑	49.5	76.6	54.6	83.5	54.8	76.9
Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Trust (75%)	63.0	81.8 ↑	49.5	81.6	54.6	78.5		
Two years old (including those in risk groups) (CCG) (40-65%)	38.9	36.9 ↑	35.4	36.0	38.5	35.6	42.6	N/A
Three years old (including those in risk groups) (CCG) (40-65%)	41.5	41.9 ↑	37.7	38.6	41.3	37.2	39.5	N/A
Four years old (including those in risk groups) (CCG) (40-65%)	33.9	33.1 ↓	30.0	30.3	32.9	32.6	N/A	N/A
School year 1 (LA) (40-65%)	57.6	52.4 ↑	54.4	53.1	/	/	/	/
School Year 2 (LA) (40-65%)	55.4	54.2 =	52.9	54.2	/	/	/	/
School Year 3 (LA) (40-65%)	53.3	52.9	/	/				

Uptake amongst front line health care workers continues to increase, with Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust achieving an overall achieving target uptake amongst front line health staff.

Data for uptake amongst social care workers is not currently available but

nationally the uptake amongst this cohort is low.

3.3

Flu programme 2017-18

The main change to the programme this year is the extend the offer of flu vaccination to children of school years 4. The transfer of responsibility for vaccinating 4 year olds also changes from GP practices to school health provision to an offer of vaccination for children in reception year. Therefore, in 2017/18, the following people are eligible for flu vaccination:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged six months to under 65 in clinical risk groups which include:
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability
 - diabetes
 - Non-functioning or absent spleen
 - a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
 - Morbidly obese individuals
- pregnant women
- all two and three year olds, and children in school years Reception, 1,2,3 and 4
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers

3.4

Flu programme delivery

The vaccinations will be delivered through primary care (GP practices) for the majority of the eligible persons (over 65, under 65 in a clinical risk group, children aged 2 and 3, pregnant women (although midwifery services also vaccinate pregnant women as part of an NHSE contract) and carers. The vaccine for children in school settings will be delivered by School Nurses.

Halton has also contracted with CGL for the flu vaccination to be offered to individuals in risk groups attending substance treatment services.

There is a requirement for all frontline health and social care workers to be offered flu vaccination by their employer. This includes general practice staff. General practice and hospital staff vaccinations are undertaken by their own staff and occupational health units.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority as an employer of front line Health and social care staff to ensure that provision for vaccination is made for all relevant staff. This year the Halton Borough Council programme for vaccination of council employed front line health and social; care staff will be extended to include an offer of vaccination to provate care hom and domiciliary care agency

staff.

3.5 **Publicity and marketing**

Public Health England have announced that there will be a national public facing Winter Pressures publicity campaign, which will include flu vaccination promotion local services are participating in this 'Stay Well this Winter' campaign.

Other campaign approached for this year include:

- Drawing competition linked to flu for children in school and early years
- General awareness in children's settings
- Insight and engagement work to better understand flu vaccination barriers and drivers
- Engagement and promotion of pharmacy campaigns
- Engagement of wider health and social care workforce

3.6 **Potential challenges**

A number of challenges have been identified for which consideration needs to be given.

Vaccine effectiveness

Recent reports have suggested that the most recent Southern Hemisphere flu season has been particularly bad and there may not be a strong match between the vaccination protection and the circulating strain. This may pose a challenge if this is replicated across the Northern Hemisphere flu season and the challenge is to ensure that people eligible for vaccination receive it as early as possible to maximise effectiveness.

Social Care staff

Front line health and social care staff should receive the vaccination in order to protect themselves, their family and as importantly, the people that provide care for. Ensuring high uptake amongst the wider health and social care workforce is has always proved a challenge.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The flu vaccination programme is a national requirement, monitored through monthly returns to NHS England.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There will be financial implications in the implementation of the national programme – vaccinations within primary care and to risk groups is covered through national arrangements. Individual employer organisations of health and

social care staff are required to resource arrangements for the provision of vaccination. Resource is required to promote vaccination uptake amongst all eligible groups and maximise the programmes impact.

- 5.2 Flu presents an annual health challenge on the health and social care system and is responsible for a large proportion of excess winter deaths. Cases of flu pose a significant burden on primary and secondary health care systems. Outbreaks amongst vulnerable groups are common in unprotected communities and can be difficult to manage and control. Flu is preventable and inequities in uptake across the Borough, within higher risk populations and staffing groups can put the most vulnerable people at greater risk.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children represent one of the key sources of carriage of flu virus in the community, ensuring high uptake amongst children is one of the best ways to ensure limit the spread of flu in our communities and protect our most vulnerable children and members of the community from a preventable illness.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Maximising vaccine uptake amongst eligible groups will protect members of our communities, facilitating people to maintain good health through the winter period will maximise employment and learning opportunities and limit absence from school and workplaces.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Flu is a preventable illness. Ensuring good uptake of flu vaccination for risk groups and health and social care staff, will prevent illness and death within Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None specified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None specified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 *Failing to adequately implement the national flu plan and protect our community puts the population at significant risk of outbreaks and increased incidence of a serious, preventable infection. Failure to provide flu vaccination for eligible front line health and social care staff is a corporate risk and can put employees and service users at increased risk of influenza.*

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 *The strategy is developed in line with all equality and diversity issues within*

Halton.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None within the meaning of the Act.