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To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

From:

Liz Gaulton, Director of Public Health and Well-being

Nadia Inglis, Consultant Public Health

Title: Improving Immunisation Uptake in Coventry

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## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Well Being Board on work being undertaken to increase the uptake of vaccinations in Coventry.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Well-being Board is asked to take note of the work being undertaken to increase the uptake of vaccinations in Coventry.

## 3 Information/Background

- 3.1 A recent Coventry and Warwickshire Immunisation and Screening Review (2019) assessed the uptake of routine childhood and adult/older people's vaccinations against national targets. Of the 12 routine childhood vaccinations, Coventry met the 95% target in one, the proportion of 5-year olds receiving the recommended dosage for the 6-1 vaccine - diphtheria, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type B, polio, tetanus and whooping cough (primary course) and met one of two targets for adult/older people's vaccinations – Pneumococcal vaccine. In 2018/19 the range of immunisation uptake in Coventry and Rugby GP practices for the key childhood vaccinations was between 51%, and 97.9%, with the lowest uptake being shown in pre-school vaccinations (from 3 years 4 months to 5 years).
- 3.2 Primary care and the school-based Immunisation and Vaccination Service (IVS) are responsible for delivery of the routine vaccination schedule.
- 3.3 A Task and Finish group has been convened with representatives from Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the regional Screening and Immunisations teams to increase uptake of vaccinations (a Flu Steering Group plans the delivery of the flu vaccinations). Work completed or in development includes:
  - Detailed analysis, which has shown that the national COVER vaccination data is currently robust. GP quarterly COVER data for 2019/20 can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-cover-programme-2019-to-2020-quarterly-data>

- Development of a childhood vaccination uptake database by GP practice and the results of a GP Practice consultation, which will be used to gather good practice and offer support to relevant GP practices
- Public facing/stakeholder consultation, which has been developed, but is on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic
- An awareness-raising campaign emphasising the importance of vaccination is currently running. Migrant Health Champions and agencies working with migrant communities are supporting key message communication to migrant communities via translated materials and word of mouth including gelatine use messages.
- Half of the Coventry and Rugby GP practices have signed up to an enhanced national MMR vaccination schedule which will target children who have not been vaccinated. The vaccination schedule can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>
- The 44% of Coventry and Rugby GP practices not signed up to data auto extraction are being encouraged to do so, this system improves the quality of the data reported.
- Coventry is a failsafe scheme city, whereby all parents/carers of unvaccinated children will be contacted by telephone to discuss the importance of vaccination for a six-month period commencing July 2020

#### **4 Porcine Gelatine**

- 4.1 Porcine (pig) gelatine is used in three vaccines to ensure they remain safe and effective, it is highly purified and broken down into very small molecules. These vaccines are: Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR) – an alternative is available; the older peoples shingles vaccine - no current alternative; and the nasal flu spray for children aged 2-10 years old, and all aged 2 years to 17 years of age if they have a health condition - an alternative is available for those with health conditions. The IVS offers key advice to parents/carers on the use of gelatine. An offer has been made to meet with religious leaders to discuss the use of gelatine in vaccinations.

#### **5 Flu Vaccine**

- 5.1 The flu vaccine does not protect against coronavirus infection. It is offered via a GP or Pharmacist to anyone aged 65 and over, pregnant women, children and adults with certain health conditions and children aged 2 and 3. The IVS provide the vaccination to primary school children. Frontline health and social care workers are eligible for the flu vaccine also. The eligibility criteria may be expanded this year, as increasing the number of people vaccinated would give the NHS a better chance of coping with any surge in Covid-19 patients later in the year.
- 5.2 The proportion of Coventry school aged children vaccinated for flu in 2019/20 exceeded the national and regional average rate for example in Year one 67.4% of children were vaccinated compared to 63.5% nationally and 61.4% regionally. The proportion of over 65s in Coventry and Rugby receiving the flu vaccine exceeded 70% at 70.4%.

#### **6 School aged immunisations**

- 6.1 School-age vaccinations were impacted by the closure of schools during the Coronavirus pandemic. The IVS are working with schools to deliver vaccinations in school as it minimises time out of classes for children and young people (CYP) and maximises reach. Where a school cannot currently accommodate the service, they are developing catch up outreach clinics in the community. Schools have been an active partner in the vaccination programmes, and they have contacted parents advising them how to book into a session.

## **7 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 7.1 The Health & Well-being Board are asked to take note of the work being undertaken to increase the uptake of vaccinations in Coventry.

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