

**TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Health Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Eleanor Roaf, Director of Public Health

**Report Title**

**Update on Immunisations**

**Summary**

This paper provides a response to the four questions Health Scrutiny asked in response to the Immunisation session received in November 2019.

**Recommendation(s)**

Information only

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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## **Uptake of Childhood Immunisations**

### **a. Actions being taken to promote the message about alternative MMR vaccine to meet the needs of some faith groups**

The MMR vaccine (mumps, measles and rubella) is available in two forms; MMRVaxPro and Priorix. The former contains porcine gelatine, which is used as a stabilising agent. If the MMRVaxPro vaccination is offered, Trafford's Muslim population may be unhappy for their children to receive this vaccination, as it the gelatine component may be incompatible with their religious views. However, the Priorix vaccination does not contain any gelatine, and is just as safe and effective.

In November, the Health Scrutiny Committee requested that Public Health do more to promote the message about the use of Priorix for Muslim patients who decline MMR for religious reasons. Since then, we have:

- Sent out a communication, via the Friday Clinical Briefing, to all primary care clinicians and practice managers in Trafford, encouraging them to offer Priorix to patients who have declined MMR for religious reasons
- Along with colleagues from the Greater Manchester Screening and Immunisations team, we presented to 30+ Trafford Practice Nurses at a GP Learning Event, about ways to improve vaccination uptake, including offering Priorix where appropriate.

### **b. Reasons for poor uptake of MMR vaccines in some general practices in the Borough;**

- Work is ongoing to improve uptake of the MMR vaccine throughout Trafford, with a focus on areas that are performing less well, and ways to mitigate the barriers impacting this.
- We have held the second meeting of the Trafford Immunisation Assurance Group, which meets quarterly, and whose membership includes a range of key stakeholders from Public Health, Child Health, Primary Care, Communications, Community Cohesion and Community Infection Prevention and Control. We are currently reviewing the data sources available to the group, to inform our future priorities, including increasing MMR coverage. This wide range of stakeholders enables our work to be informed by a variety of perspectives, knowledge bases and experiences, throughout the borough.
- We also have links with the other boroughs of Greater Manchester, via the Greater Manchester MMR Elimination Group, which looks at wider strategic priorities around increasing vaccination uptake.
- We have met with Trafford CCG NHS Quality Improvement colleagues who conduct quality assurance visits at GP practices throughout Trafford. Members of the Public Health team have been invited to accompany them on these visits, to focus specifically on how they can support the practice to improve vaccination uptake, including MMR.
- We have also collated feedback from Practice Nurses at the Trafford GP Learning Event, including perceived barriers to vaccination faced by patients, and system-wide issues around vaccine delivery and data sharing. These findings have been fed back to the Trafford Immunisation Assurance Group, and will help to inform our Immunisation Improvement Action Plan.

### **c. Update on community work being developed to promote immunisation;**

- Colleagues from Public Health attended a Health and Wellbeing event at University Academy 92, in December. As well as providing information around the importance of MMR to staff and students, the stall also provided information on alcohol misuse, and suicide prevention.
- As part of the actions from the Greater Manchester MMR Elimination Group, we are in the process of considering engagement work around MMR with the residents of Trafford.

- The Immunisation Improvement Action Plan will also look at ways to promote immunisation at a community level. This could include working with our Community Cohesion Officer, and voluntary, community and social enterprise groups.

**d. Package of training for councillors on immunisation to help to support message in the community.**

We are keen to provide an evening face-to-face education session for councillors, to support their work with local residents around improving health outcomes. This could include information around immunisations as well as related topics, such as cancer screening. We are currently liaising with Neil Meehan, Organisational Development and Learning Officer, to arrange a suitable date for this to take place.

**Update prepared by Leifa Jennings, Public Health Speciality Registrar and Helen Gollins, Deputy Director of Public Health, Trafford Council, 12/02/20**