

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 6 NOVEMBER 2014

ITEM 10 – UPDATE ON SCREENING ASSURANCE IN HARROW

Tabled information from NHS England

Having taken responsibility for the commissioning of all screening (cancer and non-cancer) across London, NHS England has inherited a wide range of systems and processes to monitor and improve performance. On the whole as the attached NHS England report notes London's performance against national targets is generally poor. Very few Boroughs meet all national cancer targets. Unfortunately this has changed very little from the position inherited from PCTs who were previously responsible for commissioning these services.

However, to both try and improve uptake and coverage, monitor performance and provide an assurance to local Boroughs the following actions have been taken, these are cancer specific;

- Setting up a London wide Cancer Screening Board
- Setting up a London wide Coverage Technical group
- Inner and Outer North West London Programme Boards (cervical, bowel)
- North London Breast Screening Service Programme Board

To support delivery action plans have been developed to address specific performance issues e.g. uptake. For example the bowel cancer screening programme serving Harrow has a health promotion officer in place and the programme board maintains oversight of the workplan and outputs. In addition, there are plans in place to address system wide issues either via contracting mechanisms (including the use of CQUINS) or through commissioning London wide developments such as cervical cytology sample takers data base and producing an updated Incident Reporting policy.

Whilst these actions are not specific to individual Boroughs they do form part of the assurance for Directors of Public Health and Health and Well Being Boards that system wide issues are being addressed and that forums exist which include DPH representation to discuss and address issues of concern.

NHS England London is shortly to write to Directors of Public Health and Health and Well Being Boards setting out a proposed schedule of information reports that will provide an update on uptake and coverage, Serious Incidents and learning from these as well as actions plans to address specific issues e.g. different population's uptake rates etc. We would like to agree a schedule for reports and agree attendance with Health and Well Being Boards.

Given that our London wide boards were set up 15 months ago we would also like to take the opportunity to review the Terms of Reference to ensure that each Board has as one of its objectives a requirement to provide an assurance function for Health and Well Being Boards /Director of Public Health. We fully appreciate the need for local DPHs and Health and Well Being Boards to scrutinise the work NHS England is doing and to question and challenge us on delivery.

We would be very happy to receive feedback from the Harrow Health and Well Being Board and DPH on what other actions we can take to enhance the assurance we can provide and to ensure that local people have the opportunity to be assured about how these important services that we commission are assured.