

To: London Borough of Harrow Finance and Performance Meeting

From: Richard Wells, Head of Performance and Information Harrow PCT

Subject: Harrow PCT Chlamydia and Immunisations update

Introduction

The PCT has been asked by the Local Authority to provide an update on the chlamydia and immunisation targets. This summary provides an additional commentary to the appended performance reports that have been produced as part of the PCTs performance management framework.

Chlamydia screening

The chlamydia screening target sets a level for the proportion of people aged between 15 and 24 that should received a chlamydia screening test. The target figure for 2008/09 is 17% (equating to 4871 screens). Appendix 1 details the PCTs current position with the chlamydia target.

A substantial number of screens are also undertaken in the GUM clinic setting, the PCT is not allowed to count these towards its chlamydia target. The PCT continues to roll out its community screening programme which has seen considerable increases in the number of young people screened in recent months. The expectation is that further roll out of these programmes, along with appropriate counting of the test undertaken in the GUM clinic will enable the PCT to deliver the revised target of 25% in 2009/10.

Immunisations

The PCT is set target levels for the proportion of children that should be immunised against a series of illnesses by a particular age. The breakdown of the target level, along with the actions in place, is shown in the attached slides (appendix 2).

The PCT is measured against this target by the information provided from the Child Health system that is overseen by North West London Hospitals NHS Trust. Review of the figures produced by this system showed that they were lower than that expected when compared to the PCT system that recorded the number of immunisations undertaken in each GP practice, ie. the performance issue is predominantly a data issue.

The PCT has worked with GPs and the Child Health Service to validate the lists held on the Child Health system. This has been undertaken with a number of Practices and has increased the reported immunisation rates to above the target levels.

The PCT has been working to ensure that all children eligible for an immunisation have been in receipt of an immunisation. The PCT is confident of delivering significant improvement against this target.

The PCT is also taking part in a national campaign to increase the take up of MMR in those people who were not immunised in the younger years of their childhood due to the adverse publicity as to the safety of the MMR vaccination. This is key to ensuring that the risks of infectious disease outbreaks is minimised.

A&E 4-hour target

The national target is that 98% of patients should be seen and treated, discharged or admitted to hospital within 4-hours of arrival at A&E. The PCT has worked closely with Brent PCT and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver the target. The local health community achieved the target consistently in the first half of 2008/09. The winter period in 2008/09 saw performance drop slightly, with a number of weeks where the target was not achieved. This was primarily the result of an increase in the level of illness over previous years. The illness in 2008/09 affected younger age groups and this saw staff affected in greater numbers than previously seen.

The PCT has established an Urgent Care Centre at the Northwick Park site in 2008/09. This sees patients who have a minor injury and illness and frees up the A&E department to ensure that the clinical teams there are able to spend their time treating patients with a more acute illness or who require an admission to hospital. The PCT works with the hospital daily to ensure that there is appropriate support for patients who can be discharged from hospital and cared for in the community. The target is also discussed at weekly Director level meetings to ensure that there is senior level oversight in each organisation of the emergency care target.

The local health economy has responded to the challenges presented and has delivered seen significant improvement against the target in recent weeks, with the 98% measure being achieved. This is expected to see the local health community achieve the target for the full year 2008/09.

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