

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

5 JUNE 2013

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UPDATE ON MEASLES

SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on the current measles outbreak in Stockton Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stockton on Tees Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the update report.

DETAIL

Background

1. An outbreak of measles has been ongoing across the Tees area since September 2012. There was a slow increase in the numbers of cases against the baseline from September, with a significant increase in cases in January 2013. The outbreak is mainly in 10-15yr olds and 1-5yr olds.
2. Measles can be a serious childhood illness and some cases can experience complications such as meningitis and sight loss. The MMR is a safe and effective vaccine and the best way of protecting children against measles, mumps and rubella.
3. A Tees Outbreak Control Team was set up to manage the outbreak, with representation from key stakeholders (Public Health England (PHE), NHS England Area Team (NHSE), the 5 Tees Valley Directors of Public Health and the school nursing service) and chaired by the Director of Public Health from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Current position

4. At 20th May, 335 confirmed cases had been reported across the North East since September 2012, 278 of which were in Teesside.
5. Overall, the rate of increase in cases seems to be decreasing slightly (at 24th May) compared to previous weeks. In the main, new cases are in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, though some new cases are still

being reported in Stockton. The number of new cases overall is still significantly above normal.

6. A schools catch-up campaign began on 25th April 2013 across Stockton and Hartlepool (and across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland beginning a few days later). The plan is for all Teesside schools to have run the catch-up campaign by the middle of June.
7. In total, there were approximately 8,000 unvaccinated children across Teesside (i.e. with only one dose or no doses) at the start of the school-based catch-up campaign. The schools and school nursing service have been very supportive and are doing an excellent job of implementing the programme in partnership with PHE, NHSE and Public Health colleagues.
8. Response to the programme to-date (through consent forms returned) has been good. By close of play on 22nd May 2013, 2,516 children had been vaccinated across Tees. 747 of these are in Stockton. A media release is planned for 31st May / 3rd June to encourage further uptake after half-term, in the last two weeks of the campaign.
9. There will be a national GP-based catch-up campaign from June, which will further 'mop-up' unvaccinated children. This will be implemented locally once the schools-based campaign is complete.
10. In-line with PHE and RCGP (Royal College of General Practitioners) advice, parents wishing to seek advice on their child's vaccination status or on the MMR vaccine are being advised to go to their GP.
11. The Director of Public Health and the Consultant in Public Health at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are handling all enquiries about the outbreak, including any media enquiries. All communications regarding the outbreak are being coordinated through and handled by PHE communications and Local Authority communications leads to ensure a coordinated, consistent and evidence-based message.

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