

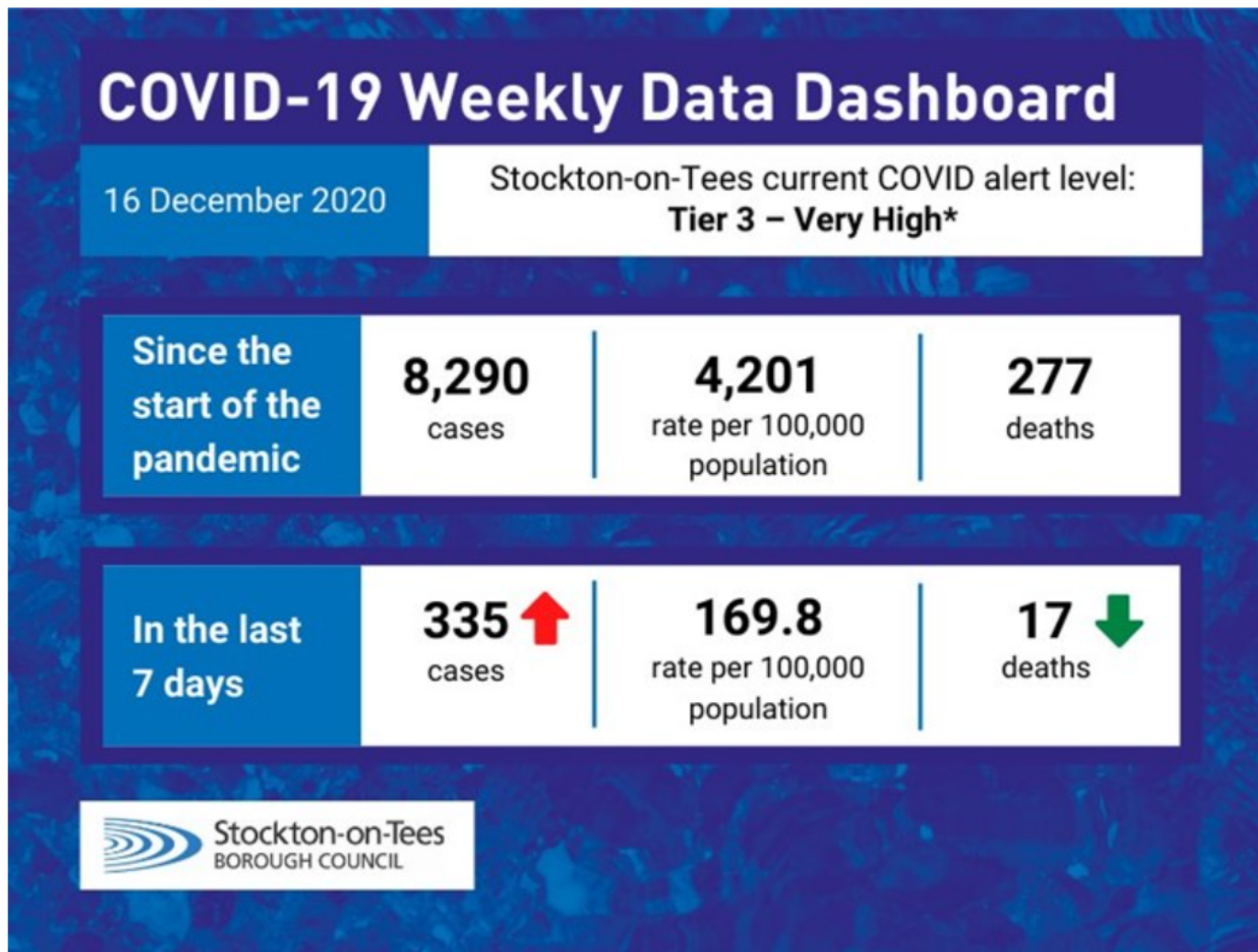
Winter Peaks - Flu and Winter Illness Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board

December 2020

Winter pressures

- The NHS frontline is always under **considerable pressure** over the winter period as demand for services tends to increase significantly with the onset of cold weather and flu.
- In response, NHS foundation trusts and trusts put a particular focus on winter to ensure there is enough bed and staff capacity to meet patients' needs.
- As part of the health and social care system social care is affected by winter pressures through increase in hospital discharges, increased care needs and staff capacity.

Covid



Influenza

- Each year, seasonal influenza (flu) affects many thousands of people in the UK.
- Occurring mainly in winter, it is an infectious respiratory disease capable of producing symptoms ranging from those similar to a common cold, through to very severe or even fatal.
- It disproportionately affects those with chronic disease, the elderly and those living in more deprived areas.
- The most effective method of protecting against flu is with a yearly flu vaccination.

What are the benefits of flu vaccination?

- Prevention of individual illness
- Reduction of winter pressures on health and social care
- For health and social care staff:
 - Protecting staff from illness
 - Reduction of risk of spreading flu to patients and service users, colleagues and family
 - Reduction of sickness absence

National flu programme

- Announcement on 24 July 2020 that the national flu programme in 2020 would be the most comprehensive programme in history
- Aim to vaccinate more than 30 million people during the flu season with more people being eligible for the free vaccine.
- The expanded flu vaccination programme is part of the system winter plans to reduce the risk for vulnerable population groups, and to relieve winter pressures on A&E and emergency care
- Creating resilience in winter with possibility of COVID and Influenza circulating at the same time

Eligibility – Children and young people

Under the national flu vaccination programme the following groups are eligible: (highlighted in BOLD are new for 2020)

Children

- children aged 2 and 3 years
- children in primary school
- **children in year 7** (secondary school)
- All children and young people with a long term condition

Eligibility - Adults

Adults

- Adults 65 and over
- People aged under 65 years in clinical risk groups (chronic respiratory, heart, kidney, liver or neurological disease, diabetes and other chronic or diseases)
- Pregnant women
- Obesity (BMI of 40 or above)
- **Adults 50-64 (since December)**

Eligibility – social care

Social Care

- people living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities
- carers and household contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- **those who receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare maybe at risk if the carer falls ill**
- **People living with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable (shielded patients) or expected to be with them on most days over winter**

Eligibility – Health and social care staff

Staff

- Frontline health or social care workers employed by a registered residential care or nursing home or a registered homecare organisation
- Staff providing health or social care through Direct Payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health Budgets (such as Personal Assistants) or both
- Health care staff

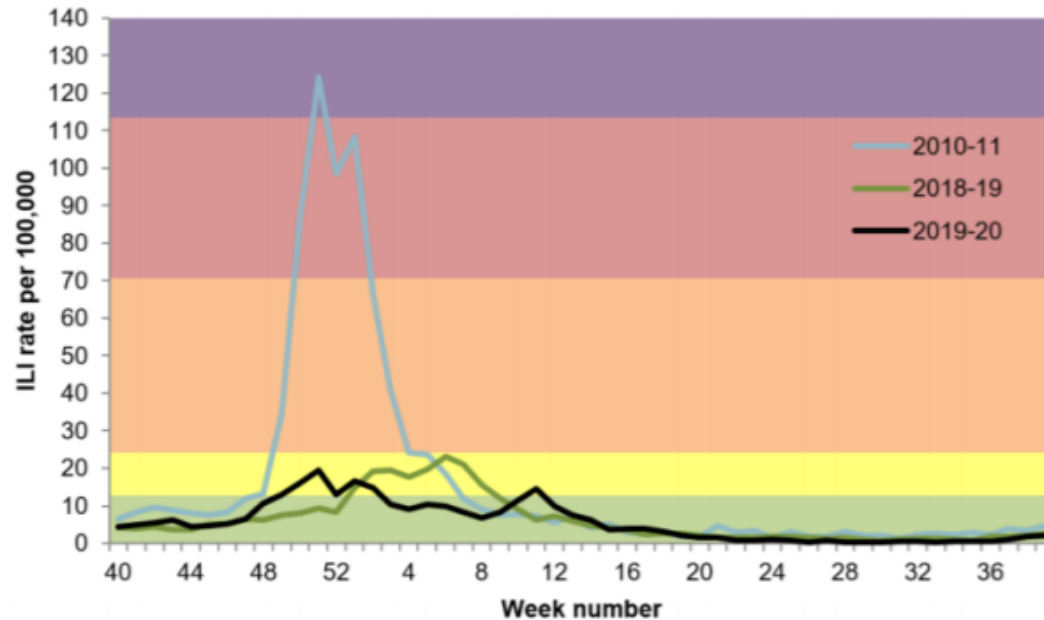
Provision

- Children aged 2 and 3 years, clinical at risk groups, people >50 years, carers, pregnant women and those living in care homes are invited through their **GP practices**. Mixed provision through GPs, **pharmacies and maternity units**.
- A **school based immunisation programme** invites children in reception and school years 1-7. Provision through school immunisation teams.
- Health and social care staff invited by employer as part of an **occupational health vaccination scheme**

Epidemiology

Flu activity measured by GP consultations (England) for influenza like illness in 2019/20 was similar to 2018/19 with an early peak in December and a second spike in February / March

Figure 1: RCGP ILI consultation rates, England



<2.7

Baseline threshold

2.7 to <24.1

Low

24.1 to <70.6

Medium

70.6 to <13.6

High

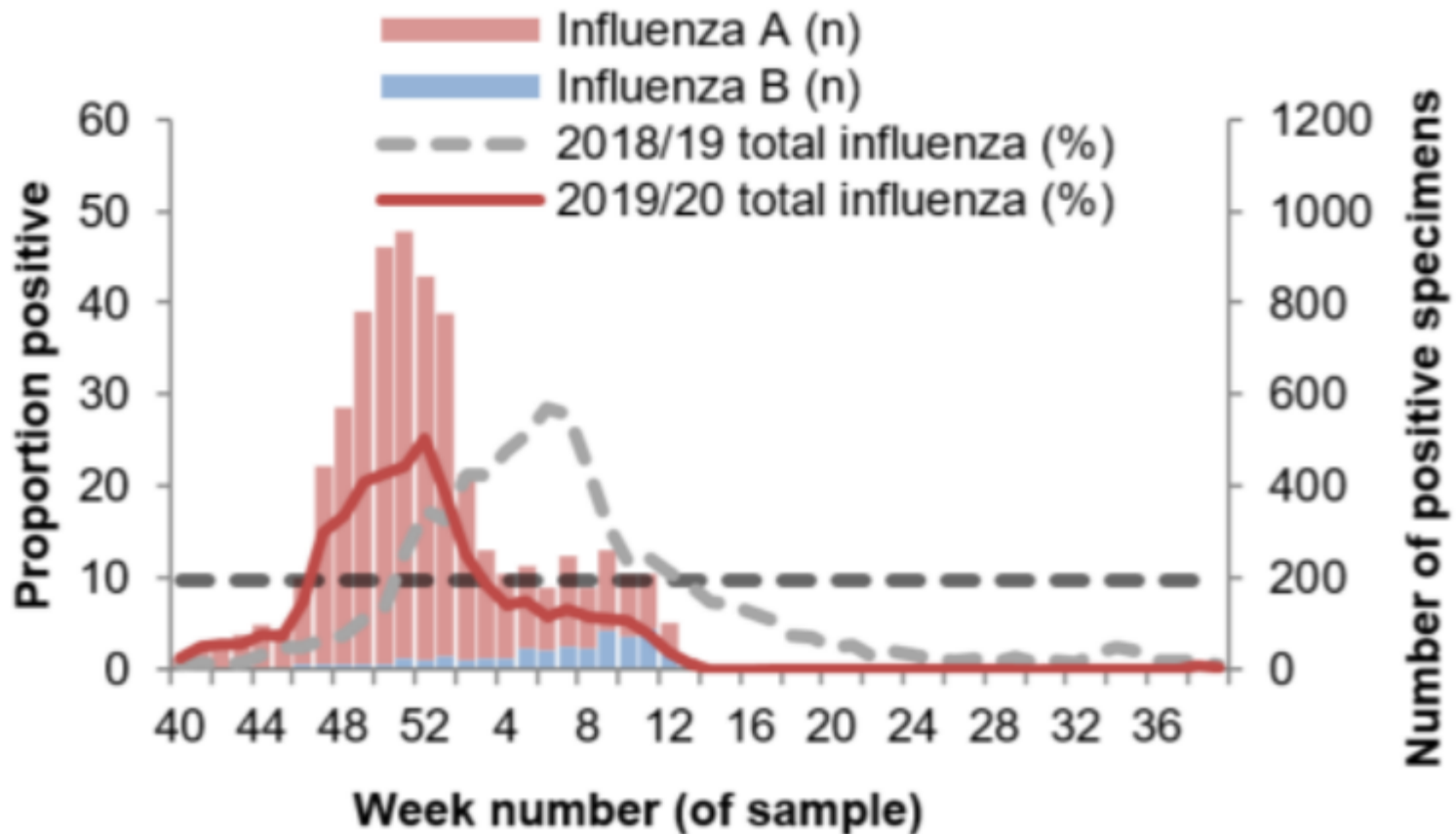
13.6+

Very high

Epidemiology

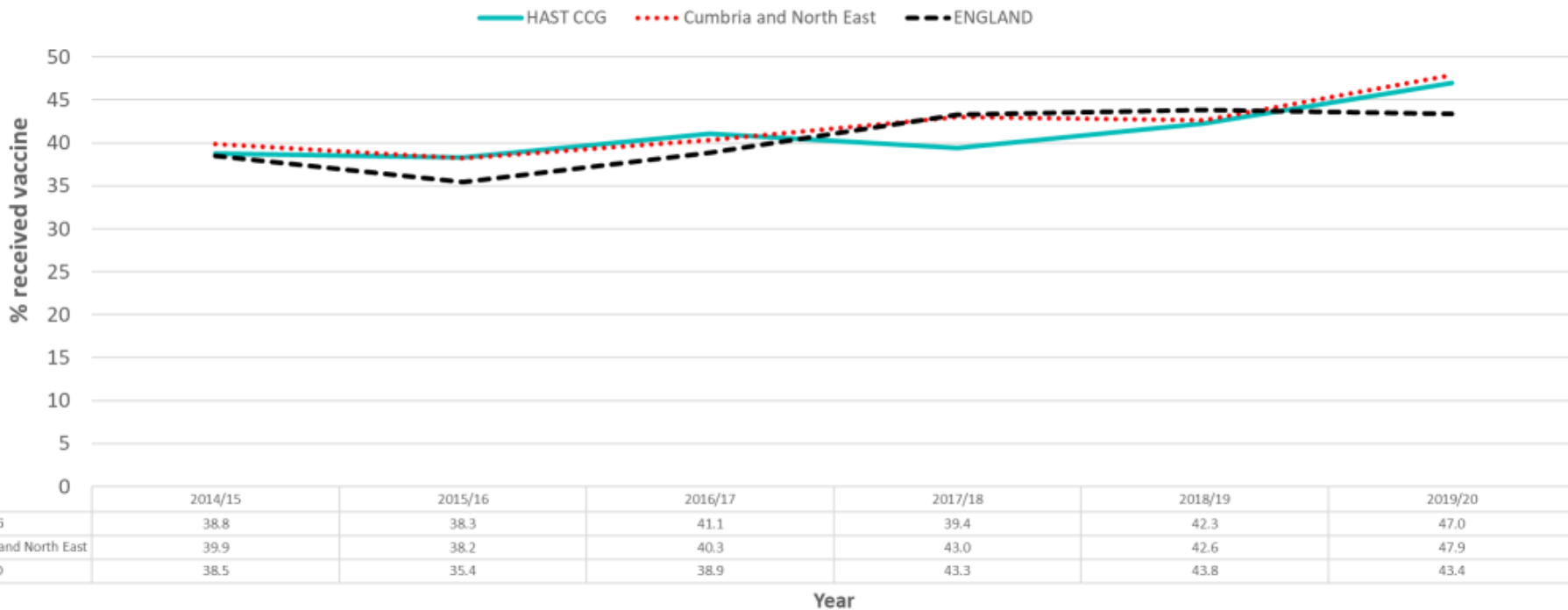
- In 2019/20 the most common circulating strains were A(H1N1) and A (H3)

Figure 2: DataMart samples positive for influenza, England, 2019/20



Uptake in children aged 2 years

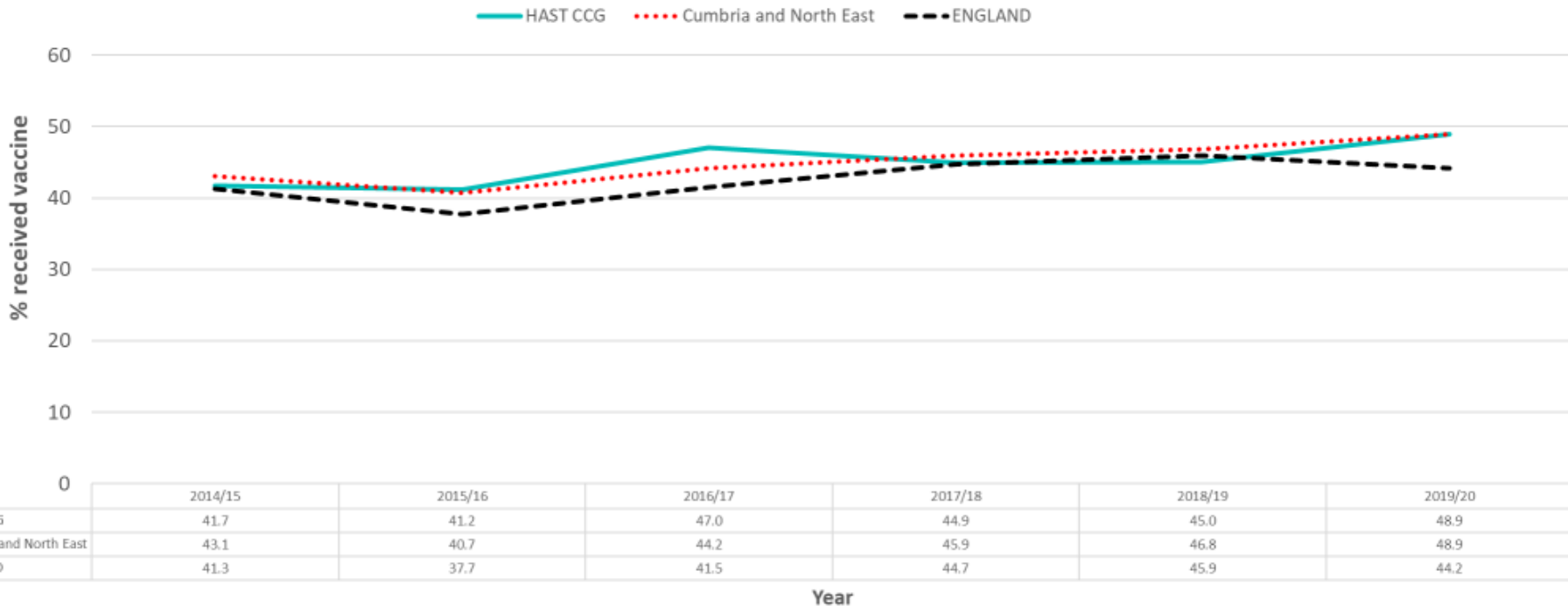
Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in children aged 2 years, by CCG: 2014/15 – 2019/20



Uptake in HAST CCG was 47.0% compared to the regional 47.9% and national uptake of 43.4%

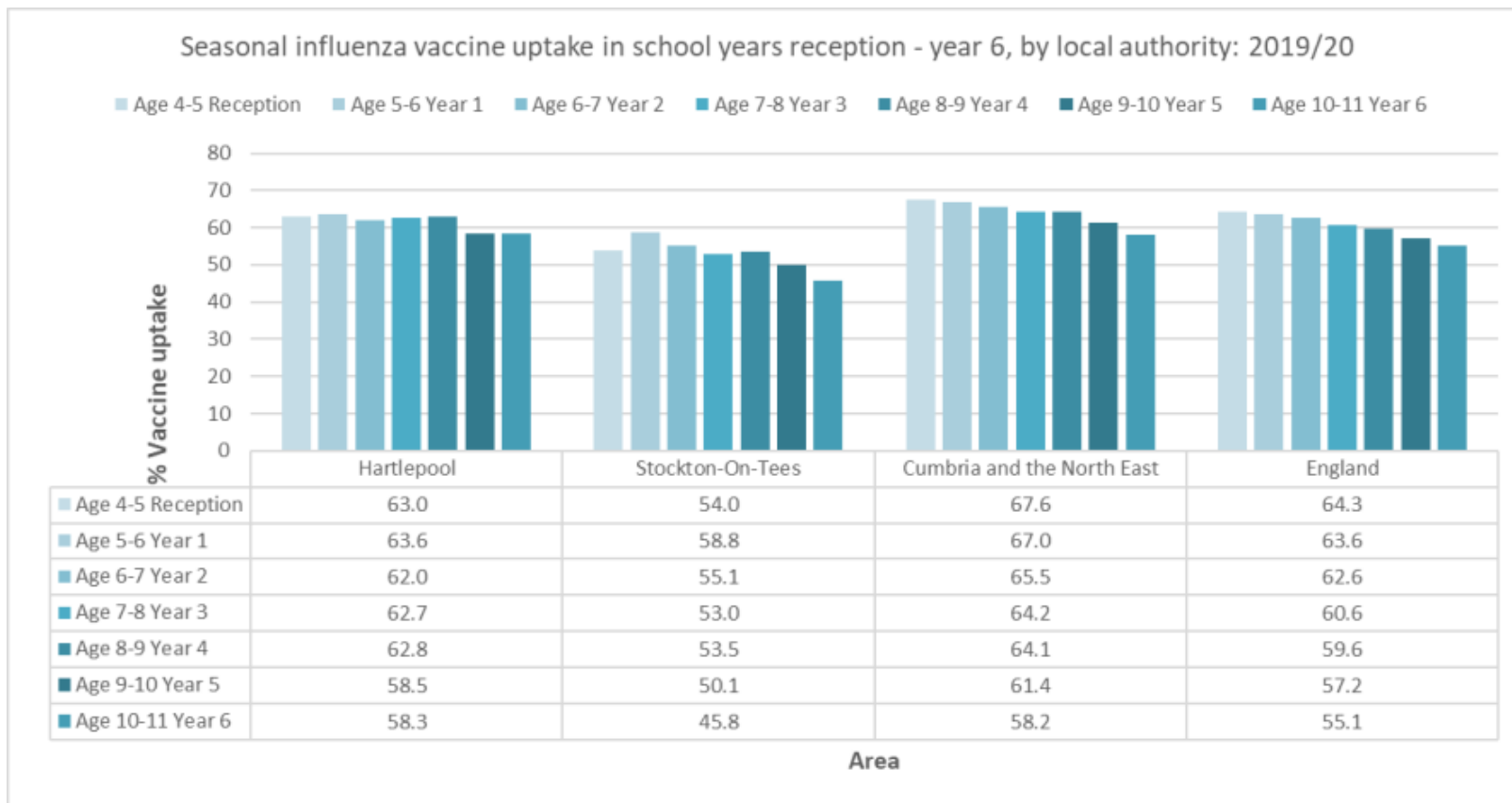
Uptake in children aged 3 years

Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in children aged 3 years, by CCG: 2014/15 – 2019/20



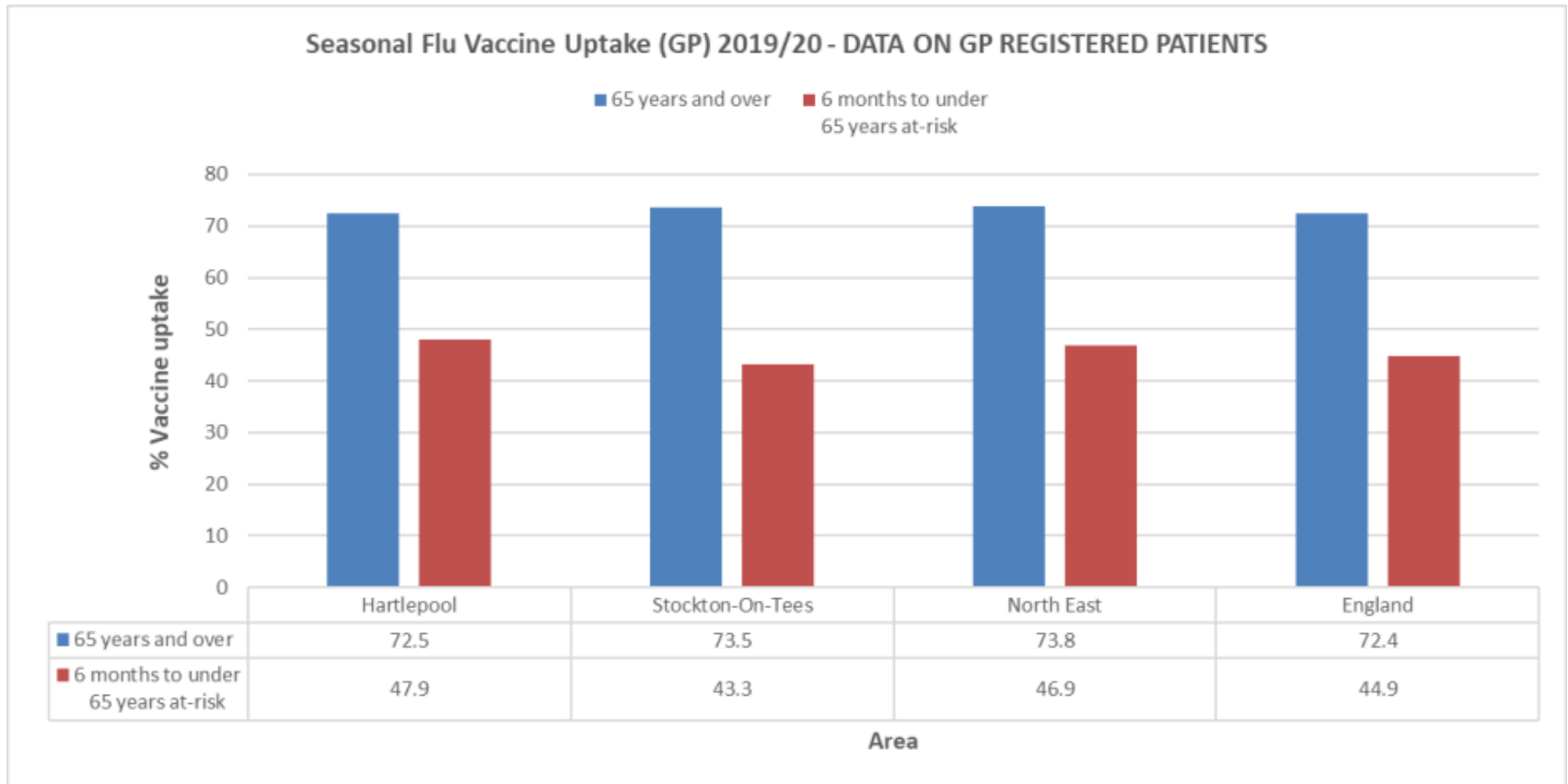
Uptake in HAST CCG was 48.9% compared to the regional 48.9% and national average 44.2%

Uptake in children in school years reception, 1, 2, 3



Uptake in Stockton 45.8-58.8% across all cohorts was lower compared to the regional 58.2-67.6% and national average 55.1-64.3%. Flu vaccinations in schools were late due to schedule and vaccine shortages and coincided with the first flu peak.

Uptake in at risk group and >65 years

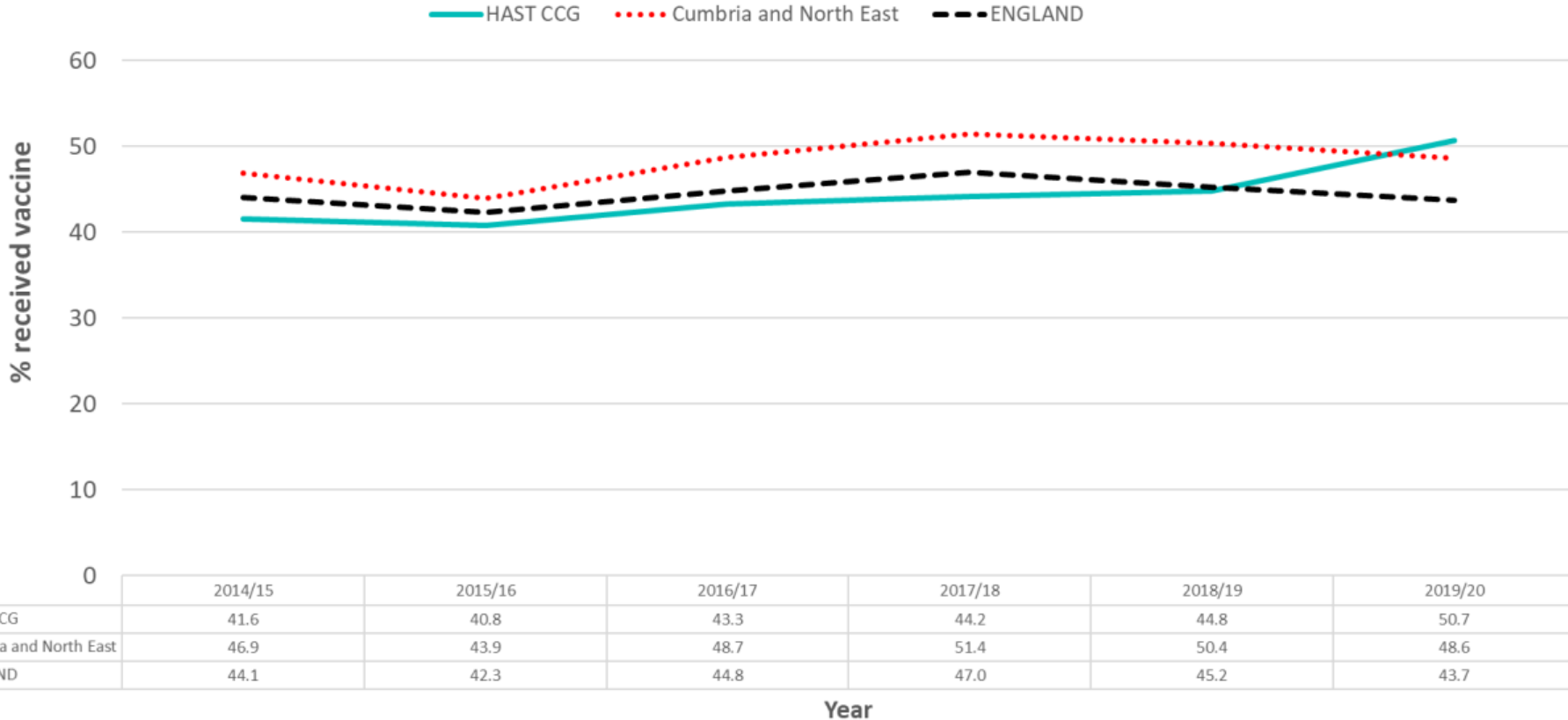


Uptake in at risk groups was 43.3% in Stockton, lower than the regional (46.9%) and national average (44.9%).

Uptake in > 65 group was 73.5% for Stockton, similar to the regional (73.8%) and national average (72.4%).

Uptake in pregnant women

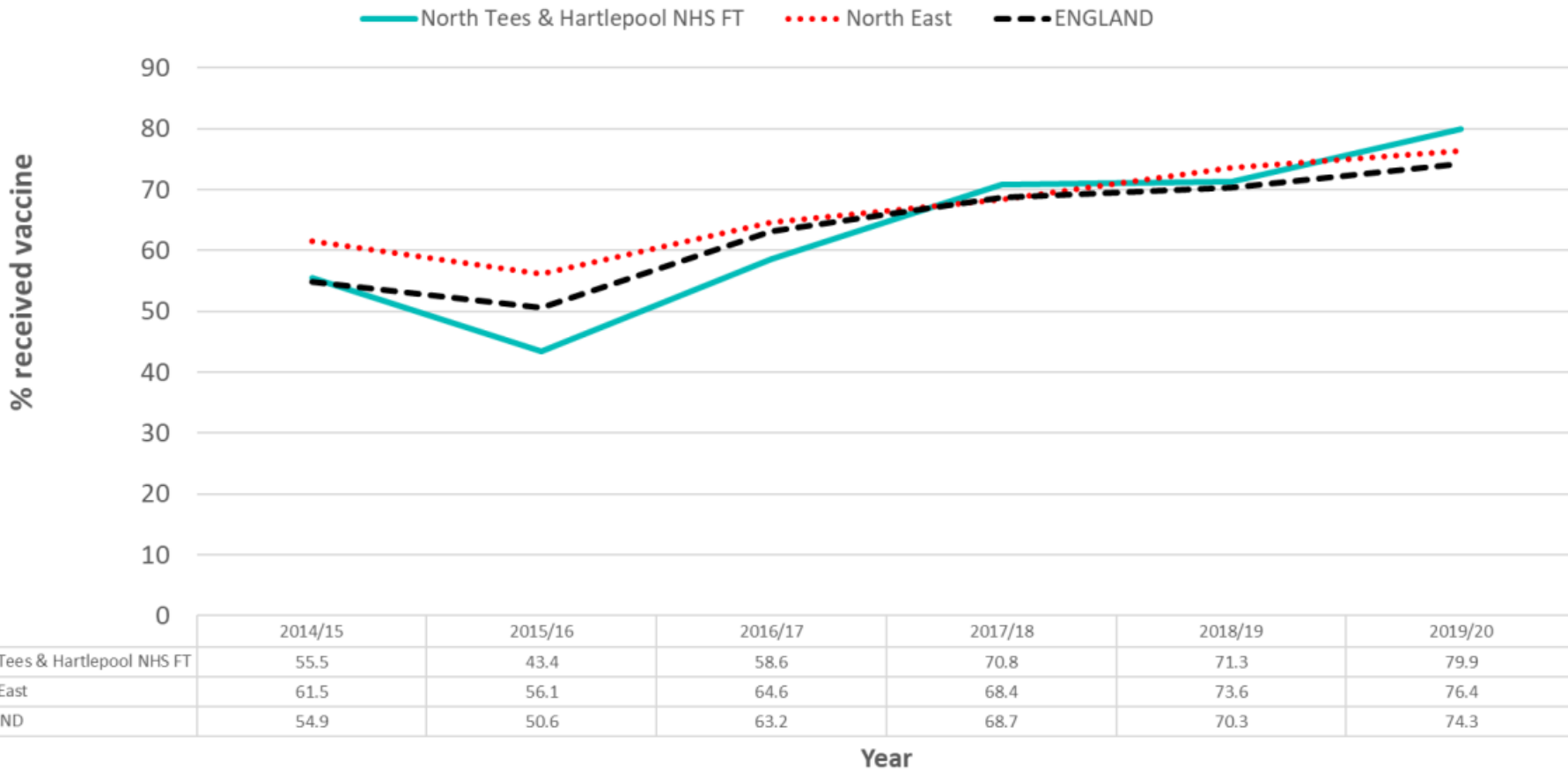
Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in pregnant women by CCG: 2014/15 to 2019/20



Uptake in pregnant women was higher for HAST CCG with 50.7% compared to the regional (48.6%) and England average (43.7%)

Uptake in NHS staff

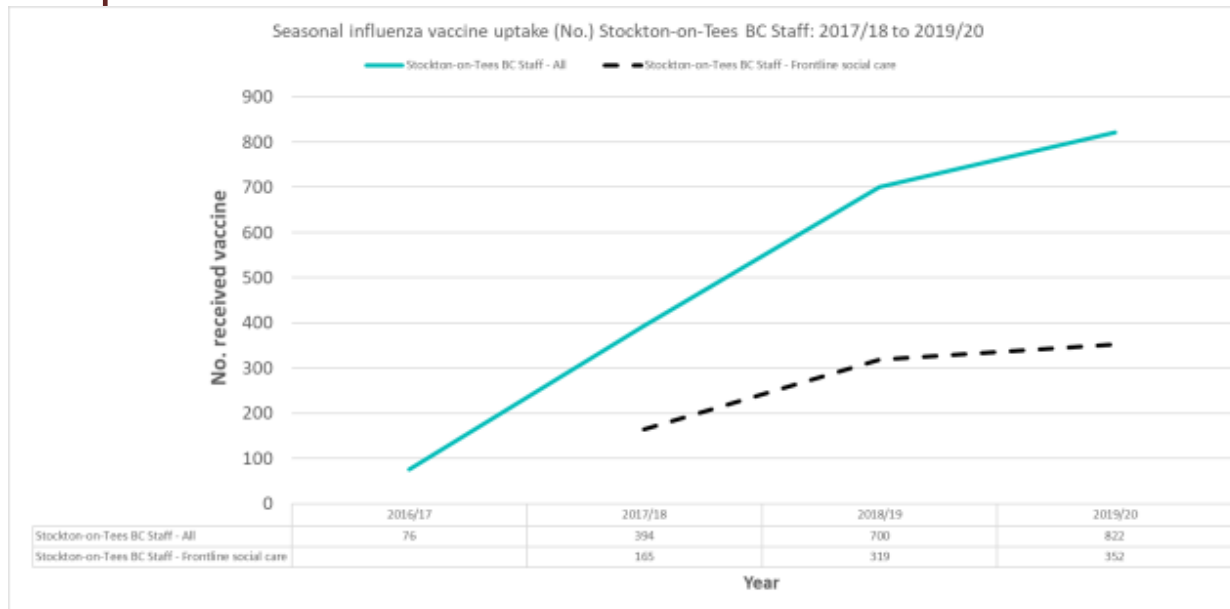
Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake (%) in frontline HCWs by NHS Trust: 2014/15 to 2019/20



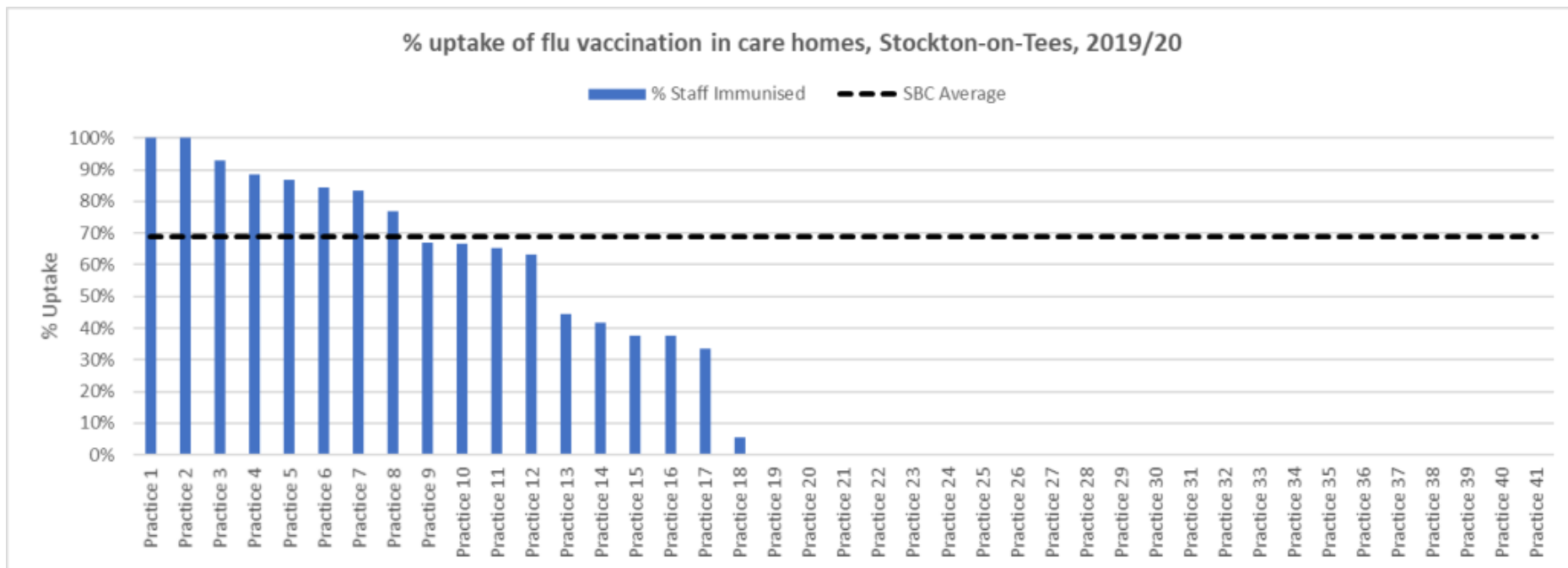
Uptake for NHS staff in North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (79.9%) was higher than the regional (76.4%) and the national average (74.3%).

SBC staff flu vaccinations in social care staff,

- Uptake of flu vaccination for frontline social care staff directly employed by Stockton Borough Council has increased significantly from 165 in 2017/18 to 352 in 2019/20.
- Overall uptake in SBC staff increased from 394 to 822



Staff flu vaccinations in care home, home care and hospice staff



- Staff flu vaccinations for frontline care home and home care staff were firstly funded in 2017/18 and were extended to hospices in 2018/19
- Vaccination uptake varies between 0% and 100%

Uptake in 2020/21- Children

- NHS Tees Valley CCG uptake in 2 & 3 year olds is currently slightly less than regional average, but higher than national average; and far greater than uptake rates this time last year.
- The local trust paediatric departments are using comms to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated when attending for out-patient appointments. The LAs too are using promotional tools to encourage uptake.
- Stockton-on-Tees uptake in schools (YTD) is higher than the regional average.

Uptake in 2020/21- Adults and social care

- Over 65s – Tees Valley CCG is performing in line with the regional average, and higher than the national average;
- Under 65 at risk group – Tees Valley CCG is performing in line with the regional average, and higher than the national average;
- Pregnant ladies – Tees Valley CCG is performing in line with the regional average, and higher than the national average;
- Flu uptake across Tees Valley is higher than at the same time last year.

Uptake in 2020/21- Staff

- Local trust healthcare workers – current uptake rates, above regional average, and again greater uptake rates compared to this time last year.
- 760 SBC staff vaccinated so far, with more clinics to come.

Summary

- Flu vaccines are an effective intervention to prevent flu and winter pressures
- low flu activity in 19/20 and so far in 20/21
- Uptake in 19/20 positive in the following groups:
 - Pre-school children, 65+, Pregnant women, NHS & SBC staff
- There is room for improvement in the following groups:
 - School age children
- Extension of flu programme in 2020/21
- Uptake in 20/21 so far.....

Recommendations

- Support national flu vaccination campaign by promoting flu vaccinations to patients, service users and staff
- Work as a system to improve uptake for children, vulnerable groups and carers e.g. Flu and Covid boards
- Increase the uptake of staff flu vaccinations for all health and social care staff in Stockton