

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 29th September 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: ALL

Subject: Improving the uptake of immunisations in the 0-5 age group - task group report.

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Brenda Fraser, Chair of the immunisations task group

Contact officer: Stella Akintan, stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

- A. That Health and Wellbeing Board considers and endorses the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review on improving the uptake of immunisations in the 0-5 age group attached at **Appendix 1**.
 - B. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to the implementation of the recommendations, by means of an action plan to be drawn up by officers and relevant partners.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This is a report and recommendations arising from a scrutiny review of improving the uptake of immunisations in the 0-5 age group. The work came about as the result of a successful application to the Centre for Public Scrutiny who offered councils five free days support from an expert advisor to support a scrutiny task group on immunisations. The review was sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur, although they did not have any direct involvement in the work.
- 1.2. The Health and Wellbeing Board has been asked to consider this report and recommendations. The report will then go to Cabinet for final agreement.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. In 2012/13 Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust reported the lowest childhood immunisation rates in in the Capital, with very few GP practices reaching the World Health Organisation targets of 95%.
- 2.2. The task group agreed to focus on immunisations for the 0-5 years in recognition that this is the most challenging area and one which a scrutiny review could have a significant impact.
- 2.3. The evidence highlights that immunisations in the early years from 0-5 had the lowest take up rates and this group along with the over 65s, are the most vulnerable to communicable diseases. A significant number of vaccinations are required during the early years which may contribute to the challenges in this area. Evidence shows that if people do not begin the process of immunising their children in the early years; they are less likely to have the booster injections.

- 2.4. It was also recognised that the child population is expanding, with changing demographics, which makes this a more pertinent area to review. Immunisations at the school age years have the benefit of a structure of the school system which can create 'captive audiences' and help to boost rates.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 3.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board will be consulted at the meeting

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to refer the report to Cabinet for consideration and response.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None relating to this covering report

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None relating to this covering report

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Scrutiny review report - Improving the uptake of Immunisations in the 0-5 age group

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. .

This page is intentionally left blank