

Report to Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

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| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing |
| 2. | Date: | 8th October, 2012 |
| 3. | Title: | Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme |
| 4. | Programme Area: | Public Health - Immunisation |

5. Summary

The seasonal flu vaccination programme was issued by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in May of this year; the groups to be included in the programme for 2012/13 remain unchanged from the previous year. The groups included are therefore:

- People over the age of 65 years
- People 6 months to 65 years with chronic or long term conditions
- People living in long stay care facilities e.g. care homes
- Carers of at risk groups
- Pregnant women (any stage of pregnancy)
- Frontline health and social care staff.

Responsibility for delivering and performance managing the programme sits locally with NHSR and the Public Health Department, working in partnership with The Rotherham Foundation Trust (The RFT) and the Local Authority. Whilst the programme is delivered primarily through General Practice, The RFT has been commissioned in a supportive capacity providing opportunistic vaccination to all groups, predominantly through the Antenatal Clinic, Planned Investigation Unit, Medical Nurse Practitioners and Outpatients Departments (Fracture and Orthopaedic Clinic, Medical and Elderly Medicine). GPs remain responsible for the vaccination of housebound patients (including care homes) who are not on a District Nurse caseload.

A report has been supported to the relevant Directorate Leadership Team by Dave Morgan – Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Officer for RMBC, enlisting their support in relation to the vaccination of social care staff.

Planning and delivery of the programme is via the monthly mass vaccination meetings.

From April 2013 the flu vaccination programme will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board on behalf of PH England. It will be the responsibility of the Director of Public Health to hold this system to account for vaccination levels in the Borough.

Flu vaccination continues to be widely promoted by NHS Rotherham, radio and local media. Relevant posters and leaflets are displayed in all healthcare providers including pharmacists. Posters and leaflets will also be distributed through and displayed by social care providers.

There needs to be clear and strong leadership and support for the programme from senior managers, elected members, directors and executives from all partner organisations.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member:-

- 1. accept this report and endorse the campaign to achieve the required uptake across all groups.**
- 2. That all health and social care providers and staff should take every opportunity to promote and encourage vaccination among patients, clients/service users and other staff in addition to taking up the offer of free vaccination for themselves. For healthcare professionals this is endorsed by their professional registration bodies.**
- 3. That the lessons identified from the 2011/12 programme be acted upon and embedded in the 2012/13 programme.**
- 4. That the delivery and uptake within social care be monitored and addressed in conjunction with the RMBC contracts managers**

7. Proposals and Details

RMBC has secured 500 vaccines to be delivered to front line social care staff free of charge under the service level agreement by Rotherham Workplace, Health and Wellbeing. Sessions are planned at various sites across Rotherham to facilitate attendance and access.

The requirement for independent providers to provide a vaccination programme for their front line staff has been included in the RMBC contract – this requests details of delivery and the monthly submission of uptake to the Nurse Consultant Health Protection. The delivery plans will include part of the review visits carried out by the RMBC Contract and Monitoring Officers. This will also be raised at the Provider Forums.

The RFT and Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Foundation Trust have comprehensive plans in place for delivery of vaccination to front line healthcare staff.

Foundation and NHS Trusts have been requested by NHS North of England (NHS NOE) to, in addition to the monthly submissions to ImmForm, submit staff uptake weekly to NHS NOE. PCTs will continue to submit monthly via ImmForm for primary care staff.

Agreement has been reached with The RFT to aim to administer 500 vaccines across all eligible groups, in support of the primary care led programme. To support this initiative across all eligible groups, immunisation training has already been delivered to a small number of staff to date, with further dates planned for 24th September and 1st October. A proposal has been submitted to the Operational Executive at NHS Rotherham to fund a Band 5 Staff Nurse, to be based in the ante-natal clinic at The RFT, this should significantly increase uptake among pregnant women.

District Nurses continue to vaccinate patients (and where present their partners) on their caseload. A delivery plan has been discussed with the Adult Community Services Manager, with the agreement to aim to vaccinate all housebound patients on their caseload by early November.

Two flu planning workshops have been held highlighting the key issues and risks and sharing practice and ideas for how the programme can be improved. Much of this work has focused on improving the search methodologies to identify at risk/eligible groups in line with ImmForm Read Codes/definitions. Assurance has been sought from practices regarding, vaccine supply, implementation and delivery of the programme and this has been submitted to NHS South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw and NHS NOE.

A comprehensive local media campaign has been developed in conjunction with RMBC, The RFT and NHSR – this will focus on the all eligible groups using the 'Flu Safe' banner and on health and social care staff using the 'Flu Fighter' banner. The campaign will be rolled out across Rotherham using as many public facing sites/premises as possible. The campaign will include a

photo shoot at Carers Corner and information going out via school Head Teachers, to increase awareness among at risk children attending main stream schools.

A seasonal flu plan has been developed for distribution across Rotherham.

8. Finance

The patient programme is currently funded centrally by the Department of Health, although practices/providers procure their own vaccine direct from suppliers, this is reimbursed via the PCT and prescription pricing authority.

A contract variation has been put in place to support delivery by The RFT, ensuring that funding follows the patient.

Primary medical care staff are generally vaccinated by the employing practice with no cross charging, however they can, as do Primary Dental Care access Workplace, Health and Wellbeing for vaccination, the delivery of which is funded via the NHSR Service Level Agreement.

A local enhanced service agreement has been developed and circulated to all practices, outlining the contractual requirements to support delivery of the programme.

Possible financial implications associated with:

- Staff time – release to attend for vaccination
- Replacement staff – should cover be needed whilst staff attending for vaccination.
- Travel expenses

However these costs are likely to be far less than those associated with staff sickness/absence.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The performance is monitored via automatic weekly bulk uploads to ImmForm and formal monthly reports via ImmForm, this method is used for healthcare worker uptake and patient groups. There is no formal reporting mechanism or requirement for social care staff.

The required target uptake for each group is listed below, along with the performance from 2011/12.

| Group | 2010/11 Performance | Target for 2012/13 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Over 65's | 76% | 75% |
| Under 65 at risk/chronic conditions | 53.6% | 70% |
| Pregnant Women (all) - | 21.8% | 70% |
| Frontline Healthcare Staff | RFT 63% (approx.) NHSR 67.4 | 70% |
| Social Care Staff | RMBC 176 | 500 |

Whilst uptake has improved year on year, with Rotherham exceeding both the regional and national uptake in the majority of the areas (the exception being pregnant women), there is a risk that these targets will not be reached.

Vaccination is a highly effective way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications. In addition to protecting individuals, vaccination reduces the risk of transmission to other susceptible people and reduces the incidence of sickness/absence among staff groups.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

A great deal of work has been undertaken during preceding months, supported by all partner organisations. NHSR is continuing to support practices to develop their systems and enhance the delivery of their programme. Collaborative working across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw has also commenced via the shadow NHS Commissioning Board, to improve standards, delivery and uptake across the region.

This proactive approach supports two of RMBCs vision themes 'Alive' and 'Safe'

11. Background Papers and Consultation

CMO letter May 2012
Rotherham Seasonal Flu Plan
Rotherham Mass Vaccination Meetings Minutes
'Green Book' – immunisation against infectious disease

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17th September 2012