

Screening and immunisation programme update for Reading September 2013

Purpose

This paper provides the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the performance of the following programmes in Reading

- Childhood immunisation in the under 5s.
- Cervical cancer screening (women aged 25 to 64 years)
- Breast cancer screening (women aged 50 to 70 years)
- Bowel cancer screening (individuals aged 60 to 74 years)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening (men in year of their 65th birthday)

It also summarises some of the initiatives that are under way to improve uptake of screening and immunisation.

Childhood immunisation

Table 1

Trends in coverage of childhood immunisations in Reading 2008 to 2013

Reading	DTaP/IPV/Hib by 1 year (%)	PCV booster by 2 years (%)	Hib/MenC booster by 2 years (%)	1st MMR by 2 years (%)	DTaP/IPV booster by 5 years (%)	2nd MMR by 5 years (%)
2008-2009	89.41	72.83	79.74	81.01	72.20	66.69
2009-2010	91.09	82.39	83.74	87.29	80.36	75.75
2010-2011	93.92	88.04	88.93	89.29	83.23	81.22
2011-2012	94.55	91.31	90.82	93.17	87.81	86.09
2012-2013	93.53	93.46	93.02	94.69	92.35	91.50
Target	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00

DTaP/IPV/Hib	diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio and haemophilus influenza B vaccine
PCV booster	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine booster
Hib/MenC	Haemophilus influenza B/Meningococcal C vaccine
MMR	Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine
DTaP/IPV booster	Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, and polio booster vaccine

The continued improvement in immunisation coverage in Reading over the last five years is demonstrated by the statistics in Table 1. Although not yet achieving the 95% target the progress is encouraging and is a reflection of the work being done by practices to increase the number of children that complete their immunisations on time.

South Reading CCG is undertaking a project to increase immunisation uptake by pro-actively following up babies that are late in completing their course of immunisations at 2, 3 and 4 months old (primary course) and 1st MMR immunisation. This work is being carried out by a Community staff nurse who started in post on 1st May 2013. She is able to check whether data held by the child

health information system is accurate, identify children that have left the area and to offer additional time to families for discussion of immunisation and to facilitate arranging immunisation appointments. Data is available to the end of Q1 (30th June) though at this stage numbers of children followed up were quite small. Twelve of fourteen children identified as having an incomplete primary course of immunisation had a positive outcome recorded after the intervention, so early results are encouraging. This pilot scheme will continue to be monitored by South Reading CCG.

Cancer Screening

A group chaired by Wendy Everett from Reading Borough Council and attended by Councillor Tickner, representatives from both Reading CCGs, Public Health and a patient representative met twice in 2012-13. After a review of the screening coverage data and activities already under way to address low uptake; bowel cancer screening was identified as a priority area for action. More detail is given under each programme heading. The group has not met since the reorganisation of the NHS and public health.

Bowel cancer screening

Table 2 shows the uptake of bowel cancer screening in the two Reading CCGs in 2012-13. The other Berkshire CCGs are shown for comparison. Low uptake of bowel cancer screening is associated with factors such as deprivation and ethnicity. The target for uptake is 60%. It can be seen that South Reading is well below this target. Increasing bowel screening uptake was therefore identified as a priority area.

Table 2 Uptake of bowel cancer screening in Berkshire 2012-13 in individuals aged 60 to 74 years.

	Invited	Adequately screened	Definitive abnormalities	Uptake	Positive results
NHS Bracknell And Ascot CCG	9202	5449	107	59.2%	2.0%
NHS Newbury and District CCG	8785	5557	104	63.3%	1.9%
NHS North and West Reading CCG	7846	4741	88	60.4%	1.9%
NHS Slough CCG	6509	2745	128	42.2%	4.7%
NHS South Reading CCG	5775	2872	81	49.7%	2.8%
NHS Windsor Ascot and Maidenhead	10826	6135	125	56.7%	2.0%
NHS Wokingham CCG	12090	7934	144	65.6%	1.8%

A number of initiatives have started or are being considered in Reading. South Reading CCG practices are sending personal letters to all patients who fail to take up their first offer of screening at the age of 60 years. This project started in June 2013 so no outcome information is available yet. North and West Reading CCG practices are being asked to send letters to all patients that fail to take up the offer of screening.

As a result of increase capacity in the team the Berkshire Bowel Cancer Screening programme are now able to undertake some additional work to increase uptake of screening. In the near future they plan to focus activities with practices and in areas where uptake is low. This includes the south and east Reading areas. A further update will be provided when this is underway.

Cervical cancer screening

At the end of Quarter 1 2013-2014 coverage of cervical screening in women aged 25 to 64 years in Reading practices was 78.5%; target coverage is 80%. Seventeen GP practices are below the target however the majority of these have coverage of > 75%. The two practices that are outliers from this are the Reading Walk-In Centre and the University Health Centre both of which have particular challenges related to the demographic of their registered populations.

The factors linked with low uptake of cervical screening are well recognised and include younger age, deprivation and ethnicity. During the first half of 2013 a Public Health Specialist Registrar organised a series of focus groups and interviews in areas of Reading where uptake of cervical screening is lower. The aim was to identify how services for or approaches to cervical screening could be modified to encourage more women to attend. The final report is yet to be published but implementation of recommendations from this report will be considered in the coming 6 months.

Breast Cancer screening

At the end of Quarter 3 2012-13 coverage of breast cancer screening in women aged 53 to 70 years registered with Reading practices was 76% compared to a Berkshire West average of 79.1%. The minimum standard for coverage in this programme is 70% with a target of 80%. Seven practices were below the minimum standard.

The nurse specialist in the breast screening service contacts all practices before their eligible women are invited for screening and she offers advice and provides promotional materials for practices to use during the time their women will be receiving their invitations for screening. No additional activities are currently being undertaken with this programme.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening

AAA screening is offered to men in the year of their 65th birthday. Screening is carried out with ultrasound scan of the abdomen. Reading is served by the Thames Valley Programme which covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Councillor Lovelock presented information on the AAA programme to the Health and Wellbeing Board in June in response to a question raised by member of the public. Since the time of this report screening is now being offered at South Reading /Shinfield Surgery and the Reading Walk -In Health Centre. In June it was reported that in North and West Reading 92.5% and in South Reading 99.3% of eligible patients still remained to be screened. This has already reduced to 88.7% and 90.8 % respectively. Another location for screening in north Reading needs to be identified. Although there has been a slower start in Reading and activity appears low the programme is focusing additional resources on Reading to catch up. The programme overall is on track to screen all eligible men by 31st March 2014.

Summary

Immunisation in coverage in children under 5 years of age continues to improve

The AAA screening programme that commenced this year has had a slow start in Reading but the Provider has assured us that all eligible men will be offered screening by March 2014.

There are challenges with meeting cancer screening coverage targets in parts of Reading. Bowel screening has been identified as a priority for action as uptake is particularly low. Improving uptake will diagnose more cancers at an earlier stage and improve survival from this disease. Practice based initiatives are in place but opportunities to work with colleagues from the council to increase knowledge and awareness of cancer screening in the community would be welcomed.