



City of Westminster

# Audit and Performance Committee Report

**Date:**

**Classification:** General Release

**Title:** Report to Audit and Performance Committee on  
Section 7a Immunisation Programmes in Westminster  
2021

**Wards Affected:** All

**City for All Summary** Due to the pandemic response, NHS England are unable to attend this meeting to update on current immunisation performance in coverage and uptake, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on immunisations delivery and mitigations.  
The committee are therefore asked to note only the action that the local authority public health team are taking to pilot a new approach in Westminster to support the NHS to improve childhood vaccination rates.

**Financial Summary:** Not applicable

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## Introductory Note

- 1.1. *The Immunisation & Screening National Delivery Framework & Local Operating Model* (2013) sets out the roles and responsibilities of partners and organisations in the delivery of immunisations. Under this framework, NHS England is responsible for the routine commissioning of all National Immunisation Programmes under the terms of the Section 7a agreement, with primary care the provider for the majority of the pre-school immunisations.
- 1.2. NHS England have been invited to present a paper to update the Committee on progress of the Section 7a Childhood Immunisations programme in 2020/21 since their last presentation in September 2020 but were unable to field a representative.
- 1.3. Westminster has among the lowest rates of childhood immunisation uptake in England, although rates have steadied in recent years and are no longer declining rapidly. Immunisation rates remain far below the 95% level that the WHO recommends.
- 1.4. Recently published annual cover data for 2020/21 shows a mixed picture in Westminster with some immunisations showing a small increase overall in uptake whilst others have

declined. Overall the changes in either direction are relatively small. Uptake of HiB/MenC, PCV booster and first dose of MMR at 2 years old all fell by slightly more than 2 percentage points. Two doses of MMR completed by 5 years old increased by 0.9% but at 64.1% remains amongst the lowest in England with only Hackney (63.7%) and Camden (59.8%) having lower uptake.

1.5. Local Authority Public Health continue to work with partners to support the delivery of childhood immunisations locally:

- The Bi-Borough Immunisations Partnership Board was established in 2019 and meets quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022.
- Public Health Intelligence refreshed the GP data tool that they developed which displays uptake and trends at GP practice level and allows benchmarking between practices, PCNs and Borough/CCG level. The tool also identifies the absolute numbers of unvaccinated children at each practice which can help to guide the development of interventions.
- Public Health Intelligence have also refreshed analysis showing variations in immunisation uptake by ward and demographic characteristics.
- Public Health was notified at the beginning of January that £114,626 has been successfully secured from NHS England. This is to implement a joint proposal with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, for a childhood immunisation pilot to trial the delivery of childhood immunisations in community venues such as children's centres in conjunction with GP leads.
- From April 2021 QOF GP arrangements will include payments for achieving 4 new immunisation targets:
  - 90-95% uptake of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccines in 8 month old infants
  - 90-95% uptake of first dose MMR in 12-18months
  - 87-95% uptake of DTaP/IPV booster by 5 years old
  - 87-95% uptake of two doses of MMR by 5 years old

Appendix A

**Routine Childhood Immunisations Schedule 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/899422/PHE\\_Routine\\_Childhood\\_Immunisation\\_Schedule\\_Jun2020\\_03.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899422/PHE_Routine_Childhood_Immunisation_Schedule_Jun2020_03.pdf)