

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>SEASONAL INFLUENZA CAMPAIGN 2015-16; NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTIONS</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Purpose of Report:** To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on local implementation of national Flu plan for 2015-16.

**Recommended Action:** For information only.

*When decisions of the Health and Wellbeing Board impact on the finances or general operation of the Council, recommendations of the Board must be referred up to the Executive for final determination and decision.*

<b>Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council's Executive for final determination?</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Is this item relevant to equality?</b>	Please tick relevant boxes		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outcome</b> Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality. In this instance please give details of how the item impacts upon the equality streams under the executive report section as outlined.				

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# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 For the Board to note progress of local implementation and to consider their role in promoting uptake of flu vaccine among staff and residents of care homes, for example through Health Watch.

## 2. KEY POINTS:

- **The national Flu Plan was published in March 2015; immunisation of at-risk groups is a key component of the Flu Plan.**
- **Immunisation is commissioned by NHS England and delivered by a mix of providers.**
- **Following a Berkshire workshop in June 2015, local stakeholders have worked together to develop and implement flu plans**
- **Local authorities have a key role in promoting and increasing vaccine uptake among eligible groups and are responsible for provision of vaccine to frontline health and social care workers they employ**
- **Other employers of health and social care staff, (e.g. care home staff and other carers) have a responsibility to provide vaccine to frontline staff they employ**
- **NHS employers have a responsibility to provide vaccine to all frontline staff**
- **Flu vaccine is available from October to March 2015, eligible individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated as early as possible**
- **Uptake and flu diagnoses are monitored throughout flu season and fed back to local stakeholders to enable appropriate response**

## 3. BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Seasonal Flu

Flu is a key factor in NHS winter pressures. It impacts on both those who become ill, the NHS services that provide direct care, and on the wider health and social care system that supports people in at-risk groups. Flu occurs every winter in the UK. The National Flu Plan aims to reduce the impact of flu in the population through a series of complementary measures. These measures help to reduce illness in the community and unplanned hospital admissions, and therefore pressure on health services generally and A&E in particular. The plan is therefore a critical element of the system-wide approach for delivering robust and resilient health and care services throughout the year. Successful local implementation of the flu plan depends on partnership working; the roles and responsibilities of DH, NHS, PHE and Local Authorities in response to Flu are shown in

Figure 1.

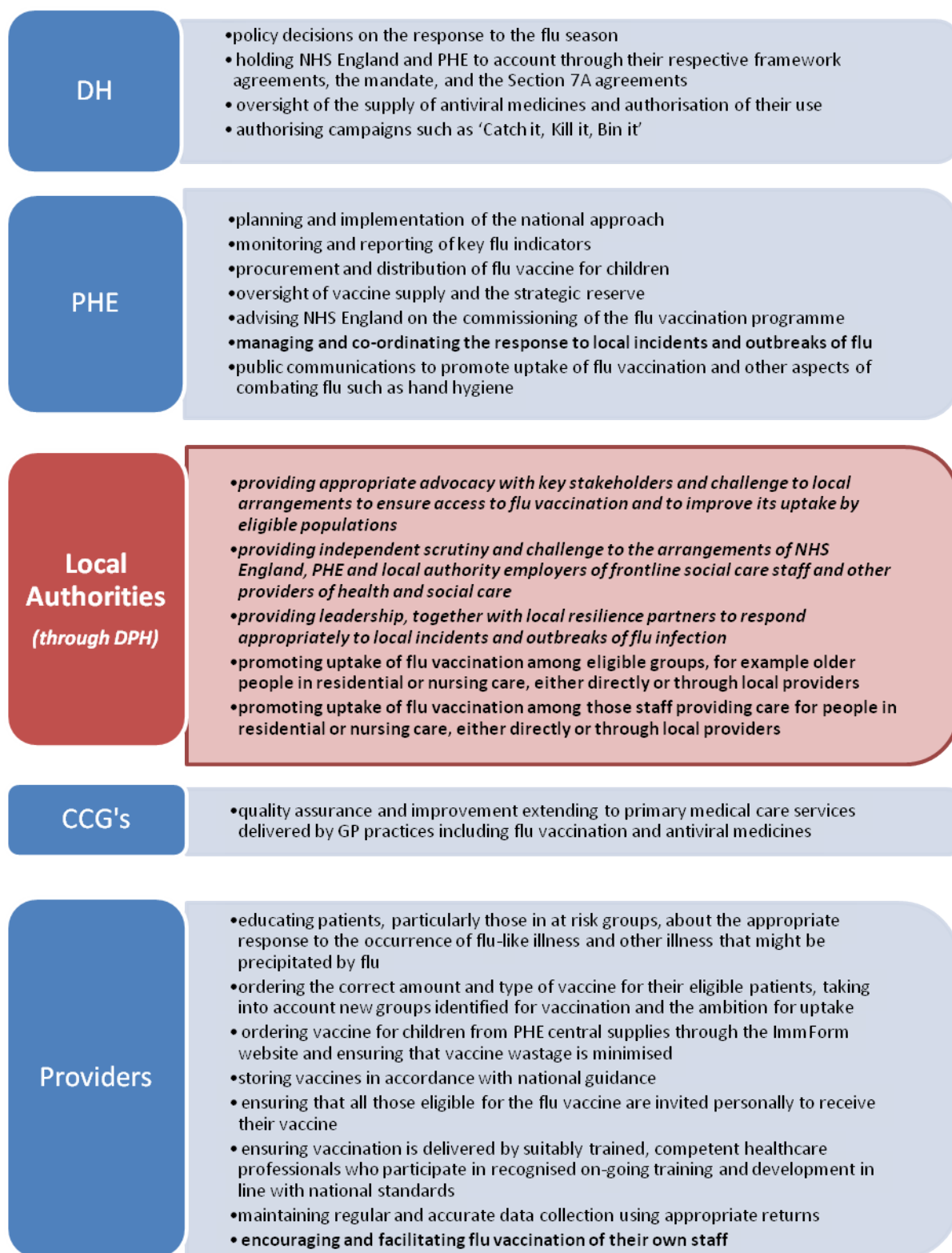
### **3.2 The national flu immunisation programme**

Flu vaccination remains the best way to protect people from flu. People in certain groups are at increased risk of severe symptoms if they contract flu, these groups are eligible for free flu vaccine.

- Adults aged 65 or above
- Children aged 2 to 4 years or in school years 1 and 2
- Pregnant women
- Paid and unpaid carers
- Frontline health and social-care workers
- People living in long-stay residential care homes,
- Adults and children (6 months to 64 years) with one or more of the following conditions;
  - a heart problem
  - a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma
  - kidney disease
  - lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as steroid medication or cancer treatment)
  - liver disease
  - stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
  - diabetes
  - a neurological condition, e.g. multiple sclerosis (MS), cerebral palsy or learning disability

It is important to continue to communicate the benefits of the vaccine among all recommended groups and to make vaccination as easily accessible as possible, including for frontline health and social care workers, including those employed by private organisations.

**Figure 1: Roles and responsibilities of local authorities and partner organisations in response to seasonal flu**



### 3.3 Aims of the flu immunisation programme

The aims of the immunisation programme are to;

- Offer flu vaccine to 100% of people in eligible groups.
- Immunise 60% of children, with a minimum 40% uptake in each school
- Maintain and improve uptake in over 65s and 6 months to 64 years in clinical risk groups with at least 75% uptake for those aged 65 years and over and 75% uptake for health and social care workers
- Improve uptake over and above last season among those in clinical risk groups and prioritise those with immunosuppression, chronic liver and neurological disease, including people with learning disabilities

## 4. LOCAL ACTIONS

Across West Berkshire residents can access flu vaccine in a number of ways as set out in **Table 1**

**Table 1: Access to flu vaccine for eligible groups**

Group	Provider
Children aged 2 to 4	Primary Care
School years 1 and 2	School based programme, Berkshire Healthcare Trust
Special Schools	School based programme , Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Adults aged 65 or above	Primary Care or Pharmacy
Adults in clinical risk groups	Primary Care or Pharmacy
Children in clinical risk groups	Primary Care (or through special school programme)
Paid and unpaid carers	Primary Care or Pharmacy
Pregnant Women	Maternity Unit at Royal Berkshire Hospital or Primary Care
Health and social care workers	Via occupational health arrangements

## Local Flu Timeline

*March 2015: Annual Flu letter and National Flu Plan published*

June 2015: Berkshire Flu Workshop (Berkshire stakeholders)

July 2015: Berkshire Local Authority Flu Plans Produced (Berkshire Shared PH Team)

June – August 2015: Commissioning (NHS England)

July 2015: Local Communications Plan available (NHS England)

July-October 2015: Local communications and promotion campaigns developed

September 2015; Schools poster competition (Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network)

October 2015: Vaccine available to order

October 2015: National communications materials available

October-2015-March 2015: Flu campaign in operation

March 2015: Local review planned

## 5. Equalities

5.1 This item is not relevant to equality.

## Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.

## **Consultees**

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Dr Lise Llewellyn, Strategic Director of Public Health  
Lesley Wyman, Consultant in Public Health West Berkshire Council

Stakeholder workshop held in June 2015 including Dr Chris Cook and Harpal Aujla, Screening and Immunisation Team NHS England South - South Central and representatives from Berkshire West CCGs, GP practices, NHS provider organisations, Public Health England and public health teams across Berkshire.