

NHS LANARKSHIRE
NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
BELLSHILL LOCALITY

DATE OF REPORT: July 2008

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SUBJECT: Update Report to Bellshill & District Local Area Partnership
 Public Health Programme Launch –
 HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) Vaccine

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Bellshill & District Local Area Partnership of a major national/local public health programme in September 2008 to protect young girls against cervical cancer. The campaign has received cross party support at a national level.

2. BRIEFING REPORT**• Cervical Cancer**

Cervical Cancer is the second most common cancer of women worldwide. Routine cervical screening programmes and subsequent treatment have prevented many invasive cancers and deaths by detecting and preventing cervical changes at an early stage. However, there were 282 new invasive cervical cancer registrations and 102 deaths in Scotland in 2004. Most cases occur in women in their thirties.

Some groups of women are less likely to attend for cervical screening, eg. ethnic minority groups, homeless populations and, in Scotland, there has been a gradual fall over the past few years in the number of women taking up their invitations for cervical screening, particularly in the youngest age groups. Currently, Bellshill Locality has the lowest uptake rate for cervical screening across NHSL (76.7%).

The Locality has been involved in a number of public health initiatives over the past two years to increase awareness and improve uptake levels, eg. Community health educator activity, smear “amnesty” in specific GP Practices, Mind, Body and Spirit roadshows and other initiatives within Mental Health and Learning Disability Services.

Over 99% of cervical cancers are caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection which is primarily spread by sexual contact. Infection by a high risk type of HPV is necessary for the development of cervical cancer.

• HPV Vaccine

The vaccine is designed to protect against the two types of HPV which can cause 70% of the cases

of cervical cancer. As it does not protect against all other types, women will require to continue to attend for regular cervical screening when 20 years of age. The vaccine does not protect against other infections spread during sexual activity.

From September 2008, HPV vaccination is routinely recommended for all girls 12-13 years of age (S2). This will continue in future years as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme. Initially, there will be a time limited 'catch-up' campaign where girls 13-17 years inclusive will be offered the vaccination. In Scotland, the catch-up programme will also begin in September 2008 with girls aged 16 and 17 years (S5/6) and be completed by August 2011.

The immunisation programme will be largely school based. However, GP Practices will also be involved as some girls will need the vaccination outwith school premises either because they have already left school or by way of a catch-up.

The objective of the HPV immunisation programme is to provide three doses of HPV vaccine to females before they reach an age when the risk of HPV infection increased and they are at subsequent risk of cervical cancer.

The vaccine will be given in the upper arm by the Public Health Nurse. Three injections will be needed over a six month period. It will be important that each girl has all three injections to receive the best protection.

There are no reports of serious side effects attributed to the immunisation and the vaccine has been found to be safe and well tolerated in clinical studies.

The immunisation of girls will reduce the transmission of infection to boys.

Although the preference is for a decision to receive the vaccine be made as a family, in accordance with the Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, a young person under the age of 16 can give consent themselves if a health professional deems they are capable of understanding what is being proposed.

• **HPV Launch**

Information relating to the programme launch has been sent to Directors of Education on 3 June 2008 and information for the school community is now available on the Learning and Teaching Scotland website.

Local Public Health Nurses are currently planning school/parent information and awareness sessions.

Community Health Educators are supporting local community awareness through their regular contact with local groups, the Mosque and specific awareness sessions/coffee mornings for ethnic minority women's groups.

An education session for local head teachers has taken place in May 2008 via NHSL. The use of school electronic parent messaging to advise of the HPV programme will commence at the start of the 08/09 term.

Local Immunisation Programme – Scheduled Dates

| <u>Bellshill Academy</u> | <u>Cardinal Newman</u> | <u>Brannock High</u> | <u>Taylor High</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11 September 2008 | 18 September 2008 | 25 September 2008 | 4 September 2008 |
| 13 November 2008 | 20 November 2008 | 27 November 2008 | 6 November 2008 |
| 15 January 2009 (mop-up) | 22 January 2009 (mop-up) | 29 January 2009(mop-up) | 8 January 2009 (mop-up) |
| 12 March 2009 | 19 March 2009 | 26 March 2009 | 5 March 2009 |
| 4 June 2009 (mop-up) | 8 June 2009 (mop-up) | 11 June 2009 (mop-up) | 1 June 2009 (mop-up) |

Local planning will be put in place for Viewpark/Fallside/Willowbank Annexe schools where required.

• **Public Information**

A public mass media campaign will begin August 2008 ahead of schools returning from summer break and include the following elements:

- Information leaflets and Q & A booklets for girls and their parents or carers, (distributed to schools via local arrangements).
- TV, Radio, Press, Cinema and online media advertising.
- Public Information website – www.fightcervicalcancer.org.uk
- NHS Helpline Number – 0800 22 44 88
- Posters, leaflets, Q & A booklets, credit card sized information cards will also be distributed to GPs, Pharmacies and other relevant outlets during August.

The text in the leaflets and Q & A Booklets will be translated into Bengali, Chinese, French, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. These will be available online from the end of July 2008 at the public information website.

A DVD will be available in August for use in pre-immunisation briefing sessions in schools and will also be available to view on the public information website from August 2008.

• **Recommendations**

Members of the Local Area Partnership are asked to note the contents of this report with a specific Locality request for a multisector effort in raising awareness and encouraging uptake of vaccine levels. Further information can be accessed via:

➤ www.hpvscotland.com

➤ Publications@health.scot.nhs.uk

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