National immunisation programmes delivered within educational settings of Norfolk County

**1.0** Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to advise the audience of the arrangements and future planning needs for the delivery of national immunisation programmes for children from reception to year 10. [[1]](#footnote-1)

Immunisation is a vital method of preventing illness and possibly death for large numbers of people. Its success is dependent upon access to those numbers in order to sufficiently vaccinate to develop ‘herd immunity’ <http://www.vaccinestoday.eu/vaccines/what-is-herd-immunity/>. This level of immunity also protects those people who are not able to be vaccinated by drastically reducing the transmission of the diseases.

**2.0** Overview

In the last two years there has been an increase in the number of new vaccination programmes expected to be delivered to babies and also to children of school age.

**2.1** The general schedules[[2]](#footnote-2) for **Norfolk** delivered by Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust are as follows-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year for delivery | vaccine | To whom | Which term |
| 8 | HPV | Girls | 2 doses up to 12 months’ apart from autumn 2014 -schedule not yet confirmed |
| 10 | Meningitis C | Girls and Boys | One dose usually Spring |
| **Highly likely** to be introduced Sept 2014 - 15 - awaiting final commissioning agreement | | | |
| 7 & 8 | Seasonal influenza - pilot | Girls and Boys | One dose in Autumn |
| **Possible** from 2015 onwards |  |  |  |
| Primary schools Reception – year 2 | Seasonal influenza | Girls and Boys | One dose in Autumn |
| 9 & 10 double year catch-up to move schedule to year 9  (**possibly** Year 9 only from autumn 2016-17) | Meningitis C | Girls and Boys | One dose usually Spring |

[Year 9/10 tetanus, polio and diphtheria delivered within GP practices for Norfolk]

**2.2** The area of **Great Yarmouth** is vaccinated by the County Council’s school immunisation team which currently delivers the following

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year for delivery | vaccine | To whom | | Which term |
| 10 | Meningitis C | Girls and Boys | | One dose Autumn/ Spring |
| 10 | Leavers’ booster tetanus/diphtheria/polio | Girls and Boys | | One dose Autumn/ Spring |
| **Highly likely** to be introduced Sept 2014-15 - awaiting final commissioning agreement | | | | |
| 7 & 8 | Seasonal influenza -pilot | Girls and Boys | | Autumn |
| **Possible** from 2015 onwards |  |  | |  |
| Primary schools Reception – year 2 | Seasonal influenza | Girls and Boys | | Autumn |
| 9 & 10 double year catch-up to move schedule to year 9  (**possibly** Year 9 only from Autumn 2016-17) | Meningitis C | | Girls and Boys | One dose Autumn/Spring |

**2.3** Finally, the **Great Yarmouth** girls receive the following from the immunisation team of Lowestoft and Waveney –East Coast Community Health Care;-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year for delivery | Vaccine | To whom | Which term |
| 8 | HPV | Girls | 2 doses up to 12 months’ apart from Autumn 2014 - schedule not yet confirmed |

1. Summary and Conclusion

* The current delivery of immunisations to Norfolk and Great Yarmouth is by three providers (plus GPs) requiring on-going organisation and flexibility by both schools and providers
* Autumn and spring are the preferred terms to deliver the service to avoid major examination periods but in order to reach as many children as possible; parts of the summer term are also required.
* The next academic year 2014 -15 will be the most demanding of peoples’ time and patience if the pilot influenza vaccination commences in years 7 & 8.
* Providers of the service have welcomed the support and liaison between themselves and the schools without which the vaccine programmes would not be delivered in such an equitable and effective manner.

**4.0** The future

During 2014, NHS England will consider re-procuring the immunisation service following a full assessment of the current models of delivery. The process of procurement is lengthy and NHS England wish to ensure all relevant parties are able to engage in this process

**5.0** Actions

a) This paper calls for any willing persons to be included as representatives from the educational arena during the process of assessment and procuring. Please respond via email address below for further information.

b) NHS England and Public Health England appreciate and ask for on-going support from the education departments and schools across the Norfolk and Great Yarmouth area to continue to work closely with the providers of the immunisation programmes.

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1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisations-at-secondary-school> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. all schedules may require local adaptation in consultation with the school [↑](#footnote-ref-2)