

Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement

Meeting to be held on 30th July 2014

Electoral Division affected: All

Progress report on NHS Health Checks Performance

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Executive Summary

This report gives an update on the performance of the NHS Health Checks programme in Lancashire in 2013/14 and describes the improvement initiatives that are taking place.

Directly extracted data from Lancashire GP practices report NHS Health Check performance to be 8.7%, in line with the national average of 9%. A number of initiatives have commenced, or will shortly do so, which aim to increase the volume and quality of Health Checks over the forthcoming year.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note and approve the report and actions outlined.

Background and Advice

This report provides an update on the progress and performance of the NHS Health Checks programme following the report to the Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement on the 28th November 2013.

The NHS Health Checks programme is a national scheme which is aimed at detecting people at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and certain types of dementia in order to help prevent these conditions occurring or to provide early diagnosis and treatment. People who are aged between 40 and 74 years who do not already have a diagnosed condition, are eligible to receive an NHS Health Check every 5 years. The national ambition is that 20% of the eligible population are invited each year (i.e. 100% invited every 5 years) and that 75% of those invited take up the offer.

The NHS Health Check itself consists of a series of simple tests to measure blood pressure, blood sugar levels, cholesterol and Body Mass Index (BMI), in addition to a lifestyle assessment to ascertain risk factors such as smoking, diet, levels of physical activity and alcohol use. People who are aged 65-74 years are also given

information about dementia. A score is then calculated which gives the percentage risk of that person developing vascular disease within the next 10 years. Individuals with a high risk score (more than 20%) are referred for further tests and treatment. Individuals with a risk score less than 20% are given advice and information about how to reduce their risk, along with signposting or referral to other services e.g. stop smoking, weight management, or exercise programmes, where appropriate.

The majority of NHS Health Checks delivery is currently carried out through primary care in GP settings. In an attempt to widen the reach of NHS Health Checks, Lancashire now delivers a programme of NHS Health Checks within community and workplace settings. Also, to our knowledge, Lancashire will be the first authority to deliver the NHS Health Checks within prisons, substance misuse services and Healthy Living Pharmacies. Each provider has its own set of key performance indicators (KPIs) against which their performance is monitored.

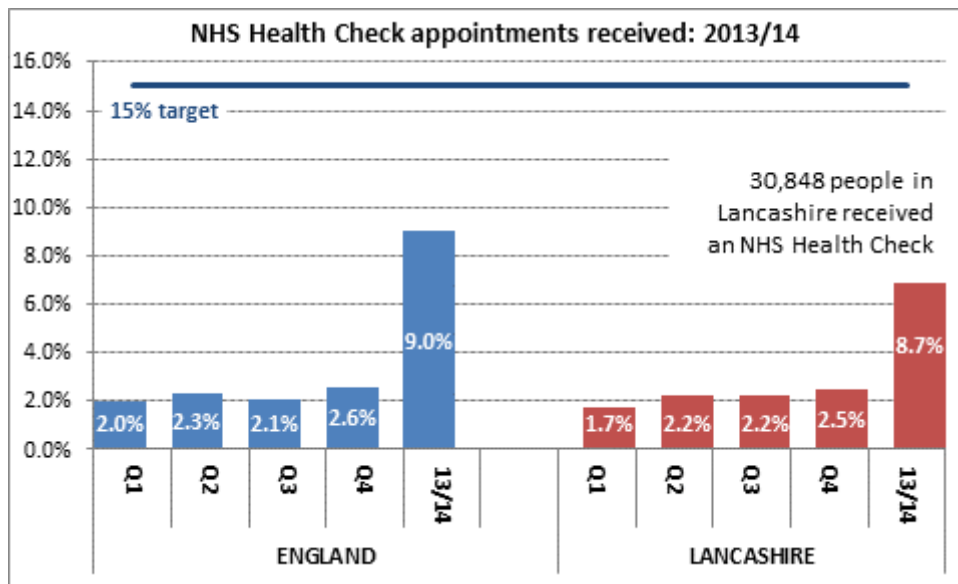
Responsibility for commissioning the NHS Health Check programme passed to local authorities in April 2013. Prior to this, the programme was commissioned by Primary Care Trusts. NHS Health Checks is a mandatory service for local authorities to offer. The 2013/14 Public Health Business plan set out a target for 15% of the eligible population of Lancashire to receive an NHS Health Check, which equates to a total of 53,418 NHS Health Checks completed over the year.

2013/14 Performance

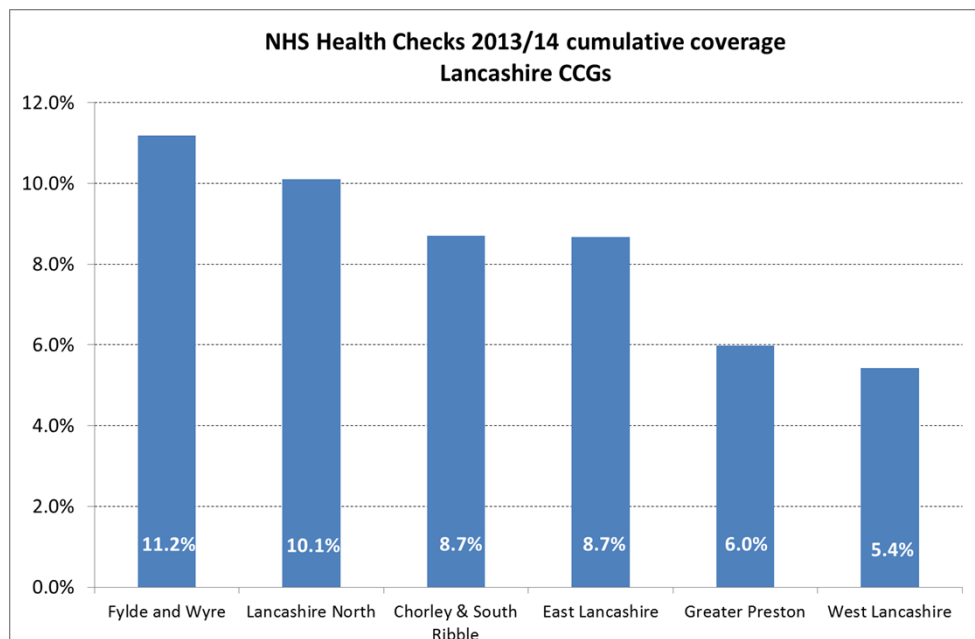
The main vehicle for the delivery of NHS Health Checks in 2013/14 was via GP practices which are commissioned to provide the services for their eligible patients and are paid on a tariff basis for each NHS Health Check carried out. Currently 94% of practices are signed up to deliver NHS Health Checks across the authority. This is an improvement since the November 2013 report to this committee where only 72% of practices were signed up. Lancashire County Council commissions the Lancashire and Staffordshire Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) to manage the contractual arrangements with GP practices. Data is returned to the CSU for performance reporting and payment purposes. Due to the absence of more accurate intelligence at that time, the authority submitted the contract monitoring data for the quarterly return to the Department of Health. Full year performance for Lancashire County Council in 2013/14 based on the submissions from general practice was 6.7%. However this has been shown to be an underestimate as not all GP practices submit their claims for payment in a timely manner. The CSU's Data Quality Team has now run national searches on GP practice databases and full year performance for Lancashire County Council in 2013/14 is given below:

	Number	Percentage
Total eligible population 2013/2014	356,123	-
Number of people who were offered an NHS Health Check	41,551	11.7%
Number of people that received an NHS Health Check	30,848	8.7%
Percentage of people that received an NHS Health Check of those offered		74%

The actual achievement of 8.7% is higher than the predicted achievement outlined in the previous report. The graph below shows the quarterly breakdown, and the England average (9%).



There was an increase in performance in Q4 which coincides with a comprehensive campaign that took place at that time across the authority, and it is likely that this had an impact on the number of people receiving an NHS Health Check, in addition to other factors which include performance improvement initiatives in specific Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).



Additional Services

In December 2013, as part of the performance improvement plan for NHS Health Checks, approval was given to procure additional services to complement the existing provision. Although general practice is fundamental to the NHS Health Checks programme, other provision is required in outreach and community venues to encourage people to take up the offer who would prefer a more convenient alternative to visiting the practice, or who are not engaged with GP services. A number of additional services are either already in place or in the process of being set up:

- Workplace and community – a pilot programme has been commissioned, provided by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust which commenced in April 2014. Dependant on successful evaluation and outcomes, a full procurement will take place later this year. Quarter 1 data will be available at the end of July.
- Prisons – NHS Health Checks are being carried out in prisons across Lancashire.
- Community pharmacy – delivery in community pharmacies will commence during Q2 2014/15; this is aligned to the Healthy Living Pharmacy initiative, and pharmacies which achieve accreditation will be able to apply to deliver NHS Health Checks (this will start in East Lancashire).
- Substance misuse services – there is an opportunity, subject to approval, to provide NHS Health Checks for clients going through substance misuse services. These clients are a key group.

Other work is on-going which includes assuring the quality of the NHS Health Checks programme, assessing competencies and training needs; continuing a process of CCG engagement to increase the number of NHS Health Checks offered in general practice; and a provider engagement forum to share best practice and find solutions to any issues. Additionally a further awareness campaign is planned for Autumn 2014.

Consultations

N/A.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated: None.

Risk management

The risk of not implementing the actions outlined in the report is that the NHS Health Checks programme will continue to underperform and the residents of Lancashire will not be able to access equitable services which enable them to improve their health and wellbeing.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Report to the Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement	28 November 2013	Michael Walder/ Environment/ 01772 533637

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.