

15 September 2016		ITEM: 8
Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Learning Disabilities Health Checks		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Jane Itangata - Senior Commissioning Manager – Mental Health & Learning Disabilities		
Accountable Head of Service: Mandy Ansell – (Acting) Interim Accountable Officer		
Accountable Director: Not applicable		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

Everyone with a learning disability aged 14 and over is entitled to have an annual health check. Health checks have been shown to identify health issues that were previously unknown in recognition that many people with a Learning Disability experience more health problems and have a lower life expectancy.

NHS England is responsible for commissioning directed enhanced services (DES) linked to national priorities and agreements. As directed, the opportunity to provide LD Health Checks under the DES is offered to all GP contract holders across Midlands and East (East).

A recent consultation with stakeholders in Thurrock identified that there were significant concerns about the completeness and quality of health checks, and that to improve the quality and coverage of health checks in Thurrock multiple interventions were needed along the service user's pathway. These interventions would involve service users, carers, social services, GPs, the third sector, and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in Thurrock. Clearly a different approach was required to meet the requirements of delivering health checks in Thurrock going forward.

This report provides an update on the action plan to deliver the changes.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the progress made on the work plan to improve the quality and uptake of health checks by people with Learning Disabilities in Thurrock.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Reports have been presented previously to HOSC on 1st December 2015 and 16th February 2016 by NHS Public Health England giving background to the LD Health Checks Directed Enhanced Service (DES) agreement and performance in Thurrock and actions that would be taken to improve both quality and uptake of the checks.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 NHS England is responsible for commissioning the Learning Disabilities Health Checks with surgeries. The arrangement with surgeries is voluntary and in 2014/15 only 29% of people registered with a Learning Disability in Thurrock received a health check.

Since April 2014 GPs have also been required to complete a Health Action Plan as part of the Health Check, to help ensure that actions from the Health Check are taken forward. This however has not been consistently done.

There were also concerns about the completeness and quality of Health Checks as well as completeness and accuracy of data held on LD registers. To improve the quality and coverage of Health Checks in Thurrock and address previous years of below average performance an alternative approach was needed.

- 3.2 To this end the CCG from 1st April has entered into co-commissioning arrangements with NHS Public Health England to deliver the LD Health Checks. This means that an alternative service will be in place to undertake health checks for people who cannot access these from their GP surgeries.

The co-commissioning between NHS England and Thurrock CCG will provide opportunity to use evidence and co-production techniques to design interventions to enhance the routine activities available to support health, check delivery and to create sustainable processes in Thurrock and deliver high levels of access to high quality health checks.

- 3.3 Information provided by NHS Public Health England indicates majority of Practices with the exception of 5 had signed up by 30th of June 2016 to deliver the health checks
- 3.4 Practices have highlighted some support will be required to enable them deliver the checks, and the CCG primary care team is working to facilitate the assistance. This will include training, cleansing the Registers to ensure the right READ codes are used and entering information accurately into the database
- 3.5 Quarter 1 data was not available at the time of writing this report however checks are being undertaken by the Practices that have signed up. The CCG

commissioners have requested NHS Public Health England to facilitate access to CQRS (the data extraction and payment system) to support the monitoring and efficient data updates.

- 3.6 The CCG has reached an Agreement in Principle arrangement with The GP hubs to provide health checks for people unable to access these from their Practices. This will provide an alternative and more flexible option as hubs operate on longer opening hours. This option will also ensure a seamless approach in implementing the Health Action Plans.
- 3.7 To further support people access the health checks the CCG is working with Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions in collaboration with Healthwatch on an engagement programme to address barriers that may inhibit people from attending the appointments. A launch event is scheduled in October.
- 3.8 The CCG is also working with Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions to review the format of the Health Action Plans and ensure that any identified needs are supported in a more tailored way.
- 3.9 Appendix 1 summarises the work plan that the CCG has developed to deliver the LD health checks in Thurrock in 2016/17.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This paper is not for recommendation but for information and to update the Committee on the work plan that has been developed to deliver the LD health checks in Thurrock in 2016/17.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 N/A

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The expectation is this approach will improve the access to and quality of the health checks and promote better health outcomes for people with Learning Disabilities as a result of:
 - the detection of unmet, unrecognised and potentially treatable health
 - targeted actions to address health need.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

N/A as NHS England commissioned

7.2 Legal

N/A – NHS England commissioned service within the legal framework of commissioning Enhanced Services (ES)

7.3 Diversity and Equality

N/A – NHS England QIA framework

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report

None

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Learning Disabilities Health Checks – Work Plan 2016/17

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