

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE			
Report:	Progress Update: Latent Tuberculosis Infection Screening Programme in Lewisham		
Ward:	Borough-wide	Item No.	8
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Class:	Part 1 (open)	Date:	4 th September 2018

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Healthier Communities Select Committee with update on the Latent Tuberculosis Infection Screening Programme (LTBI) in Lewisham.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are asked to;

2.1.1 Note this update.

3. Background

3.1 Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England (NHSE) jointly published a Collaborative Tuberculosis (TB) Strategy for England in 2015. One of the 10 evidence-based areas for action highlighted in the Strategy is to systematically implement new entrant latent TB infection (LTBI) screening. Clinical Commissioning Groups were encouraged to apply for funding from NHSE to implement this locally.

3.2 Lewisham had a TB incidence rate of 25.9 per 100,000 population (at the time of the bid) with the North of the Borough having the highest proportion of foreign-born residents from high prevalence countries. NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) submitted a bid to fund the implementation of LTBI screening in a primary care setting. The bid was based on proposals to pilot the work initially in GP practices with high acute TB notification rates to PHE, and high numbers of patients from countries with high rates of TB incidence. The bid was successful and funding was made available by NHS England for a pilot in 2016/17.

3.3 Based on a PHE modelled numbers of LTBI screening tests across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, it was estimated that 848 Lewisham residents (prospective, new GP registrations and retrospective) would be tested for LTBI over the next year. Of these, roughly 20% are expected to be positive and require treatment for LTBI infection.

4. LTBI Screening Programme

4.1 The Lewisham GP practice based pilot (5 practices) was successfully implemented in 2016/17. There were a number of contributory factors to the success of the pilot, which included; (i) identification of GP practices and patients; (ii) data sharing; and (iii) agreeing processes with relevant services to ensure sufficient capacity was to provide treatment was available in the community.

4.2 The pilot findings highlighted TB testing remained low against original expectations; an average of 32 per month across the 5 practices. The recommendations from the pilot

were reflected in the service specification except for the LTBI age range (national criteria to test people aged 16-35 years).

- 4.3 Based on the pilot, a borough-wide Federation model has now been commissioned to focus on both prospective and retrospective patients. Bloods can be taken from all community phlebotomy clinics.
- 4.4 The GP Federation, One Health Lewisham Ltd is made up the 38 GP practices in Lewisham and has data sharing agreements to ensure continuity of patient care.
- 4.5 The Federation will support all Lewisham GP practices to develop and implement processes to raise awareness of the test and deliver to target numbers as agreed with commissioners. This approach enables the GP Federation to monitor the delivery of LTBI testing and treatment programme.
- 4.6 LTBI can be diagnosed by a single, validated Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test, and is usually treated with antibiotics, preventing active TB disease in the future. There are two b. commercially available IGRA tests sold as in vitro diagnostic tests. These are:
 - T-SPOT TB from Oxford Immunotech (later referred to as T-SPOT)
 - QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus from QIAGEN (later referred to as QFT)
- 4.7 Both commercial trials are comparable on the reliability of their results, i.e. specificity and sensitivity.
- 4.8 To support LTBI Screening, NHSE agreed a national framework for the provision of pathology services, selecting three providers in London. The selected providers are:
 - Oxford Immunotec Limited (OIL): Uses T-SPOT
 - Health Service Laboratories Pathology (HSL): Uses QFT
 - St. George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SGH): Uses QFT
- 4.9 The responsibility to agree clear processes between providers (including the inter-relationship between phlebotomy services and providers' transport arrangement), which should work to achieve the specified handling and processing requirements, and provide optimal outcomes from the test assay employed, was assigned to local CCGs.
- 4.10 Based on the criteria set out above, Oxford Immunotec Limited was selected to provide pathology services for LTBI screening across Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham, given the preference for the longer storage time of samples for T-SPOT without incubation, greater experience of targeted training, and flexibility of courier service. It was expected that these would ensure a value-for-money pathology service, which met the needs of the screening programme.
- 4.11 The expected outcomes of the service are;
 - Increased awareness of TB across statutory and non-statutory health and non-health care providers and communities
 - A reduction in the local incidences of TB
 - Increase in numbers of contacts of case of TB identified and assessed for active and latent
 - Ensure 100% of all eligible neonates are offered BCG vaccination
 - A reduction in people with LTBI developing active TB disease

5. GP Federation

- 5.1 NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned One Health Lewisham (OHL) Ltd to deliver the LTBI service. The rationale being that OHL included the need for specialist expertise and association with practice registered lists to effectively deliver the required outcomes. The service went live on 1st May 2018.
- 5.2 The Federation works with all GP practices to implement the service. OHL is implementing a phased approach with the programme. This includes agreeing

operational plans with each of the GP practices to ensure the number of patients being tested and treated can be appropriately managed within the existing services capacity e.g. GP practices, phlebotomy and community services.

6. Lewisham Service

- 6.1 GP practice staff provide dedicated information to patients on LTBI testing. The Federation arranges immediate referral for patients with symptoms of active TB disease and follow national infection control guidelines. GP practices were issued with subcontractor service specifications in April 2018.
- 6.2 The Federation has agreed a local pathway with Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust (LGT) phlebotomy service to receive the tests. Pathology then directly notifies the TB community team of positive results. The TB community team works with the GP practices to identify and re-call the patient for treatment.
- 6.3 All patients with positive IGRAs are referred onto the local TB services. There is a local agreement with Oxford Immunotec and LGT Phlebotomy service.
- 6.4 Lewisham GP practices make arrangements to follow-up patients who miss appointments for blood tests. If the patients are children from high-risk countries and have not received BCG vaccination they are offered BCG as per national guidelines.
- 6.5 GP practices who are a part of the Phase 1 implementation have invited 53 patients for tests. One of the GP practice has adopted a more intensive approach with phone calls within one week of sending invites and 2 further calls for follow-up. This highlights the dedication on the part of GP's as they best know their patients and how to engage with them on such a sensitive subject.
- 6.6 Currently the Federation is working with practices to address some of the feedback received from patients. This includes the letters being sent to patients from registered GP practices, further adaptation of blood forms and ongoing communication improvements with the test provider Oxford Immunotec.
- 6.7 Table 1 provides details of the performance of the service to date, which includes; (i) 53 patients being tested for LTBI; (ii) 1 patient Did Not Attend (DNA); and (ii) 2 patients were tested positive and are undergoing treatment.

Table 1: Lewisham LTBI Service – Performance to July 2018

GP Practice	Patients responded to invite	Patients Borderline	Patients Positive (require treatment)	DNA	Total
Belmont Hill Surgery	2	0	1	0	2
Deptford Surgery	18	2	1	0	18
Hilly Fields Medical Centre	10	0	0	1	10
ICO Health Group	6	2	0	0	6
Lewisham Medical Centre	4	0	0	0	4
Rushey Green Group Practice	13	2	0	0	13
Grand Total	53	6	2	1	53

7. Challenges

- 7.1 There have been some reported challenges with regard to implementing this service and we are working with our Federation and key stakeholders to address them for the include; (i) The service is in its infancy stages and at the same it is essential that they are able to appropriately manage the phased implementation to ensure that there are no adverse risks to the capacity of other supporting services – whilst at the same time ensuring that patients receive timely treatment; and (ii) There have been delays in the service gaining momentum as the pathway agreement required development and input from stakeholder and providers.

8. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the council.

9. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for the council.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications.

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 Lewisham is the 14th most ethnically diverse local authority in England: 46.5 % of the population are from Black and Minority Groups (BME) compared to 40.2% for London and 12.5% in England. In 2011 the two largest BME groups were Black African (12%) and Black Caribbean (11%). In the school population the proportion from BME groups is 77% and over 170 different languages are spoken¹.

11.2 With regard to those who are homeless or rough sleepers in the borough they are supported with specialist access to primary care by dedicated services commissioned by NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group.

11.3 The LTBI service specifically focuses on addressing key areas;

- Improving access to services and ensure early diagnosis
- Systematically implement new entrant latent TB screening

11.4 The service will increase the opportunity to detect LTBI. This means that rather than wait until patients present with the present with symptoms of acute TB, eligible patients can be offered a test when registering with a practice or opportunistically be offered a test when presenting for care.

11.5 The CCG has conducted an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and this service will support with improving inequalities amongst those protected characteristics identified in this cohort.

11.6 Based on the findings from the pilot LTBI testing and treatment will be limited to persons who are from countries with a WHO estimated incidence of over 150 per 100,000 or from Sub-Saharan Africa and who have arrived in England in the last 5 years.

12. Environmental implications

Not applicable.

13. Contact/s

Ashley O'Shaughnessy, Deputy Director of Primary Care, NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group.

14. Appendices

Appendix 1: NHS Lewisham CCG LTBI Screening Programme Website Launch

Appendix 2: Launch information to Lewisham GP Practices

¹ <http://www.lewishamccg.nhs.uk/about-us/how-we-work/Equality%20and%20diversity%20docs/Annual%20Equality%20PSED%20Report%202017-18.pdf>

APPENDIX 1: Lewisham CCG Website Publicity on LTBI Service

WORLD TB DAY 2018

LEWISHAM CCG SUPPORTING WORLD TB DAY – 24th MARCH 2018

World Tuberculosis Day is a worldwide event that aims to raise public awareness of tuberculosis and the efforts made to prevent and treat this disease. This year it takes place on Saturday 24th March 2018.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection spread through inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person. It mainly affects the lungs, but it can affect any part of the body, including the tummy (abdomen) glands, bones and nervous system. TB is a serious condition, but it can be cured if it's treated with the right antibiotics.

Lewisham has a lower rate compared to the London average at 25.5 cases per 100,000 population² with the North of the Borough having the highest proportion of foreign-born residents from high prevalence countries.

NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has commissioned a new programme to testing and treating TB for 16 to 35 year olds, who have recently arrived in England from high incidence countries where TB or people who have visited one of these countries in the last 5 years.

The CCG has commissioned One Health Lewisham, the local GP Federation to provide this service in partnership with all 38 GP practices in Lewisham.

Dr Marc Rowland, Chair at NHS Lewisham CCG said: "TB is a disease that is curable but still kills three people every minute around the world³. TB cases in the UK are still low – every year around 6,000 people in the UK are diagnosed⁴. But most people are successfully cured with a free course of treatment. We are really pleased to be rolling out this service and hope that it will increase the opportunity to detect the disease before patients present with the signs and symptoms."

If you receive a letter about TB, please make sure you contact your GP and request a blood test.

² Lewisham Public Health data

³ <http://www.stoptb.org/about/>

⁴ <https://www.thetruthabouttb.org/what-is-tb/>

APPENDIX 2: Information for Lewisham GP Practices

LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION (LTBI) SCREENING

NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is embarking on a new programme for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) testing and treatment for 16 to 35 year olds, who have recently arrived in England from high incidence countries where TB rate is 150/100,000 population or over/those who have visited one of these countries in the last 5 years.

LBTI testing and treatment is limited to those who are from countries with a WHO estimated incidence of over 150 per 100,000 or from Sub-Saharan Africa and who have arrived in England within the last five years.

One Health Lewisham (GP Federation) Ltd has been commissioned to provide this service in partnership with all 38 GP practices in Lewisham.

The eligibility criteria for LTBI testing and treatment includes:

- Newly registered patients with a GP practice*
- Aged 16-35*
- Not previously been tested or treated for TB*
- Been in England less than 5 years and;*
- Come from the WHO list of countries;*

If you have any questions about the screening please contact One Health Lewisham.