

REPORT FOR ESCC HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT
The introduction of HPV vaccination programme from September 2008**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In East Sussex, the two PCTs have agreed that a schools based programme for the introduction of the HPV vaccination of 12 and 13 year old young women will be implemented. This is in line with national best practice policy. An HPV team coordinator has been employed and a team of nurses has been recruited with administrative support. The PCTs have committed additional resources of £110k in 2008/09 to put this team and service in place.

The vaccine known as Ceravix is provided centrally by the Department of Health and a local 'cold chain' has been set up to ensure vaccine supplies are ordered and contained in East Sussex and wastage is kept to a minimum. The Child Health Record Unit are a significant part of the system to ensure all information, recording and data are in place. National media communications will be reflected in the local information provision.

- 1.2 On 28th July 2008, the Department of Health announced that in the school year of September 2008 to 2009, all young women born between 1st September 1990 and 31st August 1991 would also be invited to receive the vaccine. In East Sussex, it has been agreed that a Local Enhanced Service with GP practices will be put in place to allow this to happen. Community clinics at weekends or in the evenings may be held if additional need becomes apparent during the 2008/09 year.

Funding for the 17/18 year old scheme was made additionally available to PCTs in year, with a total of £100k being provided for East Sussex.

2 Plan for East Sussex

- 2.1 Each secondary school has been approached to request their co-operation in the vaccination of all 12-13 year olds and the forum of secondary school heads received a presentation in Spring of 2008.
- 2.2 Information has been sent to parents from the schools and consent of parents of 12/13 year olds has been sought. Each young woman has to verbally consent to each dose given.
- 2.3 The programme has been commenced in November and the schools have generally been very supportive of the team of nurses undertaking the vaccinations.
- 2.4 It is important that each girl receives the complete course of three doses, one month and six months apart. Those that are not at school on the day of

administering the vaccine will be followed up by the team and invited to either the next session or a specially arranged additional session which may be in a different venue.

- 2.5 Written information is provided to all parents and the girls and other sources such as health websites are also identified. The HPV vaccine co-ordinator and the team of nurses are available to answer any queries and a Q & A paper has been produced for the 17 and 18 year old scheme (attached as annex 1).
- 2.6 The PCTs have also introduced the programme to all independent and non-maintained schools in East Sussex that have agreed to be part of the scheme.
- 2.7 In the letters sent to the 17-18 year olds and in the Briefing for GPs we have included the importance of women attending for cervical screening from the age of 25 as invited by their local GP practice.

In both the East Sussex PCTs uptake of cervical screening is one of our World Class Commissioning outcomes. This means that the PCTs are committed to ensuring that there is year on year improvement over the next 5 years in our coverage data. Currently uptake is 80.4% in East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and 76.8% in Hastings and Rother PCT. There is variation by GP practice.

In order to support increasing the coverage of cervical screening, the PCTs have several measures in place:

- We have obtained data by GP practice showing five year uptake of cervical screening, so that we are clear which GP practices have uptake rates that are below the PCT average.
- A questionnaire has been sent to all GP practices (via the GP Clinical Governance Committees) asking for information to highlight 'good practice'. Once analysed this information will be sent to all practices.
- Both PCTs have funded a part time Cervical Screening Uptake Improvement Nurse. This post will work with practices with the lowest rates to support an increase in uptake. The post-holder will also identify trends in age/ type of women who have low uptake of cervical screening. The post-holder will provide a cervical screening service for those women who choose not to be screened at their local GP practice or Family Planning Clinic.

3 Conclusion

As a new vaccination programme across England, the Department of Health expects that the PCTs will aim to achieve 80% coverage in the first year and will increase this in the next 2 years, to 95% by 2010-11. This programme is seen as a major prevention campaign to reduce cervical cancer in women. In East Sussex, the plans put in place will endeavour to achieve this and it will be important to make sure that the messages going out to young women are consistent with local and national information campaign to promote the uptake of the vaccine through the pathways described.