

Report to: City of London Health Scrutiny Board

Title: Immunisations in the City of London

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Over the last decade, coverage for routine immunisation programmes nationally, regionally and locally has been declining and there are significant inequalities in uptake by ethnicity, geography and social vulnerability. Aggregated data shows the rate of decline being particularly pronounced for City and Hackney combined. However, there are some recent positive signs of recovery (Appendix 3).
- 1.2. As coverage is currently below the recommended 95% threshold needed for herd immunity, London as a whole, has seen a marked increase in the number of vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks, particularly for infections such as measles and pertussis. The ongoing risk underscores the need for targeted action to improve coverage.

2. CITY OF LONDON PICTURE		
Vaccination Programme and Pathway	Data Sources	Coverage
Antenatal vaccinations are typically administered through maternity services within acute trusts (e.g. Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust), GPs, and other providers such as private hospitals.	Insight into this performance at place level is unavailable.	Prenatal pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine coverage for pregnant women for North East London ICB from January to March 2024 was 30%. This is below the national average of 59%.
Childhood immunisations are delivered primarily through primary care/GP practices.	Disaggregated data for City is currently unavailable, and where available, may be inaccurate due to several challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunisation providers often combine data for City, with that for Hackney. This likely results in the underestimation of City-specific coverage due to considerable differences in socioeconomic and population-demographic factors. 	<u>Coverage</u> for the hexavalent (6-in-1) vaccine for City and Hackney combined, measured at 12 months for 2023-24, stands at 64%, which is lower than both the London (86%) and national average (91%) (Appendix 1). By comparison, coverage for all routine immunisations administered at the Neaman Practice is 92% or higher (Appendix 2); which is also higher than estimates reported by neighbouring

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City's single GP practice, The Neaman Practice, serves 78% of the population. The remaining population is mostly registered with Goodman's Field (10%) and Spitalfields Practice (8%), both located in Tower Hamlets. Estimates based on The Neaman Practice alone may therefore not accurately reflect the true immunisation coverage for the City. 	<p>borough practices, ranging between 75% to 89%.</p> <p>Additionally, 2023/24 performance for Neaman Practice indicates improvements over 2022-23 on MMR and DTaP-related measures, with some now exceeding the WHO 95% target for herd immunity (Appendix 3).</p> <p>Coverage for Goodman's Field and Spitalfields Practice is summarised in Appendix 2.</p>
<p>School-age vaccinations are provided through the school-age immunisation service (SAIS) (Vaccination UK). Seasonal vaccinations are available through the GP and pharmacies.</p>	<p>Data for the school-age vaccination programme is available through the SAIS provider and is not published publicly.</p>	<p>The results of the 2023-24 school-age vaccination programme indicated that secondary schools in the City of London performed above the national average on most programmes. Only one school fell below the average for Year 8 HPV (girls) vaccination coverage.</p>
<p>Winter vaccinations</p>	<p>The JCVI sets guidance and recommendations for seasonal vaccinations. While flu vaccination cohorts are generally stable, COVID-19 (booster) eligibility has been narrowed following evidence of reduced severity from COVID-19 variants, and existing population vaccination coverage.</p> <p>Although flu vaccination coverage by local authority is available via Fingertips, there is no data available for the City of London.</p>	<p>The data for 2023/24 highlights that flu vaccination coverage exceeded the London average across all cohorts (Appendix 4). Coverage is comparable to or higher than the national average for certain cohorts, including at-risk individuals and 2-3 year olds.</p> <p>As of January 2024, 70% of City of London residents aged 20 and over had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This is compared to 66% in Hackney and 70% in London as a whole (Appendix 5).</p>

	<p>Coverage for COVID-19 at local level is not publicly available, however, NHS England publishes data on the total number of vaccinations provided for the current eligible population by region.</p> <p>The NEL ICB publishes internal data and performance, including coverage for care home residents, housebound individuals and health and care workers (where eligible).</p>	<p>Performance for the 2023/24 autumn booster programme (for City and Hackney combined) highlighted increasing uptake with age (Appendix 6), with optimal coverage in care homes (69%).</p>
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3. IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME CHALLENGES

- 3.1. **Data limitations:** As outlined in the table above, most immunisation data is aggregated to the City and Hackney combined level. Therefore, we are unable to analyse immunisation data by bespoke geographies, population groups and trends. This is a longstanding issue which, despite multiple attempts to escalate and/or co-develop a solution, we have not been able to resolve. As City and Hackney Public Health are not the immunisation data owners, we have been escalating this issue to the NEL data team and NHSE London commissioners to try and identify a solution. Although there were discussions within NEL to develop an immunisation data dashboard, as is in place in other Integrated Care Systems, progress towards this appears to have stalled. Attempts to access data directly have also been unsuccessful. This situation results in efforts being less data-driven, impacts our ability to identify and address inequalities in immunisation uptake, and prevents us from monitoring and evaluating local initiatives (including our ability to monitor and evaluate the impact of the new Strategic Action Plan described below).
- 3.2. **GP population representation:** A key challenge is the incomplete representation of the population in GP practice records, due to many residents being registered with GP practices in neighbouring boroughs. This data limitation should be resolved with the development of the North East London Immunisation Dashboard although, as described above, progress towards its development appears to have stalled. As such, there are potential risks associated including a false sense of security regarding immunisation coverage (when using Neaman Practice as a proxy for estimating immunisation coverage).
- 3.3. **Insufficient and non-recurrent funding:** Funding to support the implementation of the City and Hackney Immunisation Strategic Action Plan

(2024-27) is insufficient. In particular this relates to budgets for targeted and co-produced communications campaigns, engagement and potential partnership work with community and voluntary sector organisations, and optimising service delivery (including call/recall and establishing clinics in community settings to increase access). Additional funding received tends to be non-recurrent and associated with a specific campaign and therefore does not support a strategic approach. Programme management support for delivery of many of the items within the plan is unclear past March 2025 when funding for the post runs out.

- 3.4. **Unregistered population:** Information from the Child Health Information Service (CHIS) database has shown that approximately 6.7% of children aged 1-11 (out of 443), are not registered with a GP. As a result, these children are less likely to be up to date with their routine immunisations.
 - Efforts are being made to obtain contact details for affected families to assist with GP registration, and provide information and access to childhood immunisations.
- 3.5. **Schools not listed on CHIS database:** A discrepancy has been identified where children registered on the CHIS lack a listed school. This issue affects call/recall activities through the SAIS provider, and limits targeted support for schools with potentially lower vaccine uptake.
 - Efforts are ongoing between City of London Education and the CHIS to update records, supported by Public Health and the immunisation commissioner, NHS England.

4. **COLLABORATIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE IMMUNISATION UPTAKE**

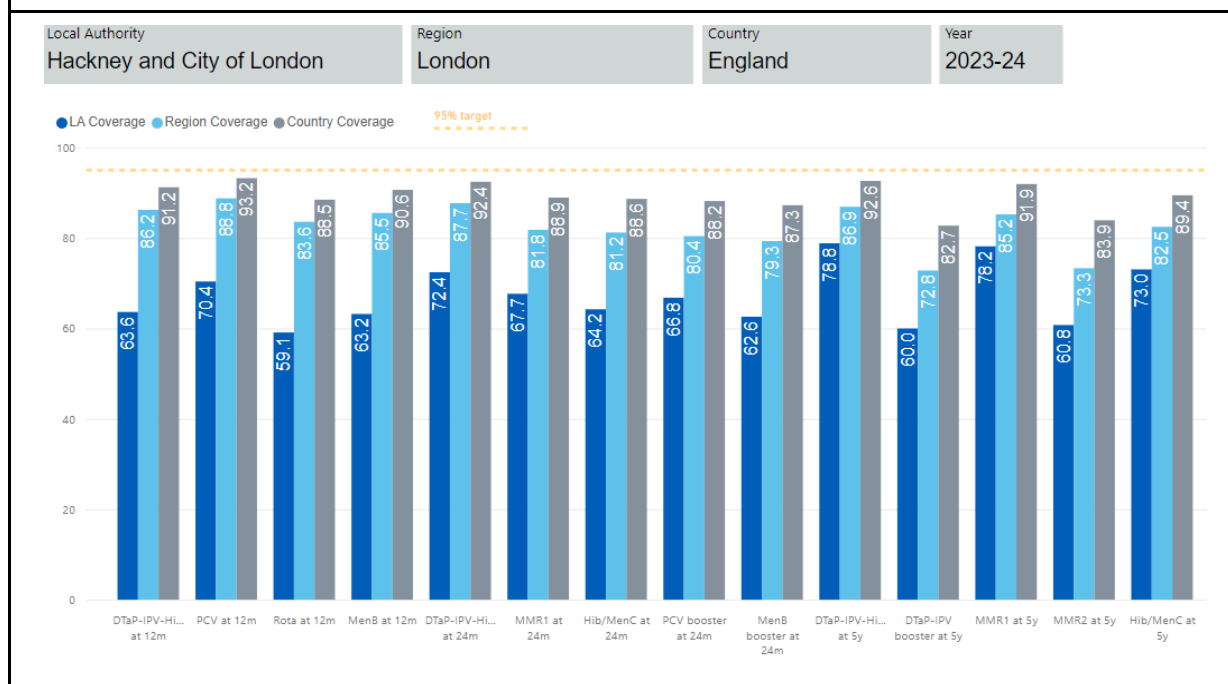
- 4.1. The responsibility for commissioning and delivering vaccination programmes sits with the NHS. However, City and Hackney Public Health continue to work with system partners, including those within the NHS, local GPs, and the community sector to understand barriers to immunisation uptake and implement initiatives to increase coverage, while maintaining a focus on addressing inequalities.
- 4.2. A new City and Hackney Immunisation Strategic Action Plan (2024-27) has been developed and is currently undergoing ratification. The overall accountability for the plan will sit with the City and Hackney Health and Care Board.
- 4.3. The strategic plan's vision is to safeguard all communities from vaccine-preventable diseases by increasing and addressing inequalities in immunisation coverage through action of community-, data- and system-led insights.
- 4.4. The plan is underpinned by a multi-pronged and evidence-based approach. The key strategic priorities are:

- Improving communications and outreach for inclusion health groups
- Co-producing community-informed campaigns
- Using data to guide activities
- Optimising service delivery
- Promoting vaccination advocacy across services engaging with eligible cohorts

- 4.5. The plan's implementation is already underway, with communications, engagement and outreach activities initiated throughout 2024, including:
- An immunisation clinic trialled at the City of London's Children's Family Centre, selected due to familiarity to families and proximity to Portsoken.
 - A 'family-fun-day' event held at Hackney Town Hall, targeting undervaccinated children aged 11 and below, resulting in 88 vaccinations administered (combined for both City and Hackney).
 - Additional MMR call/recall to undervaccinated populations in collaboration between City and Shoreditch PCN.
 - Roll out of the NEL ICB 'Bright Start to Life' and 'Protect their Potential' campaigns, which aim to raise awareness of the importance of immunisations in safeguarding children and young people's health.
 - Maintaining and disseminating immunisation-related content through local websites, together with the Communications team.
 - Promoting vaccination within asylum-seeker accommodation settings.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Childhood Vaccination Coverage: City of London and Hackney (2023/24)



Appendix 2: Childhood vaccination coverage at GP practices serving City of London residents, compared to London and national averages (2023/24).

GP Practice	6-in-1 vaccine (12 months)	MMR 1st dose (24 months)	DTaP/IPV (5 years)	MMR 2nd dose (5 years)
Neaman	93%	94%	92%	92%
Goodman	89%	82%	90%	81%
Spitalfield	84%	83%	75%	75%
London	86%	82%	72.8%	73%
National	91%	89%	83%	84%

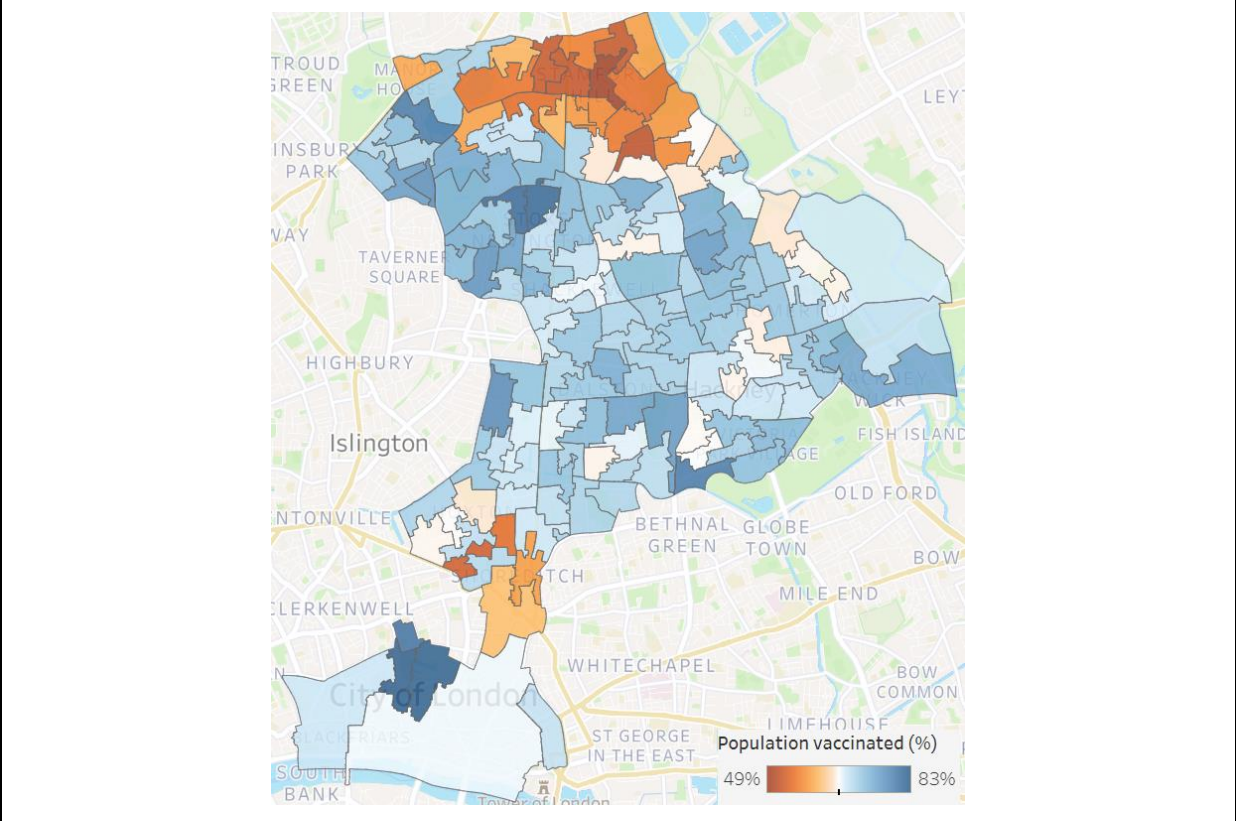
Appendix 3: Childhood vaccination coverage at Neaman Practice (2022/23 to 2023/24)

Vaccination Programme	2022	2023
DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (12 months)	91.7%	92.5%
DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (24 months)	90.4%	95.7%
MMR 1st dose (24 months)	86.5%	93.5%
MMR 1st dose (5 years)	93.3%	96.0%

MMR 2nd dose (5 years)	81.7%	92.0%
DTaP/IPV (5 years)	80.0%	92.0%

Appendix 4: Flu Immunisation Uptake 2023/24 in City of London and England			
Vaccination Cohort	City of London	London	England
Aged 65 and over	70%	66%	78%
At risk individuals	44%	35%	41%
2 to 3 years old	49%	37%	44%
Primary school aged children	46%	46%	55%
Care home residents	60%	N/A	N/A

Appendix 5: Percentage of the adult population that have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)¹, coverage, City and Hackney residents, April 2023



¹ Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are small geographical areas consistent in population size, with between 1000 and 1500 residents.

Appendix 6: COVID-19 2023/24 autumn booster uptake for City and Hackney, as of January 2024.

Cohort	Uptake
Care homes	69%
Health care workers (self-declared)	60%
80	53%
75-79	54%
70-74	47%
65-69	39%
At-risk	19%