

# CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

## REPORT ON SWINE FLU AND MEASLES – NHS SOUTH OF TYNE AND WEAR

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The presentation will provide Members with an overview of the current situation in relation to the Swine Flu pandemic and how the city is prepared for such a scenario. The report also provides information on a potential outbreak of measles across the city and the strategies in place to attempt to avert such an outbreak.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priority of a Healthy City, support delivery of the Healthy City theme of the Local Area Agreement, and help the Council achieve Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and C104 (improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting in June the Scrutiny Committee invited the Director of Public Health to attend the meeting to provide a brief presentation on the major issues surrounding Swine Flu and Measles within Sunderland.
- 2.2 The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee has within its remit the overview of children's health priorities. The Children and Young People's Plan includes the priority to '*Improve prevention, early intervention and effective management of childhood illness*'. This includes actions to '*Reduce the incidence of preventable childhood illness through the child health promotion programme including increased uptake of 2nd MMR vaccination and school vaccination programme.*'

#### 3. Current position

- 3.1 On the 11 June 2009 the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a global pandemic of moderate severity in relation to Swine Flu. Cases have now been reported in over 100 countries and reported deaths have occurred in at least 8 countries. This has included 1 death and 64 hospitalisations in the UK. The presentation will provide the current

status and the preparations being made to deal with the potential increase in cases in the winter months.

- 3.2 There have been outbreaks of measles reported in Hartlepool, Durham and Teesside with suspected cases in Sunderland. There are real issues around the potential outbreak of measles with currently 11,000+ not vaccinated or only partially vaccinated. The presentation will provide members with a description of actions being taken in response to this potential health risk.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The presentation will provide members with an overview of the current position and the strategies in place to deal with these potential health issues over the coming months.

#### **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Members consider and comment on the presentation made by the Director of Public Health.

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