

Market Position Statement

Community-based public health services

May 2024

Overview

- In Newham, community-based public health services include:
 - NHS Health Checks (NHSHC)
 - Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)
 - Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Screening
 - Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)
 - Condom provision
 - HIV screening
 - Community-based smoking cessation
 - Supervised consumption
 - Needle exchange
- These services are currently delivered through primary care providers, specifically the GP Federation (Newham Health Collaborative or 'NHC') or community pharmacies.

Demand: NHS Health Checks

- Newham has some of the highest rates of overweight, obesity and inactivity in the country: 62.5% of adults in Newham are classed as overweight or obese, compared to the England average of 64% (2022-23). The local trend mirrors the national trend of gradually increasing levels of obesity and overweight.
- Furthermore, Newham's South Asian, Black African and Black Caribbean communities experience the same level of health risk at a lower BMI compared to the White British population.
- NHS Health Checks are therefore an important tool for identifying residents at increased risk of 'lifestyle'-related chronic illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- Audits undertaken to date show that offer and uptake of NHS Health Checks from GPs in Newham is relatively equitable across demographic groups (more below).

Demand: Data from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID)



Sexual Health

- The number of new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed among residents of Newham in 2023 was 3,817. This rate of 1,263 per 100,000 residents is slightly less than the London average (1,448 per 100,000). The local picture mirrors the national trend, with growing numbers and increasing rates of STI diagnoses.
- Under 18's conception rate/ 1000 in Newham in 2020 was 9.8, slightly higher than the London average 9.5.

Smoking cessation

- Data from 2019 indicates that around 10.7% of Newham adults class themselves as smokers, compared to a London average of 11.7%. Smoking prevalence in Newham has declined gradually over the past eight years, mirroring the national trend, with a faster rate of decline observed since the introduction of a specialist stop smoking service in 2020.

Supervised consumption

- Within Newham, there are currently 117 customers on supervised consumption (December 2020). Pre- pandemic there were 245.

Needle exchange

- The uptake of the service in 2021 is averaging at 565 packs being distributed per month.

Commissioned Activity

General Practice

- The NHC contract (NHSHCs, STI screening, LARC and HIV screening) commenced October 2023 on a 3+1+1 basis.

Community Pharmacy

- In April 2021, Cabinet agreed to a new establishment of a 'Dynamic Purchasing System' (DPS) for community pharmacy public health contracts. These contracts cover community-based provision for EHC, STI screening, Condom distribution, Smoking cessation, Needle Exchange and Supervised Consumption.
- The term of the DPS is four years with an option to extend for up to four additional years (4+2+2). The first 'round' of contracts under the DPS was awarded by Cabinet in November 2021. Contracts for these 41 pharmacies commenced 31 January 2022. Another 6 pharmacies joined the DPS in a second round in January 2022. No additional registrations have been made since January 2022.
- The DPS is always 'open' for additional pharmacies in Newham to submit bids to provide services.

Equity / Demographic Intelligence

NHS Health Checks

- Residents of Asian and Black heritage are at increased risk of CVD and diabetes at lower Body Mass Index (BMI) compared to the White British population.
- Demographic data indicates that uptake of NHSHC is relatively equitable across ethnicity and sex. Older residents are more likely to undertake a NHSHC, mirroring the national trend.

Sexual Health

- Young people, LGBTQ+ residents and residents of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage are more likely to utilise sexual health services.
- There is a need to improve uptake of PrEP and HIV screening among heterosexual populations, in general, but especially among Black African residents. This is a national trend.
- Use of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is more prevalent among young women of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage. This pattern is also noted across the London-wide 'SHL' e-service.

Commissioning Priority 1: LARC in Primary Care

- Local Authorities across the country have reported challenges in maintaining historic levels of GP-based LARC provision. The Council is already exploring options in this area, with Primary Care Networks and/or NHS partners on a regional level.
- The Council, Barts Health and NHC have strived over the past several years to implement 'Quadrant'-level LARC hubs, with particular focus in areas with lower than expected uptake of LARC such as the north east of the borough. This work is ongoing.
- Challenges remain related to staff churn and the amount of time and effort required to become an accredited LARC fitter. The Council continues to work in partnership with stakeholders to understand and overcome this problem, and is interested in solutions from the market.

Commissioning Priority 2: NHSHC Outcomes

- Pathways from NHS Health Checks into follow-up clinical care are well established in Newham, but developing a more granular understanding of these pathways (and any possible inequities in follow-up and outcomes following a Health Check) is a priority for 2024-25.
- The quality of referrals into 'healthier lifestyle' programmes is another development area.
 - For weight management, GP referral numbers are strong but rates of attrition are higher than self-referrals.
 - For substance misuse services, the number of onward referrals from NHS Health Checks are lower than would be expected based on data from AUDIT-C/10.
- Education and training programmes will be established in these areas and built into refresher training for HCAs and Practice Nurses, with senior buy-in sought via NHC and PCN Clinical Leads.

Commissioning Priority 3: **Anything for sub-mis in pharmacies?**