

Item: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities School Aged Immunisations

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 July 2024

Subject: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities School Aged Immunisations

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the outcomes of a project by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation (KCHFT) to increase vaccine uptake and reduce inequalities amongst the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community.

1) Introduction

- a) The Kent and Medway School Aged Immunisations service (provided by KCHFT) received funding in December 2022 from NHSE to undertake three programmes for decreasing health inequalities related to immunisations. One of these projects focussed on Eastern European communities, including Roma populations in Thanet, and another project focussed on British and Irish Gypsy Traveller Groups in West Kent. The programme completed in December 2023.
- b) The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has long held an interest in monitoring the health inequalities experienced by the GRT community, and for this reason KCHFT have been invited to attend today's meeting and provide the outcomes of the two programmes.
- c) HOSC received a written report on the Health Inequalities of the local GRT community on the 11 May 2022. It was noted in both the report and item discussion that the ease of access to health services, particularly primary care, for the GRT community was of concern. It was recognised that many members of the GRT community face several barriers to health care and often experience poor health outcomes.
- d) One of the outcomes in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy is to "tackle the wider determinants to prevent ill health" which includes the need to address inequalities. HOSC plays a strategic role in scrutinising how effectively local NHS services are achieving this outcome.

2) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee note and comment on the contents of the report.

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Background Documents

Kent County Council (2022) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/05/2022),
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8763&Ver=4>

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