



Board Meeting – 6 May 2004
Agenda Item: 12

Report of the Director of Public Health

MMR uptake in Neath Port Talbot is improving but considerable effort will be needed to protect local children from outbreaks

Background

Following negative and inaccurate publicity, the uptake of MMR fell across Wales and particularly in Neath Port Talbot. In 2003, Neath Port Talbot LHB adopted a strategy to reverse this trend and to protect local children from these diseases.

Purpose

The uptake of MMR for local children fell to an all time low in the quarter ending December 2002. It has since risen steadily in the four succeeding quarters, latest figures being shown below:

MMR Uptake – one dose by 2nd birthday

%	Dec 2002	Dec 2003
Neath Port Talbot / Swansea	66	
Neath Port Talbot		72
Wales	79	81

NB Neath Port Talbot figures newly available separate from Swansea

The figures for children aged 5 are also encouraging, as shown below:

MMR Uptake at 5th Birthday

% Uptake	Dec 2002		Dec 2003	
	1 dose	2 dose	1 dose	2 dose
Neath Port Talbot / Swansea	83	64		
Neath Port Talbot			90	76
Wales	89	72	89	75

The update is, however, still well below that needed to protect against outbreaks in the Community.

Following a single dose of the vaccine, around 90% of children are protected against measles and mumps, and 95% against rubella. A second dose raises this level to over 99% for all three diseases. Vaccination levels in the high 90's are needed to prevent such outbreaks.

Recommendation

Board Members are asked to note that the LHB strategy designed to protect local children against these diseases and their long-term effects is being actively pursued.

v: NPHS/DPHM/Annie/NPT LHB/Papers/Board Paper MMR 19.04.04.doc