

## MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Meningitis B Vaccination Programme
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer for Social Services
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new vaccination programme to prevent meningitis offered to babies as part of the routine National Health Service (NHS) childhood vaccination programme was introduced in September 2015. Since that time, public support has increased for the programme to be extended to include all children up to the age of 11.

The Petitions Committee of Parliament is currently conducting an inquiry after receiving an e-petition signed by over 820,000 members of the public seeking an extension to the programme within the UK.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Flintshire County Council commits its support for the extension of the vaccination programme to all children up to the age of 11.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE MENINGITIS B VACCINATION PROGRAMME</b>
1.01	A new vaccination programme for babies to protect against infection by meningococcal group B bacteria, which can cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) has been introduced in the UK as the first national, routine and publicly funded programme in the World.
1.02	The programme was introduced in the UK in September 2015. Children born on or after 1 July 2015 will be offered three doses of the vaccine at two, four and 12-13 months of age.
1.03	Children born after 1 May 2015 will also be offered catch up doses of the vaccine at the same time as receiving other routine vaccinations.
1.04	The UK Government have received a petition signed by over 820,000 members of the public to extend the programme to include all children up to the age of 11.
1.05	The Parliamentary Petitions Committee, working jointly with the Health Committee, is currently holding its second evidence session on the meningitis B vaccine and have agreed to schedule a debate on this petition in Parliament after the evidence sessions have taken place. The date will be announced in due course.
1.06	Due to the impact that this preventable disease has on children, families and communities, support for this public call for the vaccination programme to be extended to include children up to the age of 11 is being sought from Cabinet.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	No direct financial implications for the local authority.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The submission of this report is in response to public support for the petition.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	None as a result of this report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>For background and progress in relation to the UK parliamentary inquiry following submission of the e-petition.:</p> <p><a href="http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/meningitis-b-vaccine-inquiry-15-16/">http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/meningitis-b-vaccine-inquiry-15-16/</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Karen Chambers, Wellbeing and Partnership Lead</b>  <b>Telephone: .01352 702571</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:karen.chambers@flintshire.gov.uk">karen.chambers@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Meningitis:</b> infection of the membranes (meninges) covering the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis can also be caused by range of organisms including bacteria or viruses. In the UK, the most common cause of bacterial meningitis is infection with the meningococcal bacteria, of which there are 12 types. Group B (Men B) is responsible for about 90% of meningococcal infections in the UK. Meningococcal infections can be very serious, causing meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning), which can lead to severe brain damage, amputations and, in some cases, death. Whilst the infection can affect people of any age, it is most common in babies and young children.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/43792">http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/43792</a>  <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/meningitis-B-vaccine.aspx">http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/meningitis-B-vaccine.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Petitions Committee:</b> is made up of 11 backbench Members of Parliament and is responsible for looking at e-petitions submitted by members of the public. Having considered those e-petitions, they can then make a number of decisions including writing to a government department to press for action, seek further information from petitioners, government departments or outside organisations and put forward a petition for debate in parliament. For further details :</p> <p><a href="http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/role/">http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/petitions-committee/role/</a></p>