

Market Position Statement

Community-based public health services

May 2023

Introduction

- 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.

Summary of current provision

General Practice

- The NHC contract (NHSHCs, STI screening, LARC and HIV screening) commenced October 2018 on a 3+1+1 basis. The second and final '+1 year' extension was triggered in the summer of 2022 and expires 30 September 2023.
- In Spring 2023, commissioners will be seeking permission from Newham's Cabinet for a direct award of contract to NHC so that GPs can continue to provide these services in the borough at an expected maximum contract value of £910,000 per annum. Spend varies based on activity.

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.
- The DPS is always 'open' for additional pharmacies in Newham to submit bids to provide services.

WE ARE NEWHAM.

**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

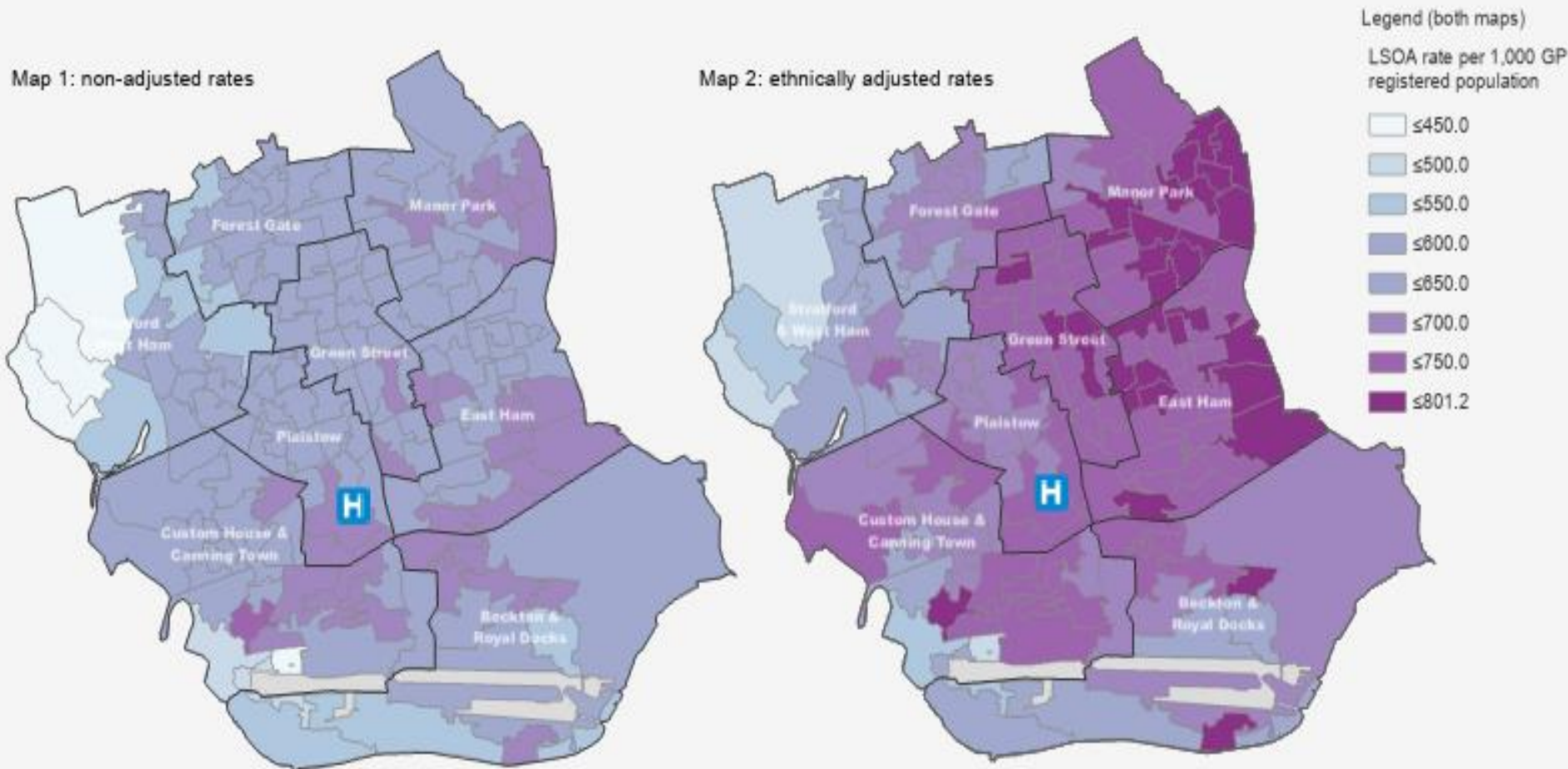
Demand / Need: NHS Health Checks



- Newham has some of the highest rates of overweight, obesity and inactivity in the country: 61.2% of adults in Newham are classed as overweight or obese, compared to a London average of 56% (2020-21). This trend is stable over the past 5-6 years.
- 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 / Need: NHS Health Checks

The map below illustrates the disproportionate impact of obesity on diabetes risk at lower BMIs among ethnically minoritised residents, with a notable 'clustering' in the northeast of the borough (the part of the borough with the highest number of residents of south Asian ethnicity). Darker purple = higher prevalence of increased diabetes risk.



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



Sexual Health

- The number of new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed among residents of Newham in 2020 was 3,098. This rate of 1,224 per 100,000 residents is slightly less than the London average (1,391 per 100,000).
- Under 18's conception rate/ 1000 in Newham in 2020 was 10.3, slightly higher than the London average 9.8.

Smoking cessation

- Data from 2019 indicates that around 13.8% of Newham adults class themselves as smokers, compared to a London average of 12.9%. Smoking prevalence in Newham has declined gradually over the past eight years, mirroring the national trend.

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.

WE ARE NEWHAM.

**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

Performance: NHS Health Checks



- NHCs in Newham are currently delivered by GPs.
- In Newham, the standard NHC assessment is supplemented with mental health screening for anxiety and depression.
- Newham is the top performing borough in England for uptake of NHS Health Checks between 2016 and 2021.
- Remarkably, Newham GPs managed to undertake a record number of NHS Health Checks during the financial year 2021-22 (over 13,800) as extraordinary attempts were made to make up for the slowdown during the pandemic.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
NHS Health Checks	9571	12326	6845	13883

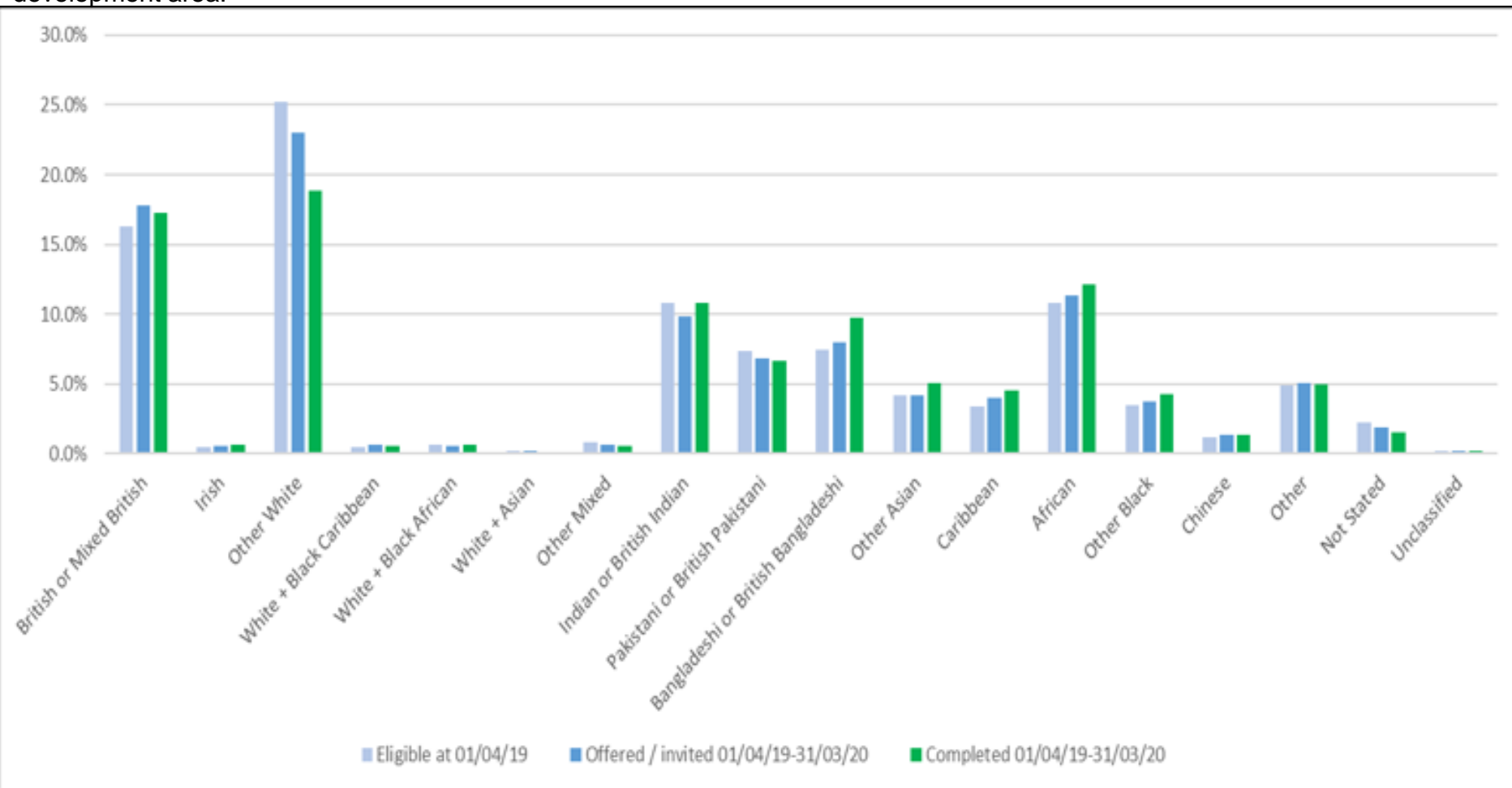
WE ARE NEWHAM.

**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

Performance: NHS Health Checks Equity



The graph below illustrates that offer / uptake for NHS Health Checks is relatively equitable across ethnic groups in Newham. 'Other White' primarily refers to Newham's eastern European community and improving uptake among this population is a development area.



Performance: Sexual health



- The Covid pandemic placed significant pressure on services across the country and levels of activity dropped considerably for many commissioned services during this time. This is evident in the data presented below.
- The exception was Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) in community pharmacies: in response to reduced availability of face-to-face appointments in specialist sexual health clinics during the pandemic, commissioners expanded the eligibility criteria for free EHC to include women of all ages. (Previously limited to women aged 15-24, as per the majority of other London boroughs).
- Recovery of HIV screening in GP practices has been affected by the cessation of a key testing method (mouth swabs) during the pandemic period. Commissioners are exploring alternative methods for increasing access to HIV screening via GPs.

Service Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
LARC (GPs)	1097	983	382	991
STI Screening (GPs)	2070	3296	1020	1390
STI Screening (Pharmacies)	332	341	104	28
Condom provision (Pharmacies)	1065	703	253	97
HIV Screening (GPs)	2873	7813	2429	3123
EHC (Pharmacies)	N/A	1234	834	1521

WE ARE NEWHAM.

**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

Performance: Community-based smoking cessation



- Uptake of smoking cessation in pharmacies has likely been impacted by the pandemic and the introduction of a specialist smoking cessation service in early 2021.

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Smoking Cessation - Registrations	888	812	429	316
Smoking Cessation - 4 week quits	540	658	288	141
Smoking Cessation - 12 week quits	324	446	191	112
Quit rate	60%	81%	67%	44%

Commissioning Priority 1: NHS Health Checks - Improving LARC uptake



- 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 ambition is to set up additional Neighbourhood-level LARC hubs, with particular focus in areas with lower than expected uptake of LARC.
- Challenges remain related to staff churn and the amount of time and effort required to become an accredited LARC fitter. The Council will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to understand and overcome this problem, and is interested in solutions from the market.

Commissioning Priority 2: NHS Health Checks - Improving outcomes



- Pathways from NHS Health Checks into follow-up clinical care are well established and function well in Newham.
- However, the quality of referrals into 'healthier lifestyle' programmes is a 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.

WE ARE NEWHAM.

**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**

Commissioning Priority 3: NHS Health Checks - Improving HIV screening



- Community-based HIV screening can be an effective way of addressing high prevalence rates in populations that are less likely to engage with specialist sexual health services.
- However, there has been a slowdown in uptake of screening following the Covid pandemic (due to supply issues with the HIV 'mouth swab' method that proved popular with Newham residents). This issue was compounded by a reduction in the number of practices carrying out face-to-face New Patient Checks.
- The wider landscape for HIV prevention has also changed over the past few years, as PrEP has become routinely available and opportunistic 'opt-out' HIV screening in A&E commenced in summer 2022.
- Commissioners are undertaking a review of this area that will inform future plans.
- The Council is keen to hear from the market in relation to the availability of HIV mouth swab screening kits.

Commissioning Priority 4: Community Pharmacies – Substance misuse



Supervised Consumption and Needle Exchange

- Pharmacies providing services have a wide and equal coverage in the borough, however, following procurement process Manor Park has a lower than anticipated level of pharmacy coverage within all service areas.
- For the sexual health service, the gap in provision does not present an immediate issue as it will be mitigated through temporary signposting to different nearby locations if needed. The commissioner will work with the provider to overcome any challenges for residents accessing the services.
- Lower than anticipated coverage in substance misuse services (Green Street and Manor Park) will require careful management to minimise any disruption, particularly to the supervised consumption services.
- The Council will work with existing providers who did not bid to participate in future rounds and ensure there is no disruption and residents are kept safe via interim arrangements.