

Health and Wellbeing Board

6 January 2021

Child Accident Prevention

Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the progression of work since the last update and future work proposed.

1. Key Issues

As previously reported:

1.1 The rate of hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries in children aged 0-4 year olds and 0-14 year olds in Warwickshire are higher than national and regional averages (ranks 4th in West-Midlands, Coventry ranks 1st), and higher than the majority of our statistical neighbours (0-4s ranks 3rd, 0-14 ranks 4th).

1.2 These data have been interrogated to understand variations in the conversion of children with injuries from A&E attendance to hospital admissions episodes. Findings suggest different hospital processes may have a role to play in higher than average admissions for unintentional injuries in some settings, particularly at UHCW in Coventry.

1.3 For a summary of the latest data analysis see: *"Injuries Leading to a Hospital Admission in 0-14 Year Olds in Warwickshire – A Review of Hospital Episode Statistic Data - Addendum October 2019"*:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/2164/injuries-leading-to-a-hospital-admission-in-0-to-14-year-olds-in-warwickshire-2018->

2. Accident prevention during COVID-19 and recovery.

Following the pandemic there will be a full review of the impact of the lockdown on accidents and once usual activities have resumed for children in and out of school, further data review of current accidents levels, their causes, demographic and prevention.

2.1. During COVID-19 outbreak:

Accident prevention has continued but with a different focus during COVID-19:

- During wave one lockdown, accident prevention messages were created and sent out from the Family Information Service (FIS) such as; use of stair gates, preventing window access and dangerous objects in the home. These were sent to families and key stakeholders such as health visiting, children's centre mailing lists and voluntary sector.
- Information was shared on places to turn to for support on mental health and wellbeing.

- Linkages were created with Child Death Overview Panel to review any factors associated with deaths during lockdown which could be viewed as preventable.
- Presented all work to date to the Regional Best Start in Life network, other Local Authorities were appreciative for the learning from Warwickshire.
- The team are about to launch key messages at Christmas, due to the pandemic families will not be able to stay in hotels and so may stay in other people's homes in makeshift beds. Key messages will be the increase in risk of harm from co-sleeping following consumption of alcohol, consumption of button batteries by children and sleeping in cots adjusted outside of manufactures instruction.

2.2. CAP Steering Group Update and Future Actions

Up until the COVID pandemic the Child Accident Prevention (CAP) Steering Group was overseeing the following work streams:

2.2.1. Data insights work (Put on hold due to COVID-19)

- a) Started an audit of A&E attendances at GEH to understand the cause of attendances and admissions. Explore transfers and admissions processes for children seen at A&E with injuries.
- b) Work closely with the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Child Death Overview Panel, in order to capture intelligence, recommendations and case studies.

We will continue to:

- c) Ensure local place-based JSNA action plans reflect latest childhood accidents intelligence.
- d) Interrogate admissions and attendance data for unintentional and deliberate injuries in Warwickshire's children (0-4 and 5-14 yrs old), and undertake an annual review of A&E attendance/admissions data.

Once the Audit is complete we will use the intelligence we have gathered to direct our work around:

- **Partnership and Communications**
- **Upskilling the workforce**

3. Financial Implications

Activity currently funded through existing budgets. Future funding sources currently being explored for: (a) child MECC training, and (b) increased CAP communications and marketing activities.

4. Environmental Implications

There are currently no environmental implications.

5. Summary

During the pandemic the team have focused on messaging and prevention appropriate to risk associated with factors linked uniquely to how families adapt to the pandemic.

Once the pandemic work reduces, the Child Accident Prevention (CAP) Steering Group will continue to focus most heavily on reviewing child accident prevention, and previous hot spots amongst 0-4 years olds, leading by understanding the cause of the county's high numbers of accidents.

Background papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Redford, Bell, Adkins, Kondakor and Roodhouse