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Yorkshire and Humber and North East TB Control Board - Update

Issue 9, March 2019

Introduction

World TB Day on 24th March is fast approaching! This year the theme is 'IT'S TIME' - for the TB Community to come together and unite towards achieving the **UN Political Declaration on TB targets**.

As always there are lots of plans nationally and across our regions to mark the event. Bradford, Leeds, Huddersfield and Sheffield are planning to light up local landmarks to raise awareness and many partners will be making use of social media to encourage the public and professionals to think about TB. TB nurses are running stalls in the community to encourage conversations with the public. The Yorkshire and Humber PHE Centre have also recorded a podcast which will be uploaded to the **North Street** platform (a podcast about ideas, evidence and action on public health and wellbeing from and for practitioners in the north on 22 March – do listen if you have the chance).

In the North East we are focussing on raising awareness amongst GPs and will be providing themed input into GP Time Out sessions as well as utilising other communication methods to remind them what to look out for, and social media videos featuring local TB specialists will be tweeted in the week of World TB Day.

We'll also be tweeting pledges from across the two regions in the run-up to the awareness day, so please look out for these, support and even tweet your own pledge!



Dr Andrew Furber, Centre Director YH



Dr Simon Howard, TB lead NE



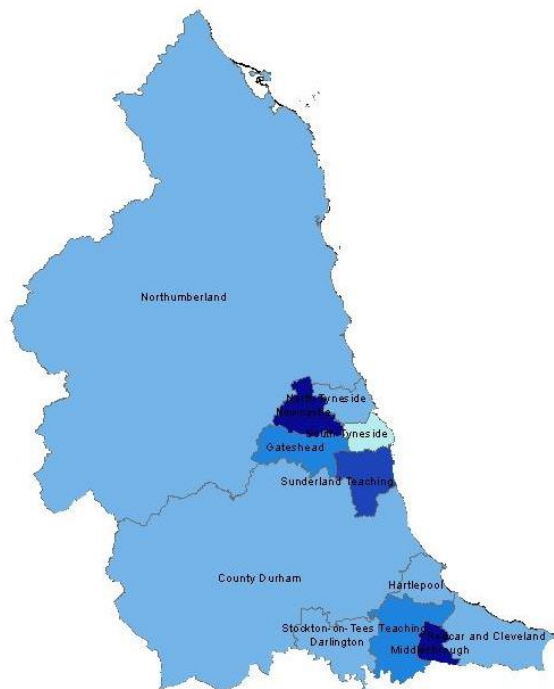
Dr Renu Bindra, TB lead YH

As well as World TB Day there is plenty more news and in this edition of our bulletin we will discuss the key headings in our local annual TB reports as well as provide examples of good practice across our regions and give you an update on the work of the TB Control Board.

We will provide a full report of all the activities that took place in our next bulletin. If you would like some information about how to raise awareness there are lots of useful contacts at the end of the bulletin.

TB annual reports (2017 data)

North East



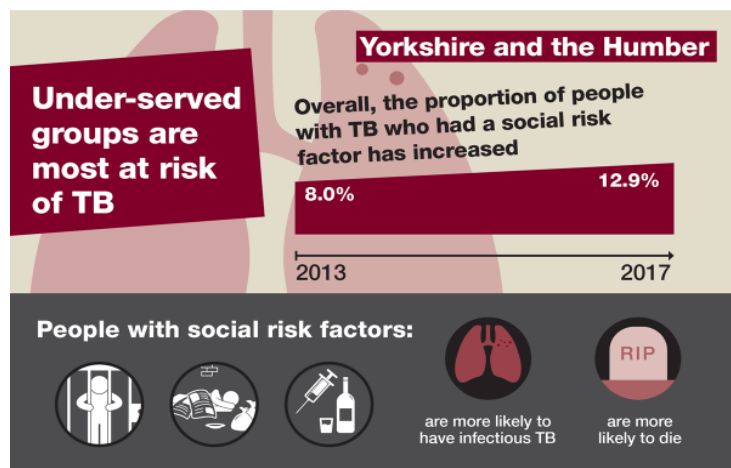
The North East remains one of the lowest incidence regions in England, with 4.7 cases per 100,000 population (compared with an incidence in England of 10.2 cases per 100,000 population). However, this figure masks considerable in-region variation: for example, Newcastle has 15.7 cases per 100,000 population, and Middlesbrough 9.3 per 100,000. Figure 1 shows the varying rates of TB across the region.

Figure 1: TB rate in the North East by local authority, 2017

Overall, incidence has remained relatively stable over the years. We are planning on focussing our efforts this year on underserved populations.

Yorkshire and the Humber

In Yorkshire and the Humber TB incidence is at its lowest level since 1990 (345 cases, representing a rate of 6 per 100,000), a significant decline from the peak in 2012. Whilst the success of this reduction should be celebrated, we cannot afford to be complacent as there are still pockets of higher incidence. As incidence falls, the prevalence of social risk factors – smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, homelessness and imprisonment continues to increase.



TB cases are becoming increasingly clinically and socially complex, against a background of newly introduced healthcare charges, no recourse to public funds, and refugee and asylum issues.

Figure 2: Social risk factors in Yorkshire and the Humber

If you would like to see a copy of either report, please let us know. The North East report can be downloaded [here](#).

Latent TB testing and treatment programme in Yorkshire and Humber

Six Yorkshire and Humber CCG areas continue to participate in the NHS England funded LTBI testing and treatment programme. Across the region, the programme is running well, and we had achieved 75.9% of the year’s target at the end of January 2019; we are on course to fully achieve this year’s target by the end of March.

New entrant LTBI national screening programme Laboratory testing activity data April 2018 – January 2019			
	Target for testing Apr 2018-Mar 2019	# and % tested	# and % tested positive
Bradford City & Bradford District CCGs	900	543 (60.3%)	119 (21.9%)
Greater Huddersfield CCG	411	428 (104.1%)	61 (17.8%)
Leeds CCG	432	436 (100.9%)	64 (14.7%)
North Kirklees CCG	525	188 (35.8%)	25 (13.2%)
Sheffield CCG	560	661 (118%)	89 (13.5%)
TOTAL	2396	1820 (75.9%)	294 (16.1%)

Table 1: Yorkshire and the Humber LTBI programme laboratory data 2018/19 (up to Jan 2019)

A national pilot to test the use of the new data recording system has been successfully trialled by Locala across Kirklees. Currently PHE is updating the system following pilot feedback and we look forward to adopting the new system across Yorkshire and Humber during 2019/20.

National quarterly activity reporting is now been provided to us by the national team. This has been most welcome as it allows us to better monitor local delivery of the full pathway and work with partners to address any pathway concerns.

Example of good practice

A key success for Yorkshire and the Humber in the 2018/19 LTBI programme has been Sheffield's improvement in testing activity. Sheffield began the programme with a primary care led model. However, engagement with primary care has been challenging and activity outside the university was extremely low. The Sheffield team were open-minded to reviewing the service model and adjusting it to one that would work better. We opted to run a nurse-led clinic, using Flag 4 data to invite patients directly and this has had significant, positive impact on activity. We are still working with primary care to increase awareness and hope to develop a more active primary care-led service in the future.

Subgroup updates

North East Network

The North East TB Network, chaired by Paul Davison, meets twice a year to bring together the health protection team, TB nurses, respiratory physicians, infectious diseases specialists, local authority colleagues and commissioners.

At our last meeting in January, we invited Northumberland veterinary colleagues Ross Brodie (Equine Veterinarian) and Amy Lawson (Veterinary Nurse) to educate the group about TB and the human-animal interface.



Figure 3: Ross Brodie (equine veterinarian) and Amy Lawson (veterinary nurse)

The health protection team, working closely with respiratory physicians and TB nurses around the region, frequently manage cases of humans who have been exposed to animals with TB and, more rarely, animals who have been exposed to humans with TB can also be affected. In a lively and interactive talk, Ross and Amy helped everyone to better understand the animal's aspects of TB management, including the extensive work done to prevent TB in the animal population, and in farm animals in particular.

YHNE TBCB subgroup updates

Paediatrics

The paediatric subgroup has now completed all its tasks and will no longer be meeting. However, there are plans to establish a professional network focussing specifically on paediatric TB. Further details will follow.

LTBI

Details discussed above. If you have any queries regarding LTBI please contact the LTBI project manager Adele.Mackin@greaterhuddersfieldccg.nhs.uk

MDR-TB

It was agreed at the MDR-TB subgroup meeting and ratified at the TB Control Board in February 2019 that it would be beneficial to extend the remit of the subgroup to include all types of drug resistance, which for example would allow the group to discuss the management of Isoniazid mono-resistant TB. The MDR-TB group will now amend its terms of reference accordingly and reconsider its membership as part of this new broader remit. The group can then consider actions relating to mono-resistant TB in the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Nurse forums

North East

With our new nurse leads Fiona Cook and Rachel Andrew, the group met in January and are focussing on LTBI testing activity and issues in the region. The network remains very active and will meet again in 6 months.

Yorkshire and Humber

The last TB nurse forum was held in February and there were nurses representing most areas in the region. Current work being undertaken by PHE was discussed, including a review of TB in prisons, programmatic and non-programmatic LTBI work and the TB workforce review. The national TB nurse lead, Surinder Tamne, updated us about national work including the atlas of shared learning, current work around a NTM (Non-tuberculosis Mycobacteria) survey, and the forthcoming TB nurse leader workshop.

During the meeting, nurses shared discussion and ideas around case studies and safeguarding issues.

Finally, Phil Cryer from Bradford Council came to present about his work at the immigration and asylum unit and specifically addressed issues around people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). Phil's presentation was very well received by the group and he has agreed to return for the June meeting for nurses to share their experience of working with patients with NRPF.

Other news

Case Management Tool for TB Prevention, Care and Control in the UK

The Royal College of Nurses in association with PHE, the BTS and the NHS has updated its **guidance on case management**. This was launched on the RCN website on 16 January and can be accessed [here](#).

Tackling Tuberculosis in under-served populations: a resource for TB control boards and their partners – updated

PHE has recently launched its updated resource on tackling TB in under-served populations. The updated version can be found [here](#).

National TB strategy updates

Various work is taking place to address the national priorities, further information can be found [here](#) and you can also subscribe to regular **TB strategy updates**.

Changing lead nurse roles for the TB Control Board

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Carole MacLean in the North East and Katie Jenkins in Yorkshire and Humber for their input as lead TBCB nurses. Fiona Cook and Rachel Andrew have replaced Carole and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement for Katie.

Education and events

PHE Public Health Research and Science Conference 2019 - Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 April, University of Manchester

The detailed programme for the PHE *Public Health Research and Science Conference 2019* is available on the [conference website](#) and you can now book your place and choose your sessions to attend.

The conference is taking place on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 April, supporting high quality and innovative science through the sharing of good practice to help strengthen scientific activity. The focus is on the application of scientific methods to protect and improve health, including the work of the NIHR Health Protection Research Units, NIHR School for Public Health Research and other research partnerships.

RCGP - TB in general practice e-module

This is a free e-module for healthcare professionals which can be accessed [here](#)

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine - Essentials of TB Epidemiology, Clinical Management & Control

This course is open to all health professionals who are looking for an update on TB with regards to new developments in approaches, strategies, tests, and treatments for TB. More details can be found [here](#)

Useful websites

Information	Organisation	Available from
Fingertips TB Strategy Monitoring Indicators	PHE	http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tb-monitoring
USP resource	PHE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-tuberculosis-in-under-served-populations
NICE guidelines (NG33)	NICE	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG33
Latent TB toolkit	TB Alert	http://www.tbalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LatentTBToolkit_WEB.pdf
Various information and resources for professionals & the public	TB Alert	http://www.thetruthabouttb.org/ & http://www.tbalert.org/
Various TB information and resources for professionals & the public	PHE	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tuberculosis-and-other-mycobacterial-diseases-diagnosis-screening-management-and-data
Latent TB leaflet for patients (available in 12 languages)	PHE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/latent-tb-testing-and-treatment-leaflet
TB strategy	PHE and NHS England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collaborative-tuberculosis-strategy-for-england
Tuberculosis in England 2017 report (presenting data to end of 2016)	PHE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-in-england-annual-report

TB Control Board SharePoint site

The YHNE SharePoint site is a local resource hosting key documents, event reports, news, updates and diaries. If you would like access to this please contact: ruth.carter@phe.gov.uk

Yorkshire & Humber & North East TB Control Board support team

Chair:

Dr Renu Bindra, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, PHE Yorkshire & the Humber

Co-chair:

Paul Davison, Deputy Director Health Protection, PHE North East

Programme manager:

Cathie Railton, PHE Yorkshire and Humber

LTBI project manager:

Adele Mackin, Greater Huddersfield CCG

TB programme support/admin:

Ruth Carter, PHE North

GP lead:

Dr Sandy Moffit, GP lead

TB nurse leads:

Katie Jenkins (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Fiona Cook and Rachel Andrew (North East)

Advisory CCG for LTBI screening programme:

North Kirklees

For more information about the work of the YHNE TBCB please contact the programme manager at cathie.railton@phe.gov.uk