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www.brent.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Dear Dr Ramsay,

Re: Public Health England response to cases of measles

I am writing to you to find out more information about the response by Public Health England to cases of measles in the London Borough of Brent.

Public Health England recently released information which said that from 1 January 2018 to 13 August 2018 there were 291 laboratory-confirmed measles cases in London. I understand that at a number of these cases were in the London Borough of Brent. Your organisation has said the rising number of cases is linked to ongoing large outbreaks in particular European countries. In addition, the majority of cases identified have been in teenagers and young adults who missed out on their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine when they were children and have travelled to the affected European countries.

As you will know, the London Borough of Brent, like many London boroughs, is currently below the 95% uptake threshold for MMR which is sufficient to provide 'herd immunity'. Therefore, the cases of measles in Brent is of concern to me.

In July this year, officers from Public Health England very helpfully presented a report to my scrutiny committee about the wider child immunisation programme in the borough. However, I would like to find out additional information about the local response to the recent cases of measles and what we can expect to see happen in Brent. Public Health England has said local health protection teams are working closely with the NHS and local authorities to raise awareness with health professionals and local communities. But I would be grateful if you could provide me with additional information specific to the London Borough of Brent. This includes:

- How you are encouraging people to ensure they are up to date with their MMR vaccine before travelling to countries with ongoing measles outbreaks.
- How you are ensuring those who missed out on their MMR vaccine in the past are contacting their GP practice to receive the vaccine.
- What is being done to reach out to young people and adults aged 15 and over who missed out on MMR vaccine when they were younger.
- How you are working with under-vaccinated communities, and alerting unvaccinated people travelling to countries where there are large outbreaks.

While I appreciate the risk to the public is still very low, I would appreciate a prompt answer. I should be grateful if you could send your response to James Diamond, who is the Scrutiny Officer for Brent Council who supports my committee, at your earliest. His email address is james.diamond@brent.gov.uk and his direct phone number is **020 8937 1068**. Please note this letter and your response will be published with the papers at a future meeting of my committee.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Ketan Sheth
Chair, Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Brent Council

CC: Dr Melanie Smith, Director Public Health, London Borough of Brent

CC: Sheik Auladin, Chief Operating Officer, Brent Clinical Commissioning Group