

Item 6.2

Children and Young People's Population Health update for BLMK Q&P Report May 2024

Introduction

Work is ongoing to develop a formal framework for monitoring outcomes and inequalities in children and young people for Core20Plus5, including the development of local metrics. While this is ongoing, this report summarises a selection of indicators (see appendix) which gives a snapshot of the area, using publicly available datasets, benchmarked against England and with a focus on identifying inequalities. The indicators were selected with service leads, based on their impact on health, relevance to healthcare demand, link to health inequalities, performance concerns, and data quality and reliability, covering all early life stages.

Health outcomes are often correlated with deprivation. Central Bedfordshire is not very deprived, Bedford Borough and Milton Keynes are moderately deprived and Luton is the most deprived area in BLMK. Performance on many of the health indicators presented below reflects this pattern of deprivation across BLMK.

Stillbirth rate and neonatal mortality rates:

Bedford Borough saw a high stillbirth rate in the years 2020-22 - 5.7 per 1000 births, which is higher than the England average of 3.9 - and a position which has worsened since 2018-20. All local authorities in BLMK have a lower-than-average rate of smoking at the time of delivery, which is typically a risk factor for stillbirth.

In Luton, the rates of neonatal mortality (deaths <28 days after birth) and infant mortality (deaths <12 months after birth) in 2020-22 were significantly higher than England averages. The PHIU is commencing work for the LMNS to understand the drivers and inequalities behind this issue across BLMK.

Childhood vaccinations:

Compared to England, Luton has low rates for all childhood vaccinations with rates for one dose of HPV vaccination being especially low; (37.7%) compared to England (71.3%). Milton Keynes also has low rates for HPV (60.7%). All BLMK local authorities had low rates in 2019/20 and have not returned to pre-covid levels for this vaccine. Milton Keynes rates for two doses of MMR vaccine at 5 years old have been significantly lower than England's since 2021/22.

Childhood Obesity:

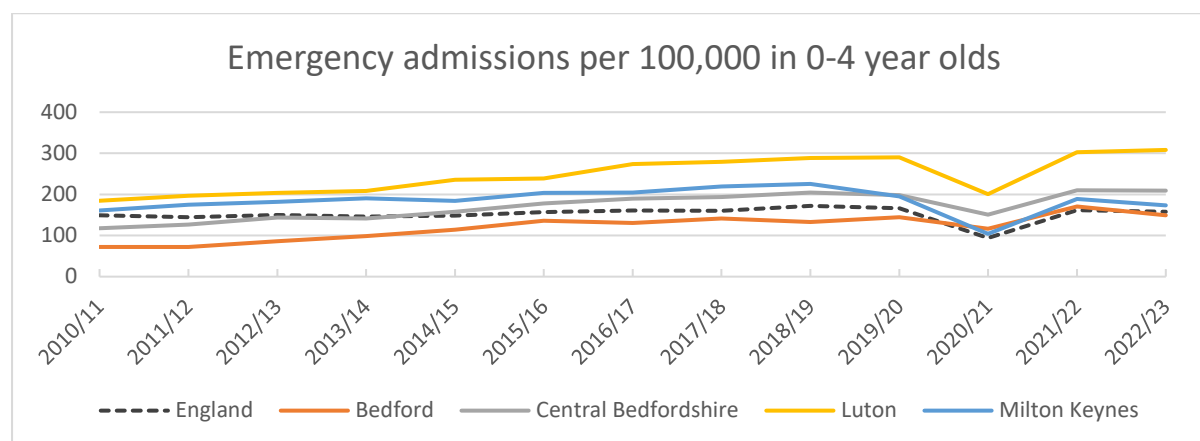
Obesity is a major reversible risk factor for a range of diseases and associated healthcare costs. Luton has seen higher than average obesity levels at reception year in half of the years since 2014/15 and all years since 2010/11 for year six children. Even in Central Bedfordshire, the proportion of children with obesity in BLMK nearly triples from starting primary school in reception (6.2%) to finishing it in Year 6 (18.0%). Therefore, supporting primary schools and parents of school-age children is a key opportunity to address rising obesity levels.

Hospital activity in pre-school children 0-4 years:

Rates of acute hospital activity in pre-school children are important because they reflect the safety, health and well-being of a vulnerable age group and can help guide population health strategies to improve health outcomes.

A&E attendances have been lower than England in all local authorities in BLMK in 2021/22 and 2022/23. However, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton's rates have increased between 34-47% in these two periods, This trend was not seen in England or Milton Keynes.

Emergency admissions have been consistently higher than England in Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes since 2014/15 with Luton continually having rates well above the England average (see chart below).



Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire's admission rates in children aged 0-4 due to falls were higher than the England average in 2018/19 – 2020/21.

Admissions due to unintentional and deliberate injuries in children aged 0-4 have been decreasing in England for some time. In 2022/23 in Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes they were at the lowest rate since 2010/11. Bedford Borough's rates are also relatively low.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse:

Hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions in children in local authorities in BLMK are low or similar to England and have been since 2016/17 - 2018/19. However, local data shows a disproportionate number of female 10-19 year old re-admissions (13%) compared to males (6%). Admissions due to substance misuse have been higher than the England average in four out of five periods in Luton and Central Bedfordshire since 2016/17 - 2018/19.

Hospital admissions for Mental Health conditions, 0-17 years:

Half of adults with a long-term mental health problem experience their first symptoms before the age of 14. Failure to treat mental health disorders in children can have an impact on their future. In contrast to the trend in England, which has been quite stable from 2010/11 to 2021/22 but fell in 2022/23, rates in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire rose in 2021/22 and were higher than the England average in 2022/23.

Appendix:

● = better than England, ● = similar to England, ● = worse than England.

Indicator	Time period	Bedford Borough	Central Bedfordshire	Luton	Milton Keynes	England
Smoking status at time of delivery, percentage	2022/23	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	8.8
Teenage mothers, percentage	2022/23	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6
Stillbirth rate, per 1000	2020 - 22	5.7	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.9
Neonatal mortality rate, per 1000	2020 - 22	3.5	2.9	4.2	2.9	2.9
Infant mortality rate, per 1000	2020 - 22	4.6	3.3	6.1	3.9	3.9
Low birth weight of term babies, percentage	2021	2.8	2.8	4.1	3.5	2.8
Very low birth weight of all babies, percentage	2021	1.3	1.0	1.6	0.8	1.0
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6 to 8 weeks, percentage	2022/23	56.0	52.4	63.3	n/a	49.2
Population vaccination coverage: Dtap IPV Hib HepB (2 years old), percentage	2022/23	93.2	95.1	89.3	93.6	92.6
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for one dose (5 years old), percentage	2022/23	93.9	95.1	89.8	93.0	92.5
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for two doses (5 years old), percentage	2022/23	90.4	90.8	81.4	87.4	84.5
Population vaccination coverage: HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12 to 13 year old), percentage	2022/23	74.6	70.3	37.7	60.7	71.3
Population vaccination coverage: Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) (14 to 15 years), percentage	2021/22	75.1	79.5	62.9	83.8	79.6
A&E attendances (0 to 4 years), per 1000	2022/23	774.5	706.3	744.3	490.4	797.3
Emergency admissions (0 to 4 years), per 1000	2022/23	149.0	209.2	308.2	173.6	158.0
Emergency admissions for falls in children aged 0-4, per 100,000	2018/19 - 20/21	509.4	547.5	473.0	456.1	428.6
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in	2022/23	89.0	95.5	89.1	76.1	92.0

children (aged 0 to 4 years), per 10,000						
Admissions for asthma (0 to 9 years), per 100,000	2022/23	151.0	67.1	242.6	79.0	154.7
Admissions for asthma (10 to 18 years), per 100,000	2022/23	164.5	63.1	187.1	68.8	88.2
Admissions for diabetes (0 to 9 years), per 100,000	2022/23	43.1	53.7	45.5	26.3	32.5
Admissions for diabetes (10 to 18 years), per 100,000	2022/23	70.5	78.8	102.0	68.8	73.3
Admissions for epilepsy (0 to 9 years), per 100,000	2022/23	172.6	120.8	272.9	92.1	92.9
Admissions for epilepsy (10 to 18 years), per 100,000	2022/23	94.0	94.6	102.0	68.8	54.4
Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), percentage	2022/23	8.3	6.2	9.3	9.5	9.2
Year 6 prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), percentage	2022/23	21.5	18.0	28.2	23.5	22.7
Percentage of 5 year olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay, percentage	2021/22	22.5	14.0	36.5	17.8	23.7
Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - Under 18s, per 100,000	2020/21 - 22/23	16.0	18.1	8.5	19.1	26.0
Indicator	Time period	Bedford Borough	Central Bedfordshire	Luton	Milton Keynes	England
Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15 to 24 years), Directly Standardised Rate per 100,000	2020/21 - 22/23	58.7	70.7	85.5	30.1	58.3
Percentage of looked after children whose emotional wellbeing is a cause for concern, percentage	2022/23	44.0	40.0	31.0	36.0	40.0
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, percentage	2022/23	2.4	4.2	2.5	2.0	3.3
Average Attainment 8 score (measure of	2022/23	43.7	45.0	44.8	45.9	46.2

qualifications at 15-16 years)						
Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (under 18 years, per 100,000)	2022/23	118.1	113.7	92.7	70.6	80.8
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm, 10-14 yrs, per 100,000	2022/23	201.7	242.0	149.1	140.1	251.2
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm, 15-19 yrs, per 100,000	2022/23	526.2	488.7	362.1	290.6	468.2
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm, 20-24 yrs, per 100,000	2022/23	263.6	326.3	195.0	204.7	244.4