UK Health Security Agency

NHS
Providing NHS services

Gateshead Council

Outbreak of pertussis in the Jewish Community of Gateshead:

Learning from a collaborative multiagency approach

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Content outline

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What is pertussis?

- Whooping cough (pertussis) is a **highly infectious disease** caused by a **bacterial infection** of the lungs and breathing tubes
- Illness starts with cold like symptoms followed by a cough and spasms of coughing w**hich may last for months**
- **Severe complications** can occur including pneumonia, brain damage and death
- Most hospitalisations occur in **incompletely immunised infants** <6mth age

Source: [Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Is on the Rise: What to Know > News > Yale Medicine]

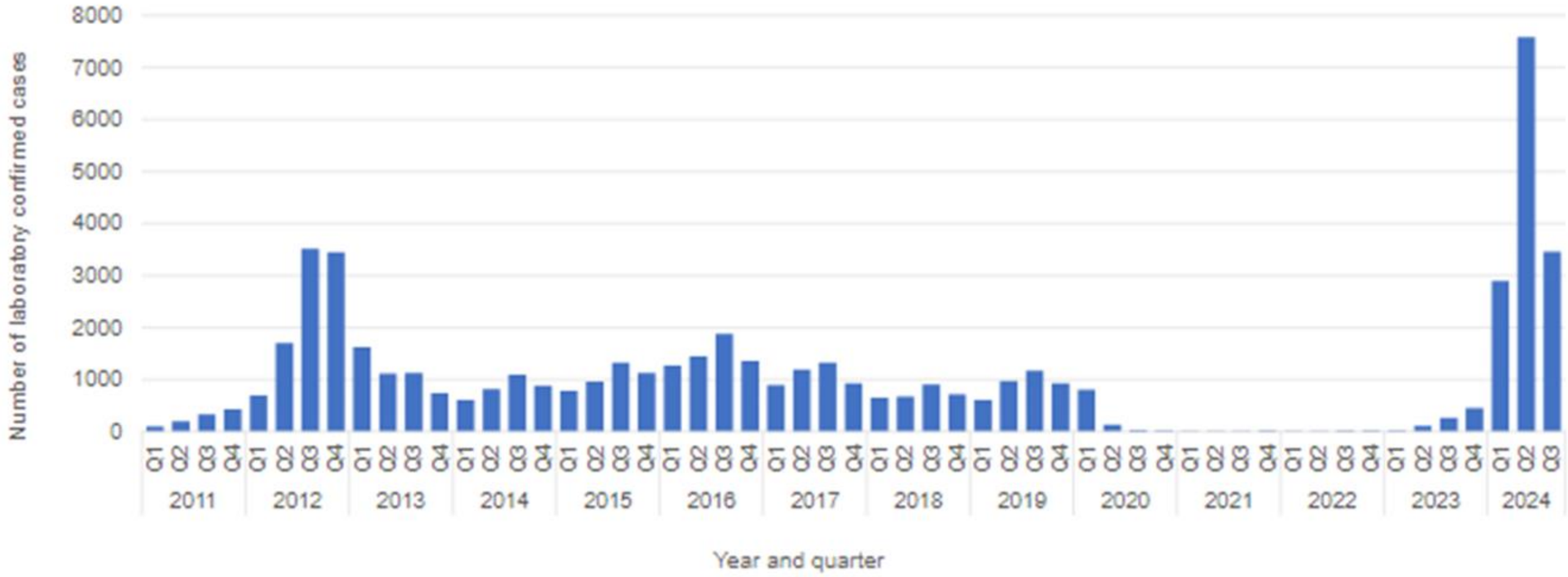
How can we prevent infection?

- **Vaccination is offered as part of the national routine childhood immunisation programme**
- Prior to the introduction of vaccination there were more than **120,000** notifications of illness per year
- Notification rates are now less than **5,000** per year but there have been major epidemics linked to **declines in vaccine** coverage
- The acellular vaccine which is currently used is effective in protecting against severe disease, **but not infection** and there is evidence of waning immunity in adolescents and adults
- Maternal vaccination introduced in **2012**

Recent activity

Source: UKHSA Confirmed cases of pertussis in England by month, November 2024

Laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis by quarter in England: 2011 to July-September (Q3) 2024 (note 1)

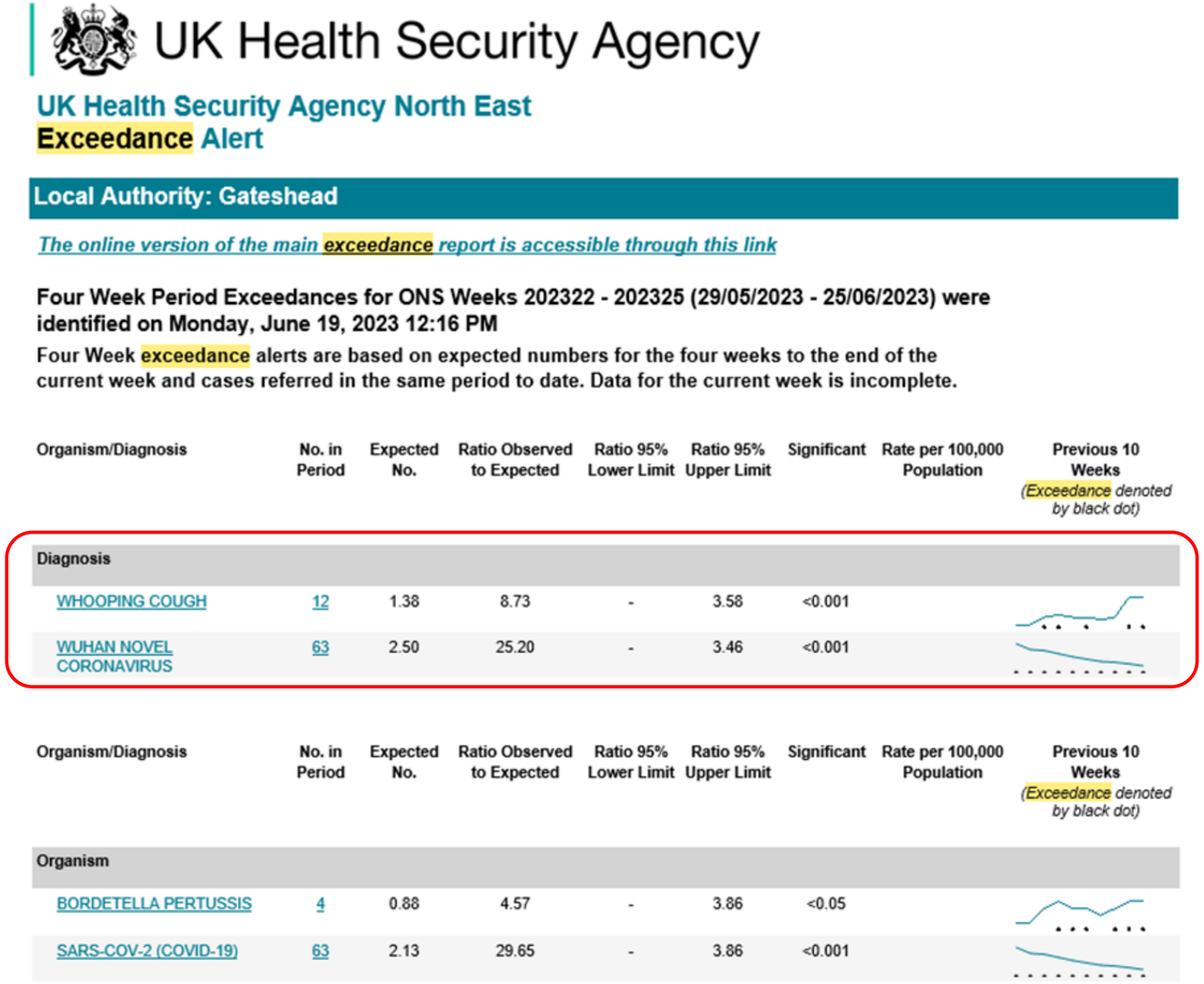


How this situation came to light

- **March 2023:** confirmed case of polio in an unvaccinated child in Israel
  - Proactive work with the Jewish community re vaccine uptake

- **May 2023:** alert from **UKHSA** colleagues in London re observed increase in whooping cough cases

- **Similar increases also observed in the North West**
  - Comms resources shared



UK Health Security Agency

UK Health Security Agency North East
Exceedance Alert

Local Authority: Gateshead

The online version of the main exceedance report is accessible through this link

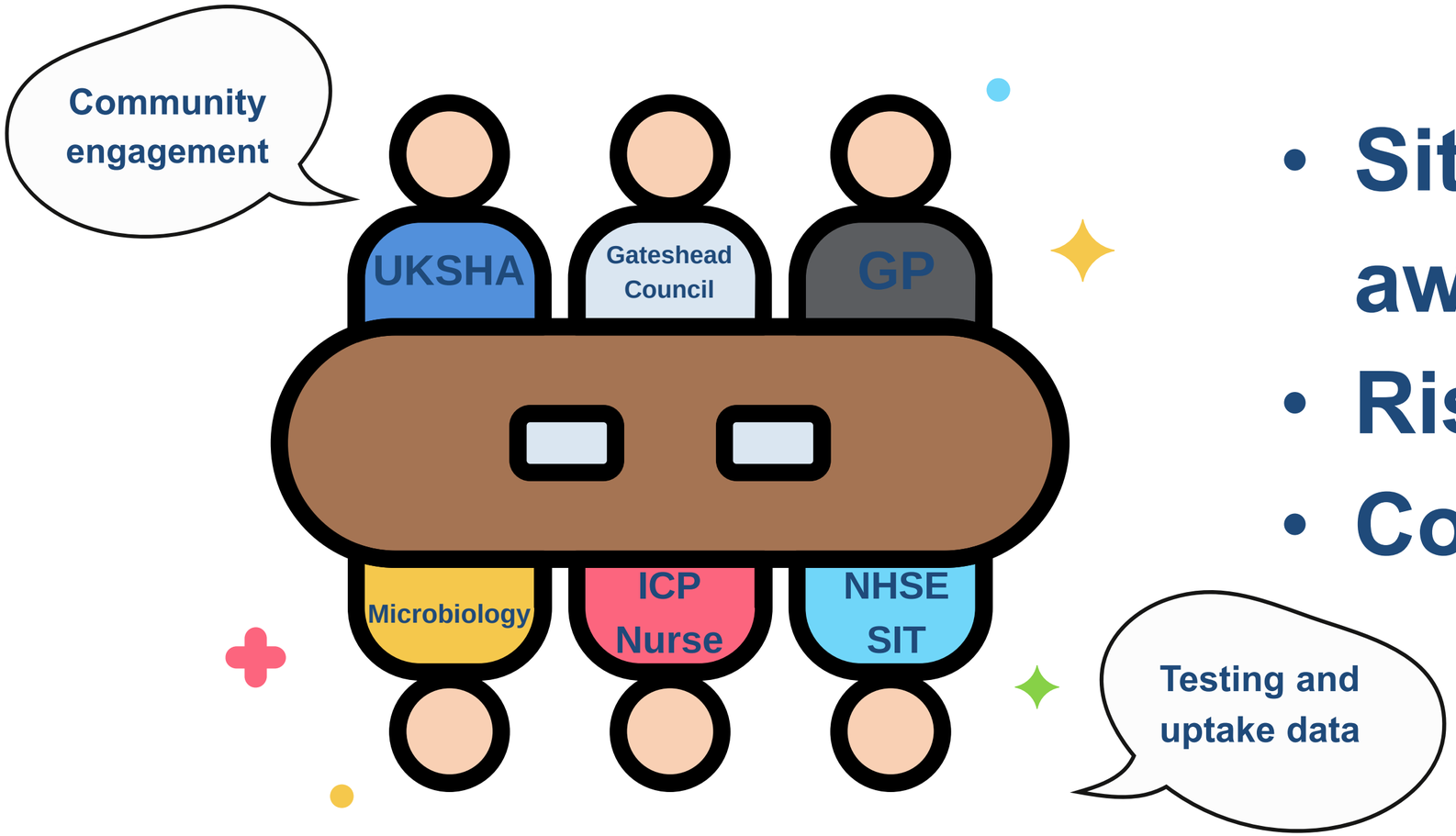
Four Week Period Exceedances for ONS Weeks 202322 - 202325 (29/05/2023 - 25/06/2023) were identified on Monday, June 19, 2023 12:16 PM

Four Week exceedance alerts are based on expected numbers for the four weeks to the end of the current week and cases referred in the same period to date. Data for the current week is incomplete.

Organism/Diagnosis	No. in Period	Expected No.	Ratio Observed to Expected	Ratio 95% Lower Limit	Ratio 95% Upper Limit	Significant	Rate per 100,000 Population	Previous 10 Weeks (Exceedance denoted by black dot)
Diagnosis								
WHOOPING COUGH	12	1.38	8.73	-	3.58	<0.001		
WUHAN NOVEL CORONAVIRUS	63	2.50	25.20	-	3.46	<0.001		

Organism/Diagnosis	No. in Period	Expected No.	Ratio Observed to Expected	Ratio 95% Lower Limit	Ratio 95% Upper Limit	Significant	Rate per 100,000 Population	Previous 10 Weeks (Exceedance denoted by black dot)
Organism								
BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS	4	0.88	4.57	-	3.86	<0.05		
SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19)	63	2.13	29.65	-	3.86	<0.001		

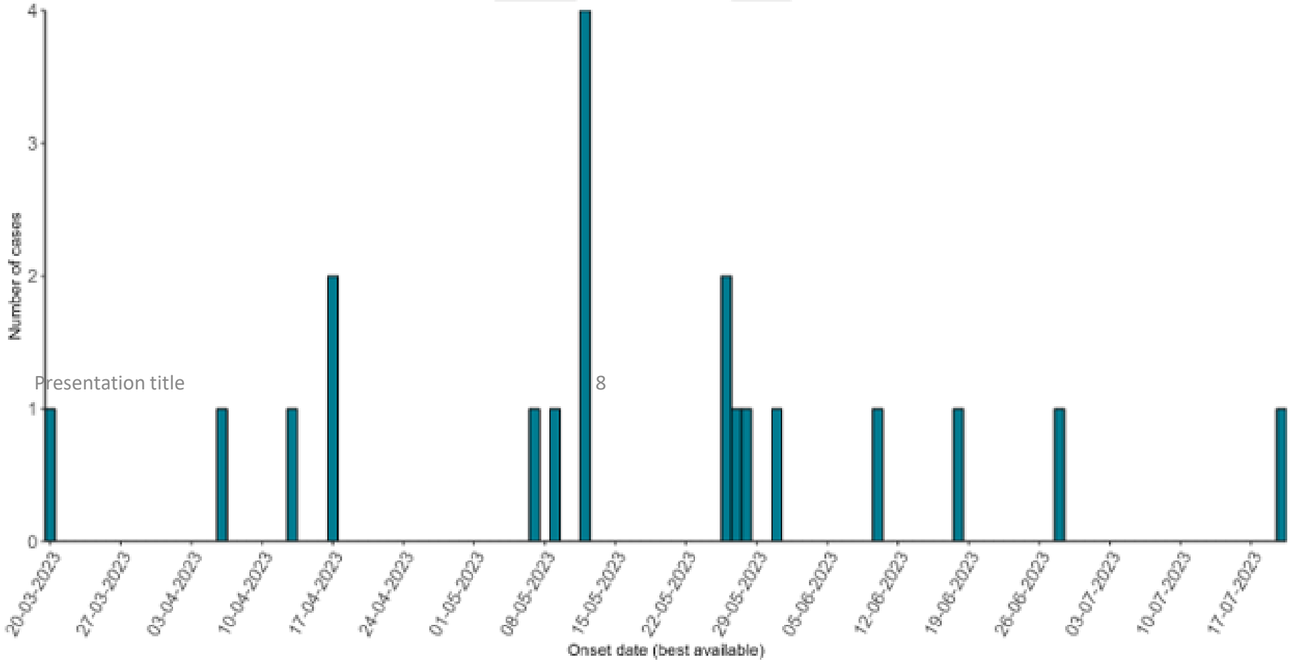
Multi-agency response



- Situational awareness
- Risk assessment
- Communication

Data on cases

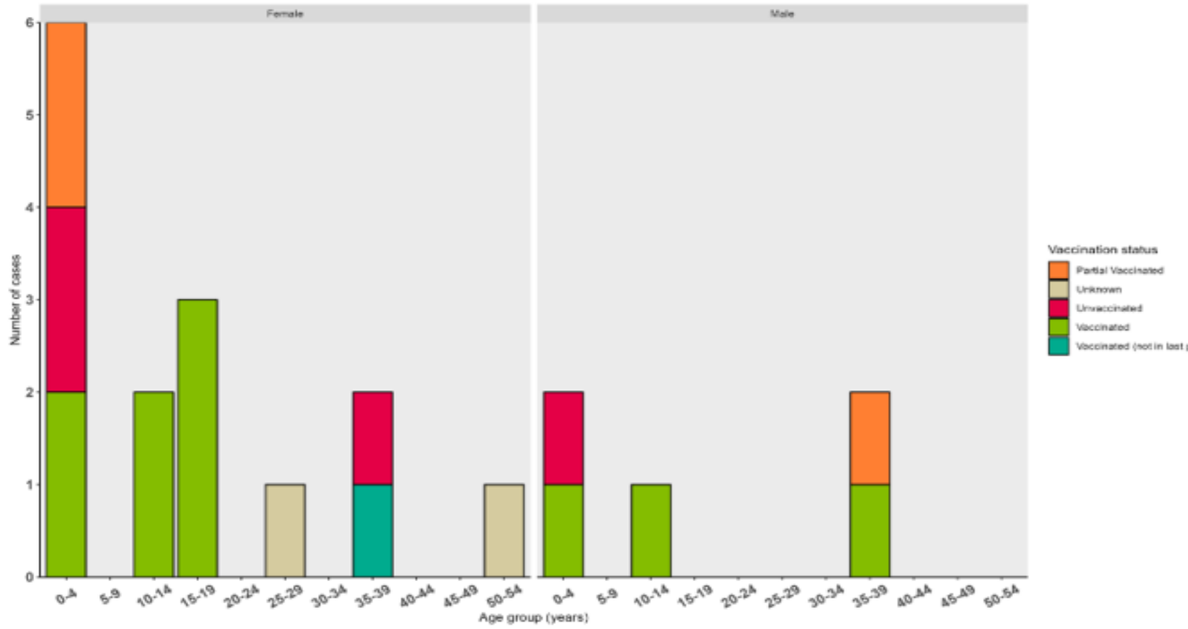
Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of the number of Whooping cough cases* by best available onset date**



**suspected* and confirmed

*** where date of onset not available, date of referral has been used*

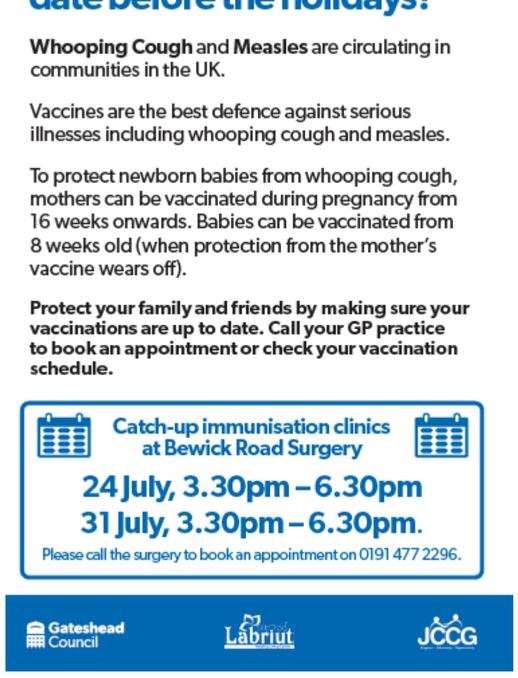
Figure 5: Number of Whooping cough cases* by age group, sex and vaccination status



**suspected* and confirmed

Actions

- Case management
- Setting management
- Surveillance
- Vaccination
- Awareness raising



Are your vaccinations up to date before the holidays?

Whooping Cough and **Measles** are circulating in communities in the UK.

Vaccines are the best defence against serious illnesses including whooping cough and measles.

To protect newborn babies from whooping cough, mothers can be vaccinated during pregnancy from 16 weeks onwards. Babies can be vaccinated from 8 weeks old (when protection from the mother's vaccine wears off).

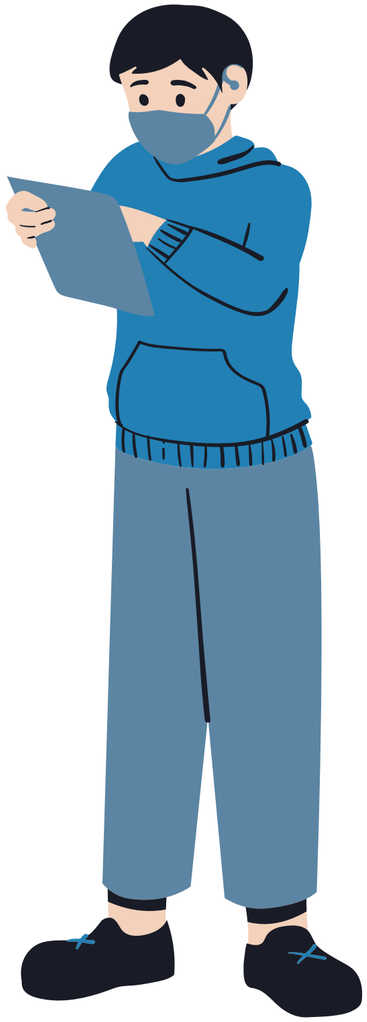
Protect your family and friends by making sure your vaccinations are up to date. Call your GP practice to book an appointment or check your vaccination schedule.

Catch-up immunisation clinics at Bewick Road Surgery

24 July, 3.30pm – 6.30pm
31 July, 3.30pm – 6.30pm.

Please call the surgery to book an appointment on 0191 477 2296.

Gateshead Council · Labriut · JCCG



Gateshead’s Jewish community

- **Established in 1887** by Jews fleeing persecution and deprivation in Europe, the Gateshead Jewish community is the **third largest Orthodox Jewish (Haredi) community in the UK.**
- **Its 600+ families follow a religious way of life**, perpetuating deeply-held traditions and beliefs. The community is further characterised by **strong family values** and the positive attributes of tolerance, compassion, social action and **civic responsibility** play a central role.
- Their religious, social and cultural norms often result in **social inequity in the form of various barriers and challenges** around poverty, employment, health and digital exclusion, inhibiting life chances and limiting opportunity for the community.

Labriut Healthy Living Centre

The Jewish community in Gateshead faces **health inequalities** experienced across **all age groups**. The wider determinants of health – such as poverty and deprivation, insecure housing and other specific cultural causes including less access to mainstream and social media health messaging – **negatively affect health and wellbeing outcomes for this ethnically minoritised community.**

For example, **only 33% of local families reported 'adequate' opportunity for physical activity** – contrasting with Sport England Local Insights reporting that **61.8% of Gateshead residents live physically active lifestyles**.

Their flagship project, the **Labriut Healthy Living Centre**, strives to challenge and redress the balance by providing health and wellbeing programmes and education to the community in a culturally appropriate way.

Photo credit:
Labriut – JCCG

Vaccination uptake

Target for all Dtap-IPV vaccinations = 95%			
12mDTaPIPVHibHepB%	24m DTaP/IPV/Hib	5y DTaP/IPV/Hib	5y DTaPIPV%
91.8%	93.0%	94.4%	84.2%
94.5%	96.7%	95.4%	89.4%

GP cod	Practice Name	12mDTaPIPVHibHepB	24m DTaP/IPV/Hib (Hep)	5y DTaP/IPV/Hib	5y DTaPIPV
A85017	BEWICK ROAD SURGERY	74.8	88.6	91.7	86.4
A85021	SECOND STREET SURGERY	84.0	97.0	79.5	72.7
A85002	BENSHAM FAMILY PRACTICE	88.9	97.7	87.2	89.7
A85003	ROWLANDS GILL MEDICAL CENTRE	91.2	98.0	91.3	89.1
A85004	LONGRIGG MEDICAL CENTRE	91.6	97.4	98.2	94.5
A85008	BIRTLEY MEDICAL GROUP	92.1	93.9	96.9	86.4
A85026	BEACON VIEW MEDICAL CENTRE	93.5	100.0	94.7	96.5
A85013	MILLENNIUM FAMILY PRACTICE	93.5	100.0	100.0	94.1
A85024	CHOPWELL PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRE	94.1	91.3	100.0	89.5

Community Engagement

- Building on relationships developed over time, more recently throughout **COVID-19 and polio**
- Use of digital media in the community **is very limited** and social media use **is discouraged**
- Content must be culturally appropriate and respect social norms
- **Graphical content can present unforeseeable difficulties,** and wording must be considered carefully
- Only way to do this is to take **core messages** from UKHSA/NHS and work to agree acceptable ways to present this in **community publications and venues**

Q&A with Dr Ruth Bonnington

GP at Bewick Road Surgery

- What is your role and how did the situation arise?
- How did you respond to the situation?
- What are some the barriers and facilitators for working with this community?
- How important was the local multiagency response?

Ruth.Bonnington@nhs.net

Questions or comments?

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Workshop

- **Who** are the health inclusion groups that would benefit from collaborative working?
- **What** are the challenges with collaborative working in the health sector?
- **How** can we improve collaborative working between our organisations?

Workshop responses

Who

- Neurodiverse people
- People with SEND
- Traveller community
- Young people
- People living in areas of deprivation
- Sex workers
- Asylum seekers
- Refugees
- People who use substances
- People with learning difficulties
- Faith groups
- LGBTQ+ community
- Homeless
- People in prison
- Care experienced young people
- Deaf community

Workshop responses

The challenges

- Awareness
- Funding
- Common goals/aims
- Challenging beliefs
- Organisational culture
- Mistrust
- Stigma
- Different systems
- Data sharing
- Accountability
- Lack of resources
- Communication between organisations
- Language barriers
- Consistency
- Health literacy
- Ownership

Workshop responses

How can we improve

- Community champions
- Funding opportunities
- Better understanding of partnerships
- Better understanding of roles
- Improved organisational culture
- Training and investment in workforce
- Work with trusted health professionals
- Cultural appreciation
- Improved intelligence sharing
- Improved accountability
- Improved communication between organisations
- Learning from mistakes as well as successes
- Central robust data system
- Lived experience
- Transparency