



Childhood Asthma

Engagement dates: October 2014 – March 2015

Engagement Update

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1. Project background

Asthma is a serious condition, and if not treated properly can lead to asthma attacks, which can be life threatening. But with the right medicines, taken properly and as prescribed, children should be able to lead a full life without symptoms.

This NHS Leeds West CCG engagement asks children, their families and their schools to share their experiences of asthma. Feedback from the engagement will help us plan our asthma activities over the next two years, which will support local children with asthma. This report outlines the findings of the engagement.

We used a survey, focus groups and a video to gather the thoughts and experiences of children with asthma. We asked people to tell us what it was like to have asthma or to have a child or friend with asthma. We also asked what we could do to support them with their asthma. The survey was shared across the city with a variety of community and school networks. The focus groups and videos took place in three schools in west Leeds:

- Hollybush,
- West Park
- Morley Newlands

370 people shared their thoughts about asthma. They told us that it was scary to have asthma or have a friend with asthma. People told us that children, parents and teachers had mixed understanding and knowledge about asthma. They also said that inhalers were not always kept in the same place in schools and that teachers and children were not always aware where their inhaler was. During the focus groups and filming we asked children to show us their inhaler technique. We noticed some very good and some poor techniques. People also told us that their asthma care plan was not regularly reviewed.

You can watch the children's asthma video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD6UIPOibQM>

You can read the initial engagement report here:

<http://www.leedswestccg.nhs.uk/content/uploads/2015/07/Childhood-asthma-engagement-report-V3.1-FINAL-2015-07-28.pdf>

This update report outlines how we have responded to the recommendations from the engagement.







This report will be shared with those involved in the engagement and will also be available on the NHS Leeds West CCG website.

2. Time line

Date	Progress
October 2014	Engagement plan presented at NHS Leeds West CCG PAG
Oct 2014 - March 2015	Engagement period
January 2015	Clinical Lead for project appointed
March 2015	Two patient leaders recruited to the Asthma Steering Group
July 2015	Engagement report published on the website
July 2015	Nurse Educator and Practice Nurses appointed to deliver project in Schools and GP practices

3. Recommendations

Recommendation	Extent met	detail
Provide more information to children about asthma. Provide this information in different ways such as; videos, posters and classroom teaching	✓	We are working with a local secondary school and their drama to develop a short video about asthma for children. This video will be shared with other schools in Leeds and will give children information about asthma. We have also provided information to children through assemblies and local Breeze events
Help children to know how to help a friend if they are having an asthma attack	✓	The video will provide scenarios of children having an asthma attack to show when someone would need help from an adult
Ensure that children know where inhalers are kept in case they need to get it quickly	✓ partial	As part of the criteria to be 'asthma friendly', schools need to keep inhalers in a central place in school and children must be made aware of where they are. Older children are encouraged to have their own inhalers on their person at all times.
Support schools to identify all children with an asthma diagnosis	✓	Schools have been encouraged to take a number of actions to identify children with an existing asthma diagnosis. This includes; asking parents to outline health concerns in a letter, providing parents with an asthma action plan for them to provide information to the school, working with GP services and having an asthma register so that they are aware of the children in school with an asthma diagnosis.
Support schools to develop a school asthma policy which includes training requirements, use of shared inhalers and storage of inhalers	✓	We developed a template asthma policy which is available to schools as a download. All 'asthma friendly' schools must have the policy in place in order to meet the criteria. The template can be adapted to suit individual schools. http://www.leedswestccg.nhs.uk/health/healthy-living/children/asthma/
Develop training for teachers which includes; asthma awareness, asthma policy, use of shared inhalers, storage of inhalers, inhaler technique, responding to an asthma attack,	✓	We have developed training for school staff which includes all these issues. Attending the training is mandatory for designated first aiders in schools but the training is open to any member of staff and in some schools all staff have attended the training.
Encourage GPs, children and their parents to develop an asthma plan	✓ partial	We are encouraging GPs, children and their parents to use the Asthma UK action plan to help them manage their condition. This work is done through training staff and online resources. We are exploring opportunities to make the action plan more accessible to non-English speakers and people with learning difficulties. https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/manage-your-asthma/action-plan/

Encourage children to carry a copy of the asthma care plan with them		We are training staff to understand the importance of children having an action plan in school at all times so that appropriate and timely care can be given and individual problems associated with asthma easily identified by those caring for them. Through the Asthma Friendly School Initiative we are encouraging teachers to ensure that children with asthma have a copy of their plan at school, at home and a copy when they attend out-of-school activities.
Encourage schools to have a copy of every child's up-to-date asthma care plan.	 partial	We have included this in our training for schools. We are also working with GP practices to encourage clinicians to provide an action plan during an asthma review and to ask parents to share their child's action plan with school. This aspect of the asthma work is particularly challenging because there are a number of different people involved in making sure that children's asthma plan is provided and up-to-date and there is a copy in school. We are working hard to raise awareness about the importance of plans, through education, to address this issue.
Encourage GPs, children and parents to carry out regular asthma reviews Support parents and teachers to decide when calling 999 is necessary		This is on-going work with primary care and parents stressing the importance of asthma reviews. We have provided resources available to download for schools to remind them what to do in an emergency and when to call 999. This is also covered in the training that we provide. Parents should be given this information when they bring their child in for a review and it is included on their action plan
Provide children with the opportunity to learn about asthma (using these recommendations)	 partial	We are working with the drama department at a local secondary school to develop a short asthma video, which will be shared with other schools in Leeds.
Provide people involved in the engagement with regular project updates		We shared our initial engagement report with everyone involved in the project. This is the first of several updates we will share with participants to update them on the project.
Recruit patient representatives to the project steering group to ensure that these recommendations are considered.	 partial	We recruited two patient representatives to the group. They have struggled to attending meetings but have supported some of our work virtually.

4. What happens next?

Date	Progress
Ongoing	Continue to work with schools, providing training and encouraging them to become 'asthma friendly'. Working with primary care and other health care professionals to raise asthma awareness
April/May 2016	Delivering asthma training to the school nursing team in order that they feel confident in continuing to deliver asthma education to schools.
May	Planned completion date for video from secondary school which will then be shared with other schools and used as a resource to raise awareness
June	Working with Capital FM and children with asthma to provide short film clips to provide information and raise awareness ahead of the summer holidays
June/July	Awareness raising campaign through the use of bus advertising

Alternative formats

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If you need this information in another language or format please contact us by telephone: **0113 84 35470** or by email: commsleedswestccg@nhs.net

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Further information

If you would like any more information about this project or NHS Leeds West Clinical Commissioning Group, or have any questions or comments, please write to:

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