



Yorkshire and Humber and North East TB Control Board - Quarterly update

Issue 6, September 2017

Introduction

Welcome to issue six of the Yorkshire and Humber and North East TB Control Board (YHNE TBCB) quarterly update.

Since the last update we have revised the structure of the YHNE TBCB (figure 1 below) to ensure it can effectively support our priorities for the next 2 years whilst also making the best use of the time that stakeholders are able to contribute to the work.

Consequently the following subgroups will no longer continue (the LTBI, paediatric and MDR TB ones remain):

- Clinical advisory
- Workforce
- Commissioning and monitoring
- Awareness raising

These areas of work remain a priority but will be addressed through alternative mechanisms. Commissioning and awareness raising and communications will be led strategically by the Control Board, clinical issues will be addressed by the clinical networks (see below), and workforce issues will be led by the nurse forums. Regular educational opportunities will be provided through the nurse forums, clinical networks and ongoing events.

The more streamlined structure of fewer subgroups will also be supported by discrete pieces of work as required. Following consultation with a number of clinicians, we are in the process of developing a clinical network in Yorkshire and the Humber (this already exists in the North East) which will meet face to face once a year. The network will allow for sharing of information on best practice, new and emerging technologies, clinical guidance and discussion of challenging cases. All clinicians working with TB will be invited to join this and the first meeting will take place in early 2018. In addition to this PHE will be supporting the nurse networks in the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber and we will also continue to hold regular workshops and events (the next one is planned for 14 November on MDR TB, details below) as well as produce this regular bulletin.

The priorities for the Control Board for the next two years are detailed below.

Yorkshire & Humber

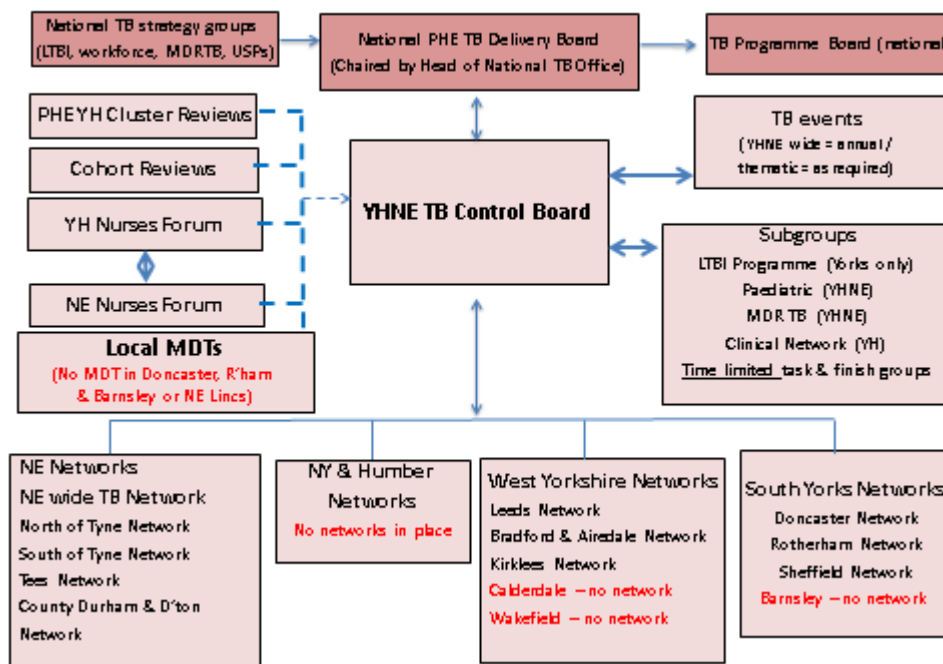
- A focus on TB as a disease of inequality that disproportionately affects underserved populations.
- Improving service quality. These include:
 - Ensuring LTBI screening arrangements are in place for all new migrants, irrespective of whether they are resident in an area receiving NHSE funding.
 - Further supporting use of the national service specification by all CCGs with commissioning responsibility for TB in Yorkshire and Humber and the North East.
 - Reducing diagnostic delay.
- Addressing the increase in MDR-TB, and associated challenges, in Yorkshire and Humber.
- Investigating and reducing the incidence of TB in children.

North East

- Targeting at-risk communities to reduce the likelihood of development of active TB.
- Commissioning effective TB services for the population of the North East.
- Supporting and improving clinical care for TB patients.
- Supporting the national TB Strategy effectively and proportionally.

The Board recognises that there are shared and discrete priorities for Yorkshire and Humber and the North East and this has been recognised in the action plan.

Figure 1: YHNE TBCB Structure, July 2017



National updates

The priorities for 2017/18 nationally are as follows:

1. Tackling TB in under-served populations
2. Strengthening and supporting TB control boards
3. Supporting the roll out of WGS and improving TB diagnostics
4. Raising awareness of TB in healthcare workers and at-risk populations
5. Embedding the new entrant LTBI testing and treatment programmes
6. Working to improve treatment and care services using the national TB service specification
7. Further developing the TB workforce

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

New National TB Service Specification and National TB Clinical Policy

NHS England has developed a new National TB Service Specification and National TB Clinical Policy to reflect changes in guidance. These documents were circulated to commissioners and clinicians locally for consultation and comments received were passed on to NHS England. The new documents have been circulated to CCGs in Yorkshire and the Humber with guidance regarding their implementation and will be circulated to CCGs in the North East as part of an audit planned for October 2017.

Launch of WGS at PHE laboratory

On World TB Day (24 March 2017) PHE announced that whole genome sequencing (WGS) is now being used to identify different strains of TB at its Birmingham Mycobacterial Reference Laboratory. This is the first time that WGS has been used as a diagnostic solution for managing a disease on this scale anywhere in the world.

The technique, developed in conjunction with the University of Oxford has two very critical benefits. It has significantly speeded up the time it took previously in confirming that a person has active TB and is much more specific in being able to identify linked cases and clusters which means that targeted action can be taken more quickly to limit onward transmission.

The second critical benefit is that clinicians now receive information on drug sensitivity more quickly (often within 7 days) resulting in people commencing effective treatment much sooner than they would previously.

The National Mycobacterial Reference Service (NMRS) for North and Central, based in the PHE Birmingham Public Health Laboratory stopped conventional reference tests and introduced WGS for Mycobacterial species identification; *M. tuberculosis* susceptibility (genotypic) testing and genomic typing, on 12 December 2016.

The new service has been implemented for all cultures from laboratories in the East and West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber and the North East and the North West.

There are plans for WGS to be introduced to the London Reference Laboratory later 2017 for users of NMRS South.

Local updates

TB Control Board SharePoint site

We reported in the last update that we have now developed a SharePoint site for the Control Board. This is a local resource hosting key documents, event reports, news, updates and diaries. If you would like access to this please contact cathie.railton@phe.gov.uk

LTBI

Whilst the nationally funded LTBI testing and treatment programme is now well underway across six CCGs in Yorkshire, the Control Board is keen to ensure locally that all new entrants, from high incidence countries are tested for LTBI irrespective of whether they are resident in an area receiving NHSE funding, as per national guidance. In order to achieve this, a programme of work is being started to scope current provision and look at any gaps.

For further details about this work please contact Cathie.railton@phe.gov.uk

Paediatric TB mapping

One of the TBCB priorities in Yorkshire and the Humber for 2017-2019 is to 'investigate and reduce the incidence of TB in children'. In order to do this, the paediatric TB subgroup have carried out a mapping exercise of paediatric services across Yorkshire and the Humber and the North East based on the national TB strategy and recently published NICE guidance to understand the current working arrangements and provide support and guidance where required. The paediatric subgroup is planning a half day event for stakeholders early in the New Year where the report and its recommendations will be discussed.

Development of Leeds LTBI

Since early 2016 Leeds have continued to establish a LTBI testing and treatment programme linked to areas with high numbers of new arrivals to the city from countries with high numbers of TB cases. Initially targeting a small number of GP practices in the South and East of the City, and in collaboration with the recognised TB screening service hosted by NHS Leeds Community Healthcare, a number of screening hubs were established. This allowed for greater access and the start of primary care involvement in the identification and referral of eligible population into the service for testing and treatment. Some success was seen with screening rates increasing compared to previous levels but the need for greater engagement was required that involve targeting communities in the identification of eligible individuals and having conversations with people about TB and the benefits of screening.

Alongside the delivery of the pilot phase, Leeds City Council - Public Health highlighted the need to improve access to health services and outcomes for the most vulnerable migrants including communicable diseases. This has strengthened the joined up approach between stakeholders and partners to further develop an effective LTBI screening service for new entrants mainly based in primary care settings which, is now been rolled out in GP practices of high TB incidence. 20 GP practices have signed up to the new incentive scheme and from October 2017 most will be offering their newly registered patient a test.

To assist with the goal to increase community awareness Leeds City Council's Health Protection team has pioneered a community based communication approach of informed 'TB Champions' from under-served migrant populations. This innovative low cost and high impact approach is increasing awareness of LTBI, promoting the uptake of screening and treatment compliance.

TB Champions are volunteers from communities where there are more migrants from countries with a high incidence of TB. They receive training that covers basic awareness of TB, local screening arrangements and the treatment available helping to dispel myths and reinforce key messages. TB Champions often get a chance to share messages by attending events such as religious events and community meetings and they usually volunteer within their community in other capacities supporting's the sustainability of the approach.

When engaging with the community the Champions raise awareness of TB and LTBI, along with promoting registering with a GP. So far the project has 37 TB Champions and they have spoken to 351 people that meet the LTBI screening criteria over a 4 month period.

Events

National TB Nurses' Conference, 23 June 2017

The annual nurses' conference took place in London this year and included presentations from the national TB team as well as local stakeholders who presented their work. All the presentations can be found [here](#).

MDR TB workshop, 14th November 2017

The YHNE TBCB is arranging a workshop aimed at TB clinicians with an interest in MDR TB.

The aims of the day are to:

- Share the latest epidemiology, clinical practice and developments regarding MDR TB
- Understand national and international guidance
- Work collectively to create solutions to local problems
- Discuss case studies and use them as an opportunity to learn lessons and make recommendations
- Provide an opportunity for networking

The event is aimed at:

- Hospital consultants dealing with TB in YH & NE
- Hospital trainees
- TB nursing teams (please do invite local representatives from social care)
- Microbiologists
- Paediatricians

For further details please contact ruth.carter@phe.gov.uk

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/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592274/Tackling_TB_in_Under-Served_Populations_-_A_Resource_for_TBCBs_and_partners.pdf
NICE guidelines (NG33)	NICE	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG33
NICE quality standards	NICE	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs141/chapter/quality-statement-1-latent-tuberculosis-testing-for-people-from-high-incidence-countries#quality-statement-1-latent-tuberculosis-testing-for-people-from-high-incidence-countries
Latent TB toolkit	TB Alert	http://www.tbalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LatentTBTToolkit_WEB.pdf
Online TB training	TB Alert	http://www.tbalert.org/health-professionals/primary-care-information-and-professional-development/
TB Specialist Nurse Resource Pack	TB Alert	http://www.tbalert.org/health-professionals/primary-care-information-and-professional-development/
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 2016 report (presenting data to end of 2015)	PHE	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-in-england-annual-report

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