

NHS Health Checks: Increasing the offer in Oldham

Annually, approximately 12,500 of the Oldham Councils eligible population need to have had an 'offer' of an NHS Health Check. In Oldham, GP practices are the main deliverer of the NHS Health Checks, pre 2015 there wasn't much 'buy in' to the programme with low numbers of invites and uptakes across the borough. Oldham was the worst performer in the North West and 11th worst nationally in 2013/14 with only 6.52% of eligible residents being offered an NHS Health Check as opposed to the targeted 20%.

This programme is a priority area for Oldham Council Public Health; a new approach has been developed and implemented with key support, training and engagement mechanisms including:

- Formalising a steering group and involving wider stakeholders.
- A GP champion (who is also the CVD lead for Oldham).
- Working closely with the GP Champions practice to pilot an Oldham specific best practice patient pathway.
- NHS Health Check Primary Care Training.
- Mapping national best practice into the forward plan.
- Further development of healthy lifestyle pathways to Oldham lifestyle services linking into the Making Every Contact Count Programme.
- Regular attendance at key Primary Care Forums to promote and update on the NHS Health Checks Programme.
- Development of an NHS Health Check Health Care Assistants Forum.
- Localised NHS Health Check communications plan based on evidence based insight studies.
- A structured Public Health Engagement, Support and Training Package.

From 2013/14 to 2015/16 Oldham NHS Health Checks have more than doubled completed checks significantly improving from both a North West and National Perspective. For NHS Health Checks to be successful it is essential to ensure GP practice engagement, training and workforce support is provided and tailored to each individual area's needs.