

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	16 th November 2020
Report Author	Chris Hole
Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	30 th November 2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Health Challenges Amongst Children 0-5yrs

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the health indicators of the 0-5years population which have generally remained stubbornly high and therefore impact negatively upon the health of our population. This impact can often result in poorer outcomes for children and can lead towards the need for more costly interventions from a range of service areas including Education, Social Services and the medical profession as children develop.
- 1.2 The data provided in this report is that received by the department and is shared to set the scene. However, within the presentation from our Health colleagues the latest data available will be shared alongside how these challenges, which are multifaceted, are being addressed. These are complex issues which cannot be solved alone by any single service and consideration needs to be given as to how services and organisations can work better together to challenge these Health issues.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that

- 2.1 Scrutiny committee consider the health implications of this report, the latest available data and approaches provided by Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB (CTMUHB) and consider the role of the Council in supporting the health agenda.

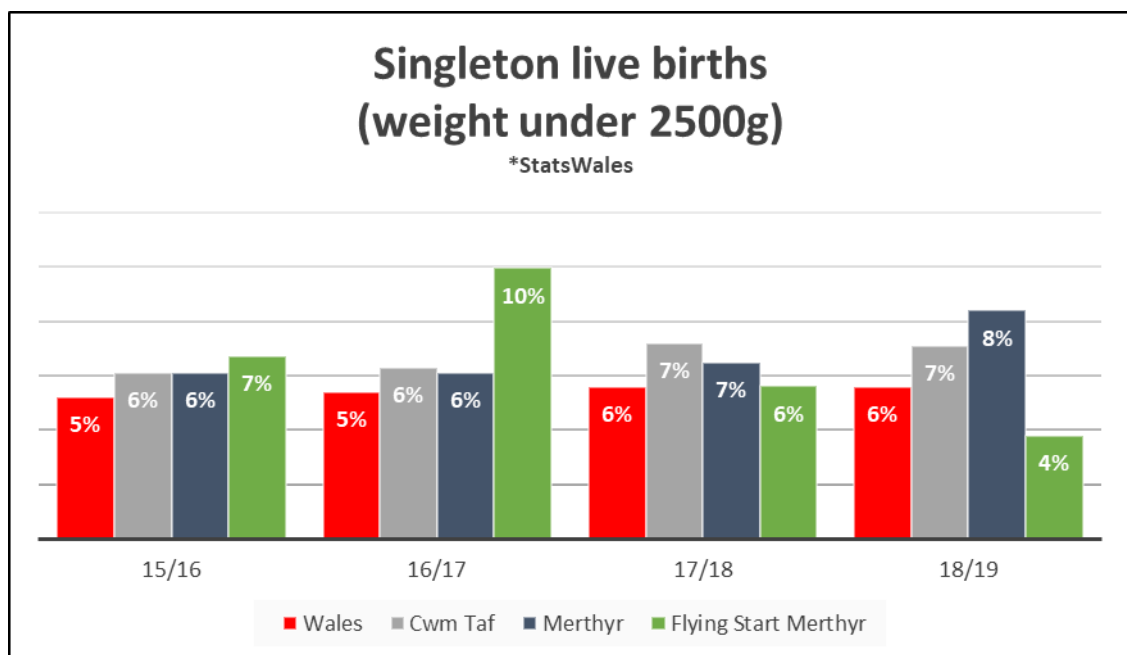
3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Through the work of the Early Years' service, and its role in the delivery of the Flying Start programme, some health indicators are commonly used to advise and guide elements of the programme, as well as provide a broader focus across the Early Years sector.

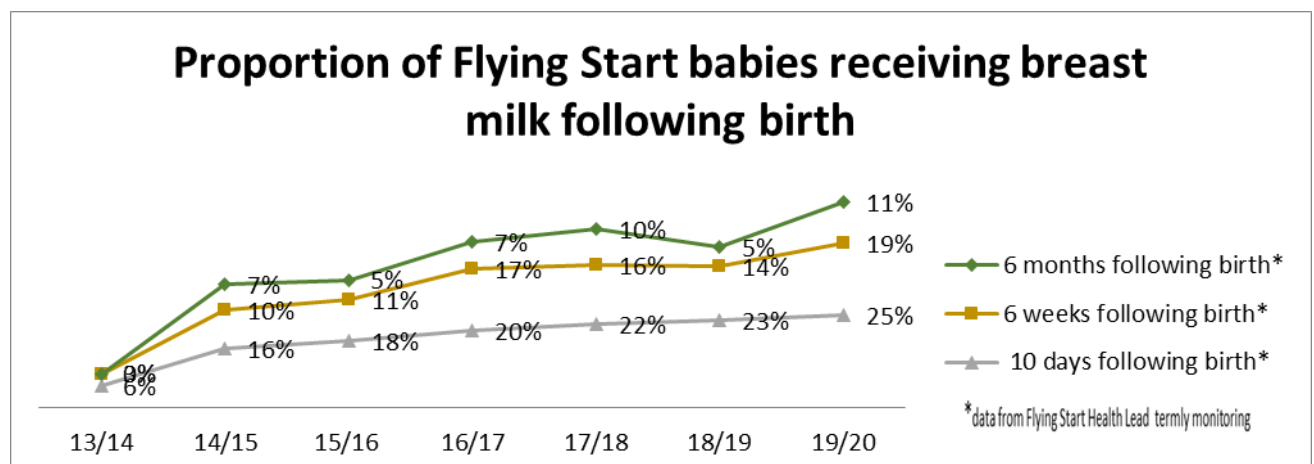
3.2 CTMUHB were asked to present information to Scrutiny on the key health challenges facing the 0-5years population and to share how some of these challenges are being addressed. Scrutiny members are asked to consider how the Local Authority and the Health Board can work together to make a positive and sustainable impact on these indicators.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

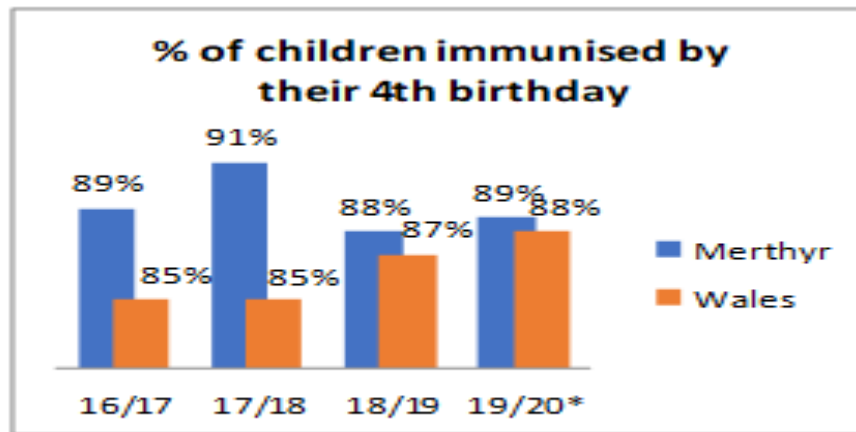
4.1 Merthyr Tydfil has for the past three years seen a decreasing birth rate, with 63 less births in 2019 than was recorded in 2017. Previous childcare sufficiency assessments had predicted the decreasing rate; however, it is unclear at this time what impact the pandemic will have on the birth rate.



4.2 Breast feeding is an important indicator and can also assist in developing the secure attachment which is fundamental to a child's developmental needs.



4.3 Historically the rate of immunisations in Merthyr Tydfil has been higher than the Welsh average.



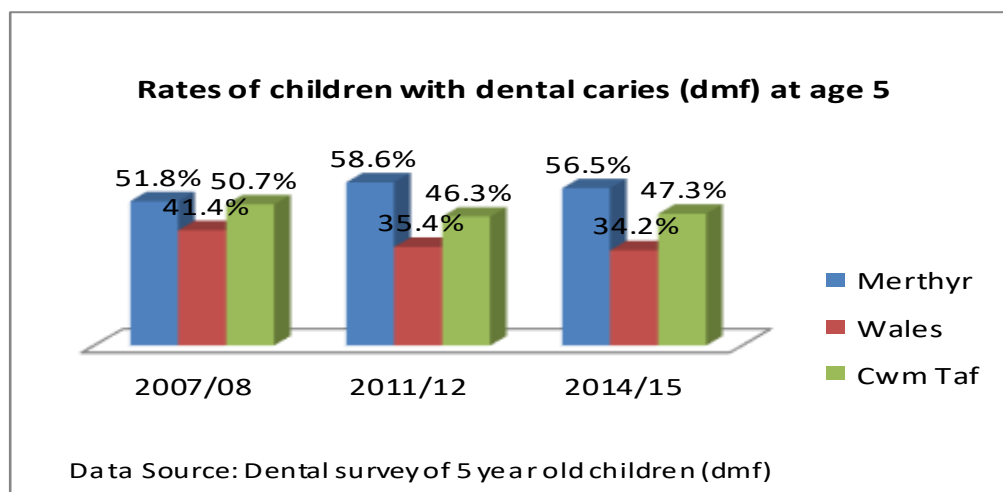
4.4 Children with Healthy Weight

Within Merthyr Tydfil, and according to the 2017/18 data, 65% of children have a healthy weight, however, this has decreased by 3% since 2014/15. This decline has not been replicated across Wales where the figure of 73% has remained largely static. Across CTMUHB there has been a decrease from 72% to 71% over the same period.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
MERTHYR	68%	66%	67%	65%
CTMUHB	72%	71%	71%	71%
WALES	73%	73%	72%	73%

Obese or overweight	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
MERTHYR	32%	34%	33%	35%
CTMUHB	28%	29%	29%	29%
WALES	26%	26%	27%	26%

4.5 The Dental Caries chart shows the number of children who have experienced decayed, missing teeth or have had fillings by the age of five. In 2018, the following data was identified in a Flying Start report. This is the only data currently available to the department.



5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

5.1 Colleagues from CTMUHB are attending the meeting to provide Scrutiny with an updated picture of the Health challenges, including new challenges arisen due to the national pandemic.

6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

6.1 It is critical to the future sustainability of services throughout CTMUHB and within Merthyr Tydfil that the health of babies and young children is improved. A healthier population will place less demand on more intensive and expensive services throughout their lifetime so they can enjoy a longer healthy life expectancy within the community of Merthyr Tydfil. This is an intergenerational issue and with each small improvement, benefits may be seen by future generations.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

7.1 Consider the data provided by CTMUHB and how these challenges are being addressed and consider what more the Council and individual services can do to support and address these challenges.

8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

8.1 The contents of this report relate to the following wellbeing Objective.

Best start to life: Children and young people are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.

There is a strong relationship between wellbeing and attainment.

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
PORTFOLIO LEAD

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		