



HEALTH PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Health and Wellbeing Board

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Damilola Agbato
Public Health Principal



Immunisation coverage

Coverage is generally strong, but HPV uptake has fallen and variation across the county remains.

74.8%

HPV coverage, age 12–13 (2024/25)

94.2%

MMR one dose by age two

95.6%

6-in-1 coverage by age two

–4.2 pp

HPV change from 2023/24

What is working

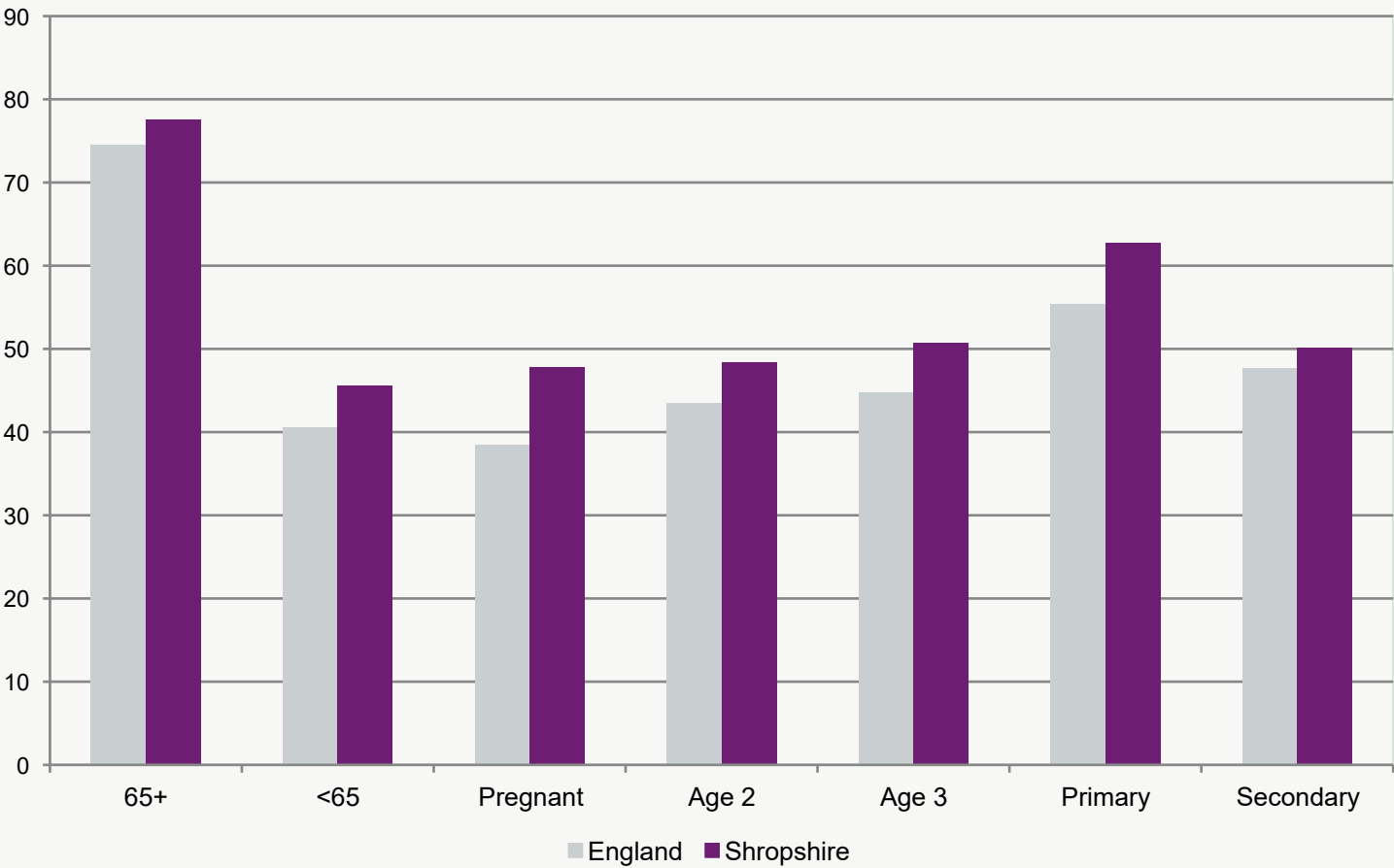
- Childhood vaccination remains above West Midlands and England averages.
- The MMRV vaccine has been introduced for young children.
- The inequalities grant supports targeted education, outreach and pop-up clinics.

Priority for assurance

- Sustain targeted support for schools and communities with lower uptake.
- Use data to identify gaps and tailor engagement.
- Monitor the impact of education and consent interventions on HPV uptake.

Autumn and winter vaccination

Shropshire exceeded England across every reported flu cohort; STW COVID-19 uptake was also higher.



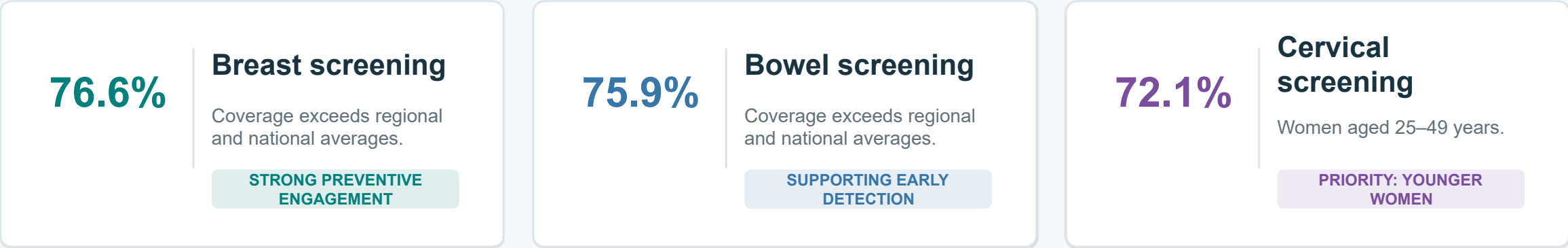
COVID-19 uptake 2025/26
61.8% STW | 57.1% England

Programme developments

- Additional flu clinics improved access.
- RSV eligibility extended to adults 80+ and older adult care-home residents.
- Seasonal monitoring continues for higher-risk groups.

Cancer screening uptake remains strong

Coverage is high across all three programmes, with a targeted opportunity to improve cervical screening among younger women.

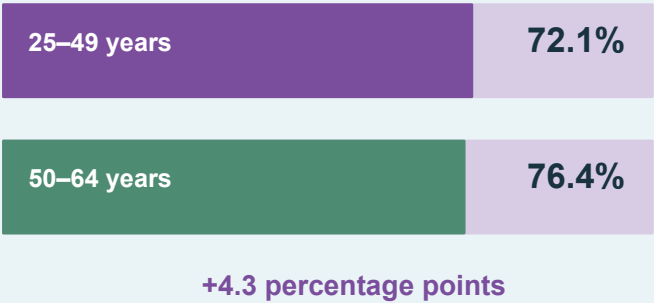


Cervical screening: maintain overall uptake and narrow the age gap

Coverage among women aged 50–64 is 4.3 percentage points higher than among women aged 25–49.

Focus: sustain participation across all eligible groups, while strengthening engagement with younger women to support earlier identification and treatment of cervical abnormalities.

CERVICAL SCREENING COVERAGE



Communicable, foodborne and waterborne disease

Health protection activity remained substantial, with strong operational controls and comparatively low TB incidence.

531

new incidents managed

1,050

cases managed

1.8

TB rate per 100,000

98.46%

food premises broad compliance

13

Regulation 18 notices

Community infections

Activity was driven primarily by sporadic gastrointestinal infection, especially Campylobacter.

Seasonal outbreaks

Winter increases in diarrhoea and vomiting and acute respiratory infection outbreaks affected care and nursing homes.

Influenza

The season started and declined earlier than 2024/25; overall activity was lower.

Private water supplies

236 samples, including 40 bottled-water samples, and nine risk assessments were completed.

Health Protection Developments

Targeted vaccination action is strengthening access, equity and system preparedness.

01

MenB vaccination

Time-limited NHS offer

Eligible 2025/26 school-leavers and first-time university or selected residential FE students.

Dose 1 by 31 Dec 2026 • Dose 2 by 31 Mar 2027

02

Vaccination project

Data • Education • Pop-up clinics

Seasonal clinics, Afghan family flu delivery, HPV confidence work and new GP/pharmacy specifications.

Key learning: trusted contacts, flexible delivery, planned translation capacity and multi-agency coordination.

03

Public communications

Heat-health alerts

MenB updates to education settings

Routine vaccination campaigns

BBQ food safety and winter wellness

2026/27 NHS-FUNDED PROGRAMME

Improving vaccination uptake and reducing inequalities

Priority groups Core20PLUS • deprived areas • ethnic minority and migrant communities • rural communities • groups with lower coverage

Priority vaccines Flu • COVID-19 • RSV • HPV • MMR/MMRV • childhood immunisations • MenACWY

Coordinated delivery

Local authority leadership
ICB data analysis
Community outreach
Targeted GP/PCN engagement
Community pharmacy pop-ups

NEW THIS AUTUMN
Free NHS flu vaccination for people experiencing homelessness
Including rough sleeping, hostels and night shelters

Communications and community protection

Regular, targeted communications support preparedness and help people act on health protection advice.

Heat health

Press release and messages shared through media channels and with vulnerable settings.

Education settings

MenB vaccination information updated and shared.

Vaccination campaigns

Regular promotion across vaccination programmes.

Seasonal safety

Food safety messaging for BBQ season and winter wellness communications.

Opportunity: align campaign planning with intelligence on unequal uptake and vulnerable settings.

Sexual and reproductive health

Most reported outcomes compare favourably with England, but HIV testing and late diagnosis remain key priorities.



Accessible services through clinics, online testing, primary care, pharmacies and community settings

292

STI diagnoses per 100,000

1.0

HIV prevalence per 1,000

56.4

LARC prescribing per 1,000

Selected comparison: Shropshire vs England

Indicator	Shropshire	England
Gonorrhoea	46.2	124
HIV testing	1,636	2,843
Late HIV diagnosis	62.5%	43.3%
Abortion rate	22.5	23.4

Priority: enhance testing to reduce late-stage HIV diagnosis.