

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee June 7th 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

1. Recommendation/s

- 1.1 To consider the information provided and comment on the planned COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.
- 1.2 To consider the information and seek assurance on the delivery of the first vaccination to be offered to all eligible adults over 18 by the end of July 2021.

Report of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP) Together We're Better System COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Summary

2. What is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

- 2.1 To consider the information provided and comment on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.
- 2.2 To consider the information provided and comment on the next steps in delivery.

Report

3. Background

- 3.1 This is the biggest vaccination programme the NHS has ever undertaken. We want to start by thanking partners for the incredible response across the system to enable the rapid roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Whether this is security support, estates, logistics or volunteers the energy and enthusiasm has been phenomenal.
- 3.2 The NHS in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent made an excellent start to rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, and continues to do so with 93 % of cohorts 1-9 vaccinated already.
- 3.3 This is a rolling programme and the first two phases, which covers all adults over 18 who are eligible, to have received their first vaccination by the end of July 2021. The NHS prioritised those most at risk first, based on the national guidance from the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI).

- 3.4 We are currently at the stage where we are vaccinating the over 38 year olds and expect to be offering the vaccination to all over 30 year olds by the middle of May 2021.
- 3.5 After these cohorts the NHS will continue to prioritise cohorts, based on the JCVI guidance, until all adults aged over 18 have been vaccinated.
- 3.6 There has been targeted work to ensure no sections of our communities have been left behind and the detail of how, the programme has responded to the diversity of our communities will be presented to the committee in June.

4. Communication and engagement

- 4.1 The NHS recognises the hope this vaccine brings for people, especially the most vulnerable. A communications task and finish group has been set up, working across health and social care to support consistent messages and to reach seldom heard groups.
- 4.2 As the NHS is in a level three major incident, communications are led by the national team. At a local level, the teams are working hard to disseminate key messages and reassure residents that no one will be missed.
- 4.3 A range of resources have been developed, including Easy Read and translated materials to encourage as many people as possible to have their vaccination.
- 4.4 An engagement programme commenced, connecting with faith, community and voluntary sector networks to understand any barriers in accessing the vaccination and to identify any additional channels and resources.
- 4.5 Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) have partnered with the vaccination team to create an approach whereby groups within the community that have low levels of uptake are targeted. The approach will involve a fire service vehicle and personnel working alongside health colleagues within targeted locations throughout the County on an outreach basis.
- 4.6 The ability for the SFRS to operate this provision outside of tradition daytime hours is also a benefit to the vaccination programme this was seen during Ramadan as there was hesitancy within the Muslim community regarding taking the vaccine during day light hours.
- 4.7 Utilising the Fire service brand is also an approach that health colleagues are keen to capitalise on as the trusted nature of the brand can break down barriers and support the uptake of the vaccine.

5. Summary

- 5.1 The latest position on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme will be presented at the committee.

6. How local people can support the programme

6.1 The public have an important part to play in supporting the vaccine roll out:

- Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you
- When the NHS does contact you, please attend your booked appointments
- Please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

6.2 The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and a full course will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. It is not known yet whether it will stop you from catching and passing on the virus, but it is expected to reduce this risk. It is important people follow the guidance in their local area to protect those around them:

- Practice social distancing
- Wear a face mask
- Wash your hands carefully and frequently
- Fresh air
- Follow the [current guidance](#).

7. Scrutiny

7.1 The committee will be kept informed of roll out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

8. Link to Trust's or Shared Strategic Objectives –

8.1 The NHS is in a level 3 Major Incident.

9. Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

9.1 The February committee received a presentation on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

10. Community Impact

10.1 This is a response to a public health emergency.

11. Contact Officer

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12. Appendices/Background papers

Presentation to follow.