

Local Members' Interest
Nil

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee
Monday 1st February 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 vaccination to the first four cohorts by February 15th 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 Select 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 The NHS in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has made an excellent start to rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, with many of our over 80s, care home staff and residents and at risk health and care staff having already received the vaccine. As of January 21st, 92,356 vaccines have been administered since the start of the roll-out on the 9 December, with c.80,000 people receiving the vaccination.

3.2 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.

3.3 This is a rolling programme and will take several months to complete. The NHS will prioritise those most at risk first, based on the national guidance from the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI). By mid-February there are four key cohorts that will need to be vaccinated:

- People aged 80 and over and care home residents
- Frontline health and social care staff
- People aged 70 and over
- Those who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

3.4 After these cohorts the NHS will continue to prioritise cohorts, based on the JCVI guidance, until all adults aged over 18 have been vaccinated. The Government's target is for this to have happened by September 2021. Locally the system is confident that they have the capacity and workforce to deliver these targets, subject to vaccination availability.

4. Summary

4.1 The latest position on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme will be presented at the committee on February 1st 2021.

4.2 Delivery model

4.2.1 In line with the national approach there are four pillars that support the local and national delivery model:

4.3 Pillar one large vaccination centres

4.3.1 The local NHS has recommended three sites (North, Southwest and Southeast) to support Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, in addition to sites in neighbouring areas. These larger sites are capable of vaccinating thousands of patients a day. The first of these sites will go live on January 25th in Tunstall initially supporting health and care workers, but also supporting patients from early February. The NHS is waiting official confirmation from the national team on the remaining sites, but anticipates they will go live in early February 2021.

4.3.2 It is anticipated these sites will primarily support health care and social care workers, then key workers and during the later phases the wider population. Patients who are eligible and within 45minutes of these centres will be able to book appointments through the national booking system once invited. However, it is envisaged the majority of patients will prefer to be seen at the local primary care network sites. Patients who want to be seen at their local community site, do not need to do anything they can wait for an invite from their GP.

4.4 Pillar two NHS hospital hubs

4.4.1 Royal Stoke Hospital was among the first 50 hospital hubs to go live in the country on December 9th. The hospital has supported people over 80s and frontline health and care workers to be vaccinated. During January, St Georges Hospital in Stafford and Queen's Hospital in Burton also went live. An additional site is being considered for Harplands Hospital to potentially go live in the coming weeks. These role of these hubs is likely to evolve over time, as the larger vaccination sites go live, to maximise efficiency and use of the workforce.

4.5 Pillar three community GP led sites

4.5.1 Modelling suggests 50% of all vaccinations will be delivered at the community level, led by Primary Care Networks (PCNs, groups of GP practices). The most at risk cohorts are being prioritised, including over 80s, care homes, housebound, then moving to over 70s and

extremely clinical vulnerable. There are 23 PCN sites live, ensuring 100% of cover across the population.

4.5.2 As of January 21st, at least 60% of the over 80s have been vaccinated and the local system is on track to deliver key targets to vaccinate all care home residents and over 80s by the end of January.

4.6 Pillar four – roving support

4.6.1 There are a number of groups that will need a different approach, including the homeless and detained estates. Bespoke approaches will be taken to reach these groups. The roving support team will also support those PCNs who may need additional support to reach their housebound and care home staff, within the challenging timescales.

4.6.2 The scale of this programme along with the logistics of vaccine storage and deliveries and the need to maximise the workforce, does mean that we need to continue with a network of central sites that are capable of supporting large numbers of patients to safely be vaccinated. This is a model that is recommended nationally and every site is first approved by the national team.

4.6.3 By working at scale, it also reduces any impact on the essential day to day services that are managed within individual GP practices. The NHS is aware of the difficulties some patients may have in travelling to central sites and is working with the local authorities to explore potential support.

4.6.4 At a local level, the NHS will continue to review the delivery model and listen to feedback over the coming months as the programme is rolled out to other cohorts.

4.7 Inviting people for their vaccination

4.7.1 When it is the right time people will be contacted to make their appointments. For most people they will receive a phone call or letter from their GP or a letter from the national booking system; this will include all the information they need, including their NHS number.

4.7.2 People are asked not to contact the NHS to get an appointment until they are invited. The NHS is working hard to make sure those at greatest risk are offered the vaccine first.

4.8 Communication and engagement

4.8.1 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.

4.8.2 As the NHS is in a level four 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.

4.8.3 A range of resources are being developed, including Easy Read and translated materials to encourage as many people as possible to have their vaccination.

4.8.4 An engagement programme is also underway, connecting with faith, community and voluntary sector networks to understand any barriers in accessing the vaccination and to identify any additional channels and resources.

4.9 How local people can support the programme

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.

4.10 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
- Follow the [current guidance](#).

5. Scrutiny

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

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

6.1 The NHS is in a level 4 Major Incident and the Local Resilience Forum is in a Major Incident responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

7. Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

7.1 The December committee received a presentation on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

8. Community Impact

8.1 This is a response to a public health emergency.

9. Contact Officer

Name and Job Title: Tracey Shewan, Director for Communications and Corporate Services

Telephone No: 07548 212307

Address/e-mail: tracey.shewan@staffsstokeccgs.nhs.uk

10. Appendices/Background papers

Presentation to follow.