

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 6 October 2021
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health and Public Protection
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Covid Vaccination update
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report presents update on the Covid vaccination programme for Halton

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of report**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Current Uptake

As of 13.09.2021, 90.48%% of eligible people in Halton have had their first dose of vaccination and 82.51% of eligible people have had their second dose of vaccine (data from ONS data to reflect actual population). Around 50% of 16/17 year olds are vaccinated.

3.2 Increasing Uptake

Actions to support and increase vaccination uptake within specific groups/settings are ongoing as detailed below:

3.2.1 *Low testing/vaccination uptake areas*

- 'Public Health bus' offering Covid testing, vaccination booking and information/'myth busting'/signposting as well as working with HIT to offer blood pressure checks and non-Covid related health advice
- Pop up bus schedule determined by local data review (low vaccination/testing uptake and higher case rate areas - Windmill Hill/Norton North, Hale Bank, Hough Green, Halton View, Kingsway/Mersey)
- All testing/pop up staff received RSPH Encouraging Vaccination Uptake and MECC training to help with initiating vaccine discussions and answer Qs. Other staff have also completed the training from VCA, HIT

and refugee resettlement worker

- Waiting for go ahead from vaccination providers for potential pop up vaccinations
- Work ongoing looking into demographics of these areas for more tailored comms

3.2.2 *Seafarers*

- Vaccination process established with HBC, Port Authority and Widnes PCN for seafarers (2 ships vaccinated so far and ongoing arrangement in place)
- Translated vaccination resources provided where needed and channel for ship crew to ask questions/get information
- Shared learning session planned with other LAs/Port Authority

3.2.3 *Asylum seekers*

- On site vaccinations - 1 vaccination session completed beginning of July (coordination between HBC, Serco and Widnes PCN)
- 2nd doses and new 1st doses session planned WC 13th Sept and plans for ongoing vaccination sessions
- HBC LFT testing sessions on Thursdays used as opportunity to answer residents vaccine Qs and provide information
- Translated videos and resources provided for residents in many languages
- Information for residents on how to access 2nd doses

3.2.4 *Care Homes*

- Offer of Q&A sessions/webinars with H&S staff, GPs, health protection staff given to all care homes
- 1-1 conversations have been carried out with CCG nurse to discuss specific staff concerns with several care homes & follow up calls
- Provision of tailored resources and information addressing specific concerns
- HBC now accredited to provide RSPH Encouraging Vaccination Uptake training which will be offered to all care homes to have 'vaccine champions'

3.2.5 *Young People/Schools*

- Working with college to train 'vaccine champions' staff/students through

RSPH training

- Engagement work ongoing to identify and address specific concerns (before any pop up vaccination sessions) e.g. Q&A, 1-1, information provision, integrate into appropriate lessons (to start when classes resume beginning of Sept)
- Widnes PCN planning to deliver on site pop up vaccinations at the college with our support

3.2.6

Workplaces

- Workplaces are being offered to train 'vaccine champions' staff through RSPH Encouraging Vaccine Uptake training
- Building on existing relationships developed through testing to identify & understand specific concerns in workplaces (& vaccine uptake figures) – specific resources/1-1 conversations with staff/webinar Q&A sessions/translated materials
- Potential for onsite vaccinations e.g. TESCO distribution centre but waiting on vaccination provider governance

3.2.7

Homeless

- Initial meeting with CGL to establish scope for vaccination session and support HBC could provide – potential for pop-up vaccinations

3.3

Future Direction

The vaccine programme remains open to anyone over the age of 16.

3.3.1 *Healthy 12-15 year Olds*

It was announced on 13th September that the offer will be made to this age group the full guidance is still in preparation. It is expectation that NHSEI will commission the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) will deliver to this cohort in a schools setting. Whilst guidance is being reviewed School Aged Immunisation Providers are working closely with NHSEI and Local Authorities to develop plans for delivery. It is expected that some delivery may begin from next week.

3.3.2 *3rd Primary Dose / Booster doses*

Individuals who are immune suppressed are already being called for their 3rd dose vaccination if this is 6 months following their 2nd dose.

On 15th September, the government announced that a 3rd dose will be given to those who are over the age of 50, under 50 with a health condition that puts them at risk, and to health and care workers. The details of this are being

finalised but this is likely to begin within the next few weeks and will be undertaken by PCNs and practices

3.3.3 *Seasonal Flu*

The Seasonal Flu vaccination programme has commenced. There are some delays from 2 of the main manufactures and unfortunately some practices and pharmacies will be affected by these delays, but where stocks of vaccine are available, the programme has commenced. All eligible individuals will be invited for a flu vaccination by their GP or local pharmacy.

There is no detail as yet as to whether the flu vaccination and Covid booster vaccine can routinely to be given together. Details area awaited.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Covid vaccination programme is a nationally mandated programme.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The impact of Covid-19 on the community and organisations has continuing financial implication. Limited spread and reducing illness is a key requirement of pandemic planning and contingency response

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Protecting children is an important part of Covid response

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Maximising vaccine uptake is key to opening up communities, protecting people and ensuring a safe return to normal living.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

An effective vaccine is available to help reducing infection, reduce severity of infection and prevent harm. Maximising uptake is essential to protecting the people of Halton

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

An effective vaccine is available to help reducing infection, reduce severity of infection and prevent harm. Maximising uptake is essential to protecting the people of Halton

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Maximising vaccine uptake is key to opening up communities, protecting people and ensuring a safe return to normal living.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 *Failing to adequately implement the national vaccination plans and protect our community puts the population at significant risk of outbreaks and increased incidence of a serious, preventable infection. Failure to provide vaccination for eligible front line health and social care staff is a corporate risk and can put employees and service users at increased risk.*

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 *The strategy is developed in line with all equality and diversity issues within Halton.*

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None within the meaning of the Act.