

Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);

Increasing vaccination uptake and addressing inequalities

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

A presentation on COVID-19 vaccination uptake and the collective actions to address health inequalities in relation to COVID-19 vaccination, across the three phases of the pandemic response vaccination programme and a summary of the Lancashire County Council (LCC) internal audit report of Phase 1 and Phase 2 national rollout of the COVID vaccination programme.

Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS presentation on COVID-19 vaccination uptake and actions to address health inequalities.
- (ii) note the summary of the Lancashire County Council audit assurance report (Appendix A) and plans for a follow up audit in 2022/23 following national Phase 3 rollout completion.
- (iii) formulate any recommendations on increasing COVID-19 vaccination uptake and addressing inequalities.

Background and Advice

At the work programming workshop held on 29 June 2021, members of the Health Scrutiny Committee were appraised of the three public health priorities for 2021/22 being; COVID-19 response, recovery and reform.

A key element of the COVID-19 response is to increase vaccination uptake and address inequalities in vaccine uptake. This report and the presentation set out the presentation will provide information on COVID-19 vaccination uptake and the collective actions by the local NHS, the county council and partners on health

inequalities in relation to COVID-19 vaccination, across the three phases of the pandemic response vaccination programme.

1. COVID response Autumn/Winter Plan 2021/22

On 14th September 2021 the Government published plans for autumn and winter 2021 for England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>. The Autumn/Winter plan includes the Government's "Plan A" - a comprehensive approach relying on personal responsibility designed to steer the country through autumn and winter 2021/22. It also outlines a Plan B which would only be enacted if the data suggests further measures are necessary to protect the NHS. At the present time national Government have confirmed in national press briefings that there is no intention to trigger Plan B of the plan at this point of the autumn/winter period.

2. Health Inclusion Groups and NHS Equality, Health Inequality Impact Assessment

Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) working with Lancashire County Council, district councils and wider community, voluntary and faith sectors have provided a comprehensive set of COVID vaccination offers including outreach models of provision for communities where there are known inequalities (e.g. coastal communities, rural areas, Gypsy, Roma & Traveller sites, ethnic minorities, student populations, Learning disabilities & autism, homeless, refugee and asylum seeker populations, pregnant women, drugs and alcohol services, special education needs schools).

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS have local plans in place to offer in school and out of school 12-15 year COVID-19 vaccination through the national booking service (NBS) for multiple modalities such as large vaccination sites, identified number of community pharmacy and GP surgeries. Children who have missed their COVID vaccination due to absence from school can be booked in for COVID-19 vaccination through the out of school national booking service offer.

Phase 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme has been implemented across Lancashire and South Cumbria led by Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS that has undertaken an Equality and Health Inequality Impact Assessment phase 1 and 2. A further Equality and Health Inequality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for Phase 3 of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme for the Lancashire and South vaccination programme.

Phase 3 covers arrangements for the booster programme and vaccination to younger cohort groups (i.e. 12-15 year olds). The Equality and Health Inequality Impact Assessment demonstrates how the vaccination programme has demonstrated 'due regard' to the public sector equality duty for the NHS.

3. LCC Internal Audit of Phase 1 and 2 COVID vaccination

In September 2021, the county council's internal audit team completed a review of the county council's responsibilities in relation to the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme. A summary of the LCC audit findings report as presented to the

Council's Audit, Risk and Governance Committee at its meeting on 18 October 2021 is set out at **Appendix A**.

4. Vaccination Uptake and Inequalities Presentation

Paul Havey, Director of the Lancashire & South Cumbria COVID-19 vaccination programme (NHS) and Abdul Razaq, Interim Consultant in Public Health, Lancashire County Council and Public Health COVID vaccination lead will attend the meeting to deliver the presentation and answer questions.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications for COVID-19 vaccination uptake and inequalities, as indicated:

- NHS and care home mandatory staff vaccination national deadline 11th November 2021 with published exemptions.
- Care home booster COVID-19 vaccination completion by 31st October 2021.
- Resident uptake of the evergreen COVID vaccination offer for currently unvaccinated populations.
- Resident uptake of the COVID booster vaccination offer after an interval of 26 weeks from 2nd COVID vaccination dose.
- The severity of the influenza season, uptake of flu jabs in the Lancashire population and co-circulating viruses.
- Uptake of the 12-15 year old vaccination programme in schools and out of school offer recently communicated by the NHS.
- A national Government decision on moving from Plan A to Plan B in the Autumn/Winter Plan 2021/22 and further behavioural insights of vulnerable population groups.

Risk management

This report has potential risk implications for business continuity of services and workforce capacity across the health, care and education system and the wider societal impacts on the recovery phase of the COVID pandemic.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate - N/A