

**Local Outbreak Engagement Board****7<sup>th</sup> September 2021****Covid-19 Vaccination update****Purpose**

This report is to update LOEB on COVID-19 vaccination uptake for Black Country & West Birmingham ICS and Walsall residents. Clinical Commissioning Groups and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are responsible for vaccine scheduling and delivery, which is a devolved responsibility from NHS England (NHSE). Walsall Council is heavily involved through its provision of vaccination sites and related support, funding for vaccination buses, communications to promote uptake, Public Health Team monitoring of coverage, and resourcing the COVID Community Champions (CCs). The PH team also participates in the PCN Gold Meetings and Walsall Vaccine Programme Strategy Group meetings.

**Recommendations**

For information - that the Board notes the contents of the report.

**1. Covid-19 Data**

- 1.1 Overall vaccination uptake/coverage is now being monitored at System and Place levels against the NHSE targets. According to the latest published NHS England figures, weekly (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021) uptake percentages at system level are as follows:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

**First dose % (using ONS denominators)**

Age group	BCWB	England
<b>80+</b>	91.3	93.0
<b>75-79</b>	94.6	100
<b>70-74</b>	97.1	97.6
<b>65-69</b>	95.3	95.5
<b>60-64</b>	99.0	100
<b>55-59</b>	95.2	98.6
<b>50-54</b>	93.2	93.4
<b>45-49</b>	84.5	88.0
<b>40-44</b>	89.4	91.9
<b>35-39</b>	78.4	84.8
<b>30-34</b>	70.4	81.7
<b>25-29</b>	60.5	73.4
<b>18-24</b>	61.1	70.9

### Second dose % (using ONS denominators)

Age group	BCWB	England
80+	89.6	91.2
75-79	93.3	100
70-74	95.7	96.4
65-69	93.2	93.9
60-64	95.9	97.6
55-59	91.3	95.3
50-54	88.5	89.8
45-49	77.8	82.9
40-44	79.3	84.3
35-39	63.4	72.6
30-34	51.6	63.9
25-29	37.9	49.2
18-24	32.5	37.6

1.2 The BCWB ICS has delivered 1,630,478 vaccines since December 2020 (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>), an enormous achievement which has meant that those most vulnerable were protected early from the serious effects of COVID-19. The BCWB CCG is working with Local Authority Public Health colleagues in each of the five places to ensure that we are reaching into communities, using local champions to support people with the right information upon which to make decisions around the vaccine and we have a large number of vaccination sites to ensure good access to the service. All this great work will continue.

1.3 Our teams are contacting everyone eligible to urge anyone aged 18 or over who has not yet had their vaccine to walk in or book at a local site. In addition, following The Government's acceptance of the JCVI recommendations the NHS is now putting plans in place to vaccinate over 12s. We are asking that people in this cohort wait to be contacted for their vaccination.

1.4 Unfortunately there has been some aggression towards staff at vaccination sites, particularly in relation to people wanting their second doses early. This is unacceptable behaviour towards our staff and volunteers and it will not be tolerated. The NHS is offering second doses, 8 weeks after the first and this message is being communicated widely.

1.5 The NHS is urging expectant mums to get the Covid-19 vaccine after new data shows the overwhelming majority of pregnant women hospitalised with the virus have not had a jab. The BCWB ICS will soon be mirroring the Wolverhampton model with vaccination clinics on site in each maternity unit so that the vaccine can be offered during antenatal appointments to women and their families. The overarching message is to reassure pregnant women that Covid-19 vaccines are the safest and best way to protect them and their baby from severe illness and premature birth. Any pregnant women who have questions or concerns about the vaccine can speak to their GP, midwife or obstetrician to get more information and advice. Even if they have previously declined the vaccine, they can book an appointment to get their jab on the NHS National Booking Service website or call 119 between 7am and 11pm.

1.6 Whilst we await further guidance we are planning Phase 3 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. We know this will start in September with boosters for those most at risk and we

are looking to plan the vaccination capacity carefully to ensure we can deliver flu vaccines too.

## **2 Monitoring current vaccination inequalities**

- 2.1 We are now reporting regularly overall vaccination coverage and inequalities at Borough and Ward/Middle Layer Super Output (MSOA) resident population levels. The latter is important as it will allow tracking of the impact of CCs and practice interventions in small areas. We use small area (LSOA) Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores summarised into quintiles and deciles to report coverage by deprivation.
- 2.2 Uptake in the Black/Black British ethnic group and mixed / multiple ethnicity is still low in Short Heath, Streetly and Willenhall North. Similarly, uptake in the Other/Unknown ethnic groups is low in Birchills and Pelsall.
- 2.3 As noted in previous reports first and second dose coverage is highest in the White and Asian major ethnic groups, and much lower in other ethnic groups.
- 2.4 A variety of methods are being used in a bid to improve uptake. Including grassroots outreach within local communities by the CCs, the vaccine bus service targeting local pockets of low uptake, targeted advertising via social media and radio, direct messaging via schools and other education partners, Walsall FC players filmed, vox pops produced of people getting vaccinated, videos with health professionals, toolkit for workplaces, information and reassurance in multiple community languages, and frequent press releases and local media appearance

### **3.0 Report detail**

3.1 On the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, NHS England announced new targets for the programme because the rate of increase in coverage, particularly in younger age groups, has been slowing markedly. The new national coverage targets are as follows:

- 89% minimum uptake in cohorts 1-10
- 85% minimum uptake in cohorts 11 and 12
- 2nd doses for cohorts 1-10 to be completed at 8 weeks
- All cohorts must receive at least 3 invites to access the vaccine
- Each PCN as a minimum in each cohort 75%.

3.2 The task is more challenging for any Places which are not affluent and/or mainly White British. Motivating younger people to get vaccinated will be an added challenge as they frequently perceive themselves to be at low risk. To make vaccination as convenient as possible, the Saddlers Centre vaccination service has extended its opening hours to 8am-7pm, seven days a week, while vaccinations are also offered at selected local pharmacies, and GP-led sites including Forrester Street surgery and Oak Park Leisure Centre, both of which run frequent walk-in clinics.

3.3 In addition to existing Vaccination Centres (VCs), a wide range of interventions have been deployed, including targeted communications activity (see section 2.4 above), pop-up clinics, and two vaccination buses which will visit priority locations including areas with low uptake and high-footfall sites such as major employers.

3.4 COVID Community Champions (CCs) have mobilised to locally promote visits of the vaccination buses, accompany patients and act as marshals at the sites of visits. CC groups are also linking up with GP practices. They will be supporting the second bus in the same way as the first.

## **4 Conclusion**

It is crucial that all local public bodies continue to work together to promote the benefits of vaccination and encourage uptake, and the CCG and council will continue providing support and materials to enable our partners to do this.

Vaccination is safe and effective, and the best way to protect individuals and their community from the harmful effects of COVID-19. There is a vaccination waiting for all Walsall residents, even those who have previously declined and have changed their mind. It is important to get both doses of the vaccine, to provide the maximum protection. Details of all local vaccination services can be found here:

<https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-advice/covid-19-vaccination>

### **Background papers**

None

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