

**COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Author: Sarah Frisby, Head of Systems Engagement, BLMK CCG

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this document is to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress made with the Covid-19 vaccination rollout in Milton Keynes.

**1. Context**

- 1.1 In December 2020, the NHS started to rollout the largest vaccination programme in its history. Government, through the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) provided guidance on the groups that would be vaccinated in priority order.
- 1.2 Since December, seven GP vaccination sites have opened in Milton Keynes:
  - Oakridge Medical Centre - 30 Texel Close, Oakridge Park, Milton Keynes, MK14 6GL;
  - Asplands Medical Centre - Asplands Close, Woburn Sands, MK17 8QP;
  - Whitehouse Medical Centre - Dorset Way, Whitehouse, Milton Keynes, MK8 1BP;
  - Central MK Medical Practice - 68 Bradwell Common Boulevard, MK13 8RN;
  - Newport Pagnell Medical Centre - Queens Avenue, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 8QT;
  - Westcroft Health Centre - 1 Savill Lane, Milton Keynes MK4 4EN; and
  - Whaddon Medical Centre - Fern Grove, Milton Keynes MK2 3HN.
- 1.3 This was followed up with the opening of a regional Vaccination Centre (VC) on 8 February 2021 at Saxon Court, Saxon Gate.

**2. What have we done so far?**

- 2.1 In line with government targets and following the guidance of the JCVI, we have worked down the list of cohorts and now offered the vaccine to all residents over 38 years of age in Milton Keynes, as well as to those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. These cohorts continue to go down the age groups at pace.

2.2 Milton Keynes GPs have vaccinated vulnerable residents who are housebound and in care homes for the elderly and care homes for adults with Learning Disabilities.

### **3. Progress Made to Date**

3.1 Since the start of our vaccination programme, we have made significant progress in vaccinating our residents, although there remains more to do. As at 17 May, we have vaccinated:

(a) First Doses

- 96% of Milton Keynes residents who are over 80;
- 96% of Milton Keynes residents who are 75-79;
- 95% of Milton Keynes residents who are 70-74;
- 92% of Milton Keynes residents who are 65-69;
- 89% of Milton Keynes residents who are 60-64;
- 86% of Milton Keynes residents who are 55-59;
- 83% of Milton Keynes residents who are 50-54;
- 68% of Milton Keynes residents who are 40-49;
- 84% of Milton Keynes residents who are aged between 16-64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality;
- 94% of Milton Keynes residents who live in Care Homes for people with learning disabilities;
- 81% of staff who work in Milton Keynes Care Homes for people with learning difficulties;
- 96% of Milton Keynes residents who live in Care Homes for the elderly; and
- 75% of staff who work in Milton Keynes Care Homes for the elderly.

(b) Second Doses

- 93% of Milton Keynes residents who are over 80;
- 93% of Milton Keynes residents who are 75-79;
- 91% of Milton Keynes residents who are 70-74;

- 78% of Milton Keynes residents who are 65-69;
- 40% of Milton Keynes residents who are 60-64;
- 30% of Milton Keynes residents who are 55-59;
- 24% of Milton Keynes residents who are 50-54;
- 16% of Milton Keynes residents who are 40-49; and
- 48 of Milton Keynes residents who are aged between 16-64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality.

#### **4. Challenges**

4.1 While the vaccination programme is being rolled out successfully in Milton Keynes, there are challenges in ensuring that we vaccinate as many residents as possible. In order to tackle some of these challenges we have divided the issues into three strands - Convenience, Confidence and Complacency.

##### *Convenience:*

In order to make the vaccinations as accessible as possible to all residents, we have recently begun some pilots in Milton Keynes in additional locations that residents will trust - for example on 30 April a pop-up vaccination centre was hosted at Granby Islamic Centre. The South West Primary Care Network comprising Bedford Street, Westfield Road Surgery, Westcroft Medical Centre and Parkside Medical Centre provided vaccinators to encourage more people to come forward for their jabs.

We have also been piloting 'walk-in' clinics, enabling residents to be able to walk in and have the vaccination, rather than having a booked appointment. This is particularly useful for residents who, for any reason, may have struggled with the National Booking Service. This week, Saxon Court is offering some walk-in sessions for Milton Keynes residents.

##### *Confidence and Complacency:*

While we are making good progress with the vaccination programme, we are concerned about vaccine hesitancy within our population, leading to some members within our community, especially those working in our care homes choosing to decline the vaccination.

We are working with our communities to fully understand individual issues and concerns and provide specific communications to reassure and to provide facts. Sometimes this is about bringing in community or faith leaders to help spread those reassurance messages as a trusted voice, so that people can make informed decisions about whether or not to take the vaccine.

Our work in this arena has included:

- a leaflet for faith leaders to use on their websites to provide facts about the vaccine; and
- information about the vaccination and encouraging people to have the vaccine in a range of community languages including Bengali, Punjabi, Somali, Urdu, Sylheti, Romanian, Gujarati, Polish and BSL.

In addition to outreach work, we are also in the process of producing a leaflet which will be mailed to every household in Milton Keynes to provide credible information about the vaccine, so that people have the facts at their disposal.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 We continue to deliver the Covid-19 vaccination programme at pace and encouraging those within the eligibility cohorts to have their vaccine. We stress that the vaccination offer is evergreen, so anyone who has not yet taken up the offer can step forward when they are personally confident and ready to take the jab - the offer will not be withdrawn.
- 5.2 We are also working on plans for booster jabs for the Covid-19 vaccination in the Autumn, alongside vaccinating against the Flu, as we have done in previous years.
- 5.3 We will provide regular updates to the members of the HWBB, and elected members and our residents as we continue with the vaccination programme.