



PERTH & KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

9 December 2020

Chief Officer Report

**Gordon Paterson, Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health & Social Care
(Report No. G/20/159)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to the IJB on some key activities that the HSCP are progressing in the context of the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. RECOMMENDATION

Perth and Kinross IJB Members are asked to note;

- the progress made by the HSCP in delivering the flu vaccination programme.
- the planned delivery of the Tayside Covid-19 Vaccination Programme and the HSCP's participation and preparedness.
- the continuing support being provided to local Care Homes.

2. FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- 2.1 In October and November, Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership delivered Flu Vaccination Clinics across Perth and Kinross, at Perth Royal Infirmary, Blairgowrie Minor Illness and Injury Unit, Pitlochry Community Hospital and Crieff Community Hospital. This supplemented the delivery of flu immunisation by our local GPs.
- 2.2 It is intended that the HSCP Flu Vaccination Clinics will continue throughout December, depending on demand. Up until 13 December 2020, the HSCP has made available approximately 6000 flu vaccination appointments in Perth, Blairgowrie, Crieff and Pitlochry for the initial cohort of over 65-year olds and under 65 "at risk" patients.
- 2.3 On 20 November 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Health announced that people between the ages of 60 and 64 could also be offered flu vaccinations. Having liaised with GP Practices, the HSCP have therefore arranged four

additional clinics in Perth City, Blairgowrie and Pitlochry, which will take place on the 12 and 13 December 2020.

- 2.4 Using NHS Tayside Vision IT system, GP Practices can appoint directly to the HSCP clinic appointments. This means that patients have only one phone call to their GP Practice and access to appointments in either the Practice or HSPC clinics.
- 2.5 The HSCP programme is led by the HSCP's Primary Care Service Manager, with any issues escalated to the NHS Tayside Public Health Vaccination Group (TEVAC). Vaccinators have included a wide variety of staff groups including dental nurses, dentists, podiatrists and physiotherapists, as well as nursing staff. We are also indebted to the people who have volunteered to support the programme from our volunteer pool and who are operating under the national guidance for volunteers.

3. COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine has now been approved for use (2 December 2020). Plans had been developed on the understanding that this vaccine required very strict cold chain storage conditions (-70C) and it was difficult to transport any distance from the new, very-cold freezer based at Ninewells Hospital. The plans that had been put in place proposed that frontline health and social care staff would be the first to receive it from, 7th December at a dedicated facility based at Ninewells.
- 3.2 However, the Cabinet Secretary reported to parliament on the 3rd December that the vaccine could be transported safely in smaller units, without this level of cold storage for up to 12 hours. Ms Freeman indicated that vaccinations would be made available to care home residents and staff from the 14th December. In response, at the time of writing (4th December) plans are being updated to seek to prioritise staff and residents in care homes. These plans will also consider; the need to also vaccinate frontline health workers; the expected supplies of the vaccines coming to Scotland and to Tayside; the need to administer two doses of the vaccine, 28 days apart.
- 3.2 The Astra Zeneca Oxford Vaccine is expected to be available from the end of December 2020. This vaccine does not require to be kept at such cold temperatures, which will allow transport to other venues more viable. This vaccine also requires 2 doses, 28 days apart.
- 3.3 To support the delivery of this programme, NHS Tayside has contacted recently retired and still-registered nursing and medical staff and received around 40 expressions of interest to be trained as the initial group of experienced vaccinators. Following the recruitment process these staff will receive in-depth training from a module developed by NHS Education Scotland (NES). The first vaccinations are planned from around 7 December 2020, subject to vaccine delivery and availability.
- 3.4 In line with the Scottish Government guidance, it is intended that the vaccines will be delivered in three waves. Wave one will include Care Home residents

and staff, health and social care frontline staff and people over 80 years and will run until the end of January 2021. Thereafter, people over 75 years and “at risk” patients will be vaccinated in descending age cohorts over Waves 2 and 3, until approximately spring 2021. This timeline will be affected by availability of vaccines.

- 3.5 An NHS Scotland appointment and clinical vaccination recording IT system has been developed, which will enable the recording of the vaccination to go back to the patient’s GP records. This is planned for full roll-out in the second wave, with interim IT recording systems planned for wave one.
- 3.6 NHS Tayside Public Health is co-coordinating the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme centrally. Due to the enormity of the logistics involved, it is anticipated that delivery will be a blended model of central delivery along with the HSCP’s delivering locally, which will also involve General Practice. The granular, detailed planning of this is under continual development within a fast-changing environment and challenging timeline.
- 3.7 Within the HSCP a leadership command structure has been developed to support the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. A COVID-19 Vaccination Lead has been identified, Dawn Fraser from the Primary Care Team, who was integrally involved in the recent flu vaccination planning and brings her experience to this role.
- 3.8 The HSCP is also recruiting a senior nurse to support the vaccination programme, to start in January 2021. Bronze, Silver and Gold COVID-19 Vaccination Groups are now established in P&K, meeting twice weekly. Representatives from these groups link into the 6 Short Life Working Groups set up by NHS Tayside, which are:
- workforce and governance
 - vaccines
 - data and systems
 - communications
 - accommodation and procurement
 - finance
- 3.9 The HSCP is also working with General Practice through the Associate Medical Director and Primary Care Team. The Programme Lead, along with the AMD and Primary Care Service Manager attend the weekly NHS Tayside Vaccination meetings, which feedback into the Perth and Kinross HSCP Leadership structure.

4. SUPPORT TO CARE HOMES

- 4.1 Colleagues within the HSCP continue to work closely with the Scottish Care Integration Lead in order to support the Care Homes in Perth and Kinross. This involves regular Zoom calls for managers and the provision of support and advice on implementing the latest guidance from the Scottish Government, with input from Public Health as required.

- 4.2 The HSCP 'safety huddle' meets regularly to consider reports from each of the care homes and to apply a risk rating to determine the support needs of each home. While all homes have received assurance visits and can access support with PPE, training, staffing, Infection Prevention and Control advice, red-rated care homes receive enhanced support. Any issues from the local safety huddles can be escalated to the Tayside Care Home Clinical Oversight Group, chaired by the Director of Nursing, which meets throughout the week.
- 4.3 Despite the significant attention given to infection prevention, the prevalence of Covid nationally means that we continue to see outbreaks in care home settings. In these circumstances, we have a well-developed outbreak management response jointly with Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control and take the necessary measures to contain and address such situations. As care home staff continue to receive testing every week, we can respond swiftly and effectively to any positive tests, including in seeking to mitigate the impact of numbers of staff having to self-isolate.
- 4.4 The Scottish Government has initiated a pilot programme of testing visitors to care homes, including in Tayside, and anticipates that this will become a standard approach across all Care Homes in Scotland early next year.
- 4.5 As indicated earlier in this report, a priority now is planning the delivery of Covid vaccinations to the residents and staff in the 43 Care Homes in Perth and Kinross. As well as the practical and logistical challenges here, the HSCP is sensitive to the challenges around residents' capacity and consent and is building in the necessary safeguards.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report provides a brief update on the Health and Social Care Partnership's contribution to the delivery of the flu immunisation programme across Perth and Kinross, as well as the significant planning activity to support the delivery of Covid vaccination and the ongoing support to Care Homes.
- 6.2 The HSCP is progressing these major areas of work, while maintaining its wider response to the pandemic, as reported to previous IJB's and as described in our Remobilisation Plan, while continuing to deliver our broad portfolio of community health and social care services. Verbal updates in respect of these wider activities will, of course, be provided to the IJB, as required.

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.