

Vaccine Update – 24th January 2021

Dear Providers/ Family members,

As we have had a number of query's about how vaccinations will be provided to members of the learning disability population SCDS would like to confirm the following.

Vaccination Priority Group Appointments

Everyone in the priority list will be offered the vaccine as soon as possible. Exact timing for each group will depend on supplies arriving at GP Hubs.

The Mass Vaccination Cell confirmed that individuals requiring a bespoke arrangement should take the following steps:

- People may receive an automated NHS letter inviting them to the mass vaccination centre (Brighton Centre), these are larger facilities with many more vaccinations taking place at once. We recognise that these centres may be overwhelming for people with a learning disability. If the person you support is invited, you can ignore this invitation and wait to be invited via the local GP Hub.
- The GP will automatically invite the eligible person for vaccination at one of three GP Hub sites across the city. You will be contacted via letter or telephone.
- Once the person has been contacted by their GP and if reasonable adjustments are required, then that is the opportunity to let the GP know so that the persons needs can be met.

Where Mental Capacity and best interest decisions need to be made its important to ensure the documentation described below, which should already have been completed is up to date and has been provided to the GP. This will confirm the individual's capacity to consent and considerations to whether it is felt to be in the person best interest. The GP as the decision maker can then make a decision to authorise and plan for incapacitated individuals to receive the vaccination.

Providers (or family members who are able to) we are asking for your continued support in making sure that people are getting their Covid vaccinations:

- **GP Learning Disability Register** - check the person you support is on their GP Learning Disability Register. If they are invited for a yearly Annual Health Check, they will be on the GP Learning Disability Register. If you are not sure check with the GP Practice Manager. Being on the register has many benefits and entitles people to Annual Health Checks and prioritisation for future vaccinations, as well as ensuring they get the Covid vaccine.

- **Have Mental Capacity – Best Interest Decision forms been completed?**
For people who lack mental capacity over the age of 16, these forms should be completed and sent in advance of any invitation, in order to give the GPs as the decision maker, the most relevant information available to decide whether the individual can give consent to having the vaccination or if they are unable to do so, whether it is in their best interest.

Please send the form to both the GP and social work team:
SCDSIntake@brighton-hove.gov.uk for their consideration.

- **Have you checked in with people who live independently and may have been shielding/refusing face to face support?** This is to check their physical welfare and to confirm if they have been invited for their vaccination and or need support in ensuring their appointments are booked and any Reasonable Adjustments are made?

Further Information:

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are leading this work they have a frequently asked questions page on their website that gives regular updates about the GP Hubs etc. [Sussex COVID-19 Vaccination Programme | Sussex Health & Care Partnership \(sussexhealthandcare.uk\)](https://www.sussexhealthandcare.nhs.uk/covid-19/vaccination-programme)

Healthwatch Brighton & Hove are also keeping their webpage regularly updated: <https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/news/2021-02-19/vaccinations-covid-19>

If you have any general questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and the local vaccination centres

Please contact the CCG's Communication and Public Involvement team using the contact details below:

Email: sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net

Telephone: 01273 238 725

Easy read resources:

New - Easy-read COVID-19 vaccination consent form for adults who are able to consent [COVID-19 vaccination: easy-read consent form for adults](#)

New Public Health England - Easy-read guides providing information on coronavirus (COVID-19) and vaccination. [COVID-19 vaccination: easy-read leaflets](#)

NHS - [short film](#) Information about vaccines: For people with a learning disability and autistic people

Mencap – [Easy read Guide about the Coronavirus Vaccine](#)

[Books Beyond Words](#) new wordless story about having a vaccine for Coronavirus.

Down's Syndrome Association easy read explains about the vaccination for coronavirus. [Download a copy here](#)

We hope that the information above has been able to answer some of the questions you may have.

Kind regards

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(Please note my normal working days are Tuesday