

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Our Ref: RT/HW/HL



**Integrated Health and Care  
Partnership**

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Dear Colleague,

**COVID19 Vaccination Early Years**

We are writing to set out Bolton's approach to Covid19 vaccination and how national and local decisions are being made to protect lives.

The JCVI (Joint Advisory Committee Vaccination and Immunisation) has clearly set out the framework in which we are to operate and make local determinations as to the patient groups and occupational groups that are to be prioritised for vaccinations.

These decisions are based on saving lives and reducing hospitalisation, we are currently working through the top four priority groups as set out below by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. These priority groups are based on evidence of people in our communities most likely to die or be hospitalised if they contract COVID19 and those that work directly with these individuals;

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

Positive progress is being made in vaccinating the above priority groups and we are on target to complete these in line with the government ambition by middle of February 2021 supply permitting.

It is our understanding that other occupational groups are being considered for future waves of vaccination planning, these decisions will be made nationally and are out of our local control. We appreciate how hard you are all working in such difficult times and anxieties are high in the workforce who have throughout the pandemic continued to operate our Early years provision for the best of our children and their futures.

Everyone will be offered vaccination but unfortunately, we do not have the vaccine supplies or mandate to include everyone immediately.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The standard operating procedure for the vaccination of 'Frontline Social Care Staff' was released on 15<sup>th</sup> January, this guidance defines eligible staff groups as: 'All frontline social care workers directly working with people clinically vulnerable to COVID- 19 who need care and support irrespective of where they work (for example in people's own homes, day centres, care homes for working age adults or supported housing); whether they care for clinically vulnerable adults or children; or who they are employed by (for example local government, NHS private sector or third sector employees).'

The JCVI has identified children most at risk of COVID as those of any age who are clinically extremely vulnerable or who are aged 16 and over who are at greater risk of disease or mortality because of underlying health conditions. The committee also advised that only those children at very high risk of exposure and serious outcomes, such as older children with severe neuro-disabilities that require residential care, should be offered vaccination.

Based on the above guidance we therefore **will be prioritising vaccination of Early years staff** where they are providing **direct care to children most at risk of Covid 19 and are clinically vulnerable**. We will be contacting these providers directly to plan the access to vaccination for eligible staff in accordance with the guidance by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

These decisions are by no way decreasing the importance of childrens health or education, or those that work with our children. It is about us all working together to try to protect those most likely to die from Covid19 and to enable our NHS services to cope and reduce any wider impacts on peoples access to health and treatment.

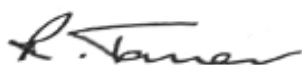
If you are contacted or approached outside of these guidelines to receive a vaccine because of your occupation please do not accept this as it will mean other people not getting the opportunity who are in these priority groups.

You may well have individual staff who will be eligible and called by their GP as they meet the criteria due to age or that they are clinically extremely vulnerable please encourage these staff to accept the vaccine.

As I am sure you can appreciate this has been a complex and vast endeavour and we are still ironing out discrepancies in processes.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



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Director of Adult Services



Helen Wall  
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Helen Lowey  
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