

# Advice & guidance for COVID vaccine programme for people with learning disability across North East & North Cumbria

## 1. Background

As advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has asked the NHS to include all people with learning disability who are on the GP Learning Disability QOF register to be invited for covid vaccination within cohort 6.

This guidance has been collated by the North East & Cumbria Learning Disability Network in collaboration with multiple stakeholders to provide 'Top Tips' in order that all people with learning disability from the North East & North Cumbria who are on a GP register can be vaccinated as soon as possible.

It is set out as Top Tips for different parts of the system and including people with learning disability.

Top Tips are offered as guidance rather than a 'must do'. It is likely to vary from locality to locality.

## 2. Top Tips – Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations including self-advocacy organisations

- **CVS organisations and particularly, self-advocacy organisations are very well placed to provide direct support to local people with learning disability.** Consider what support local CVS organisations can make to PCNs to provide direct support to people with learning disability in local communities. Are there existing opportunities that can be built upon such as the Keeping People Connected and Keeping Well for Winter programmes or existing roles within CVS organisations that provides peer support? What advice/guidance can be offered to PCNs about reasonable adjustments that may be needed for some people include explanation of information, specific adjustments for people from BAME communities, support to make a vaccination plan including how to get there, what information the person will need to have with them etc.
- **Information to share with people with learning disability about the vaccination.** Consider how CVS organisations can provide reasonably adjusted and appropriate information in a variety of formats for people with learning about vaccination. Utilise the vast amount of information already available and tailor it if needed. Where additional information is created to support people with learning disability share it with the Keeping Well for Winter programme so it may be widely shared. Include very practical information like suitable clothing to wear for vaccination.
- **Reassurance to people with learning disability.** Unfortunately, there may be some people with learning disability who are receiving negative attention or

perceived as being 'bumped up the vaccine list'. CVS organisations are well placed to support people; provide reassurance, build resilience etc.

- **Widespread communication about the vaccination programme for people with learning disability.** Consider how CVS organisations can publicise locally about people with learning disability being invited for vaccination. Are there opportunities for local television, radio, social media, billboards etc advertising advising that reasonable adjustments can be made for people with learning disability to get their vaccine? Use communication opportunities to share 'good news' stories where people have successfully received their vaccination and are willing to tell others to alleviate anxiety.

### 3. Contacts

To support PCNs we have collated significant contact list for all CCG localities providing details of community learning disability teams, social work teams, adult social care Directors, Directors of Public Health & local community & voluntary sector organisations.

### 4. Resources

For ease the vast range of resources that are available to support the vaccination programme for people with learning disability have been collated into one place on the North East & Cumbria Learning Disability Network website [HERE](#) Please check this regularly as we will update it frequently as more resources become available to be shared.