

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 – NHS Trusts

2.1 NHS Trusts (CNTW, TEWV, Northumbria Healthcare & Sunderland & South Tyneside Trust)

- **Community Learning Disability Teams & Primary Care Facilitation.** These teams are very well placed to support people with learning disability known to them. They can assist PCNs identify people who should be on the Learning Disability register, and particularly those who may need some additional support such as those who are needle phobic, harder to engage e.g. people with profound & multiple disability. CTLDs/Primary Care Facilitators may be able to provide 1:1 tailored support as needed. Additionally, they may be able to vaccinate much smaller groups (in accordance with the national vaccination framework) where all other avenues have been explored and not considered appropriate. Local collaboration between the PCN and Trust will be needed based on individual need.
- **Maximise opportunities to improve GP learning disability registers** as a result of the scale and pace of the vaccination programme. CTLD teams may be able to offer additional support to GPs to increase numbers of people with learning disability who should be added to the learning disability register.

- **Current in-patients with learning disability.** All people with learning disability currently receiving in-patient care within CNTW or TEWV will be offered vaccination (if they're not already) within the hospital settings.
- **Capacity & consent.** Where it is needed, can Trusts provide support with engagement and co-ordination if MCA decision making and subsequent Best Interest Decision making?
- **Widespread communication about the vaccination programme for people with learning disability.** Consider how Trusts 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?

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.