

## Justice Board COVID-19 Sub-Group MS TEAMS Call

25 February 2021

Attendees:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| [REDACTED] | Scottish Government                    |
| [REDACTED] | SCTS                                   |
| [REDACTED] |  |
| [REDACTED] | SFRS                                   |
| [REDACTED] | SPA                                    |
| [REDACTED] | Parole Board Scotland                  |
| [REDACTED] | PS                                     |
| [REDACTED] | COPFS                                  |
| [REDACTED] | SLAB                                   |
| [REDACTED] | PIRC                                   |
| [REDACTED] | SAWSA                                  |
| [REDACTED] | VAWG                                   |
| [REDACTED] | Community Justice Scotland             |
| [REDACTED] | PETAL                                  |
| [REDACTED] | Social Work Scotland                   |
| [REDACTED] | VSS                                    |
| [REDACTED] | Scottish Government – Criminal Justice |
| [REDACTED] | Scottish Government - VAWG             |
| [REDACTED] | Scottish Government (SCJD HUB)         |
| [REDACTED] | Scottish Government (SCJD Hub)         |
| [REDACTED] | Vaccination Programme Team             |

### Apologies

[REDACTED], COSLA

[REDACTED], SPS

In advance of today's meeting, the following papers were helpfully circulated by [REDACTED]:

- Draft minutes of the meeting – 18 February 2021
- Action Tracker – 24 February 2021
- SCJD Hub weekly brief – 24 February 2021

**ACTION – SCJD HUB** – Finalise and publish minutes – 25 February.

[REDACTED] opened the meeting and advised the agenda would consist of 2 substantive agenda items:

- VAWG/ Third Sector – [REDACTED]
- Vaccination programme – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] welcomed [REDACTED] from PETAL to the Sub Group call.

[REDACTED] attends the VAWG and Third Sector fortnightly call and [REDACTED]

is keen to ensure anyone who attends that forum has the chance to engage with the Sub Group when vaccination programme is on the agenda .

[REDACTED] also welcomed [REDACTED] from the SG vaccination programme team to the call. [REDACTED] will be giving an update on the vaccination programme. Members are asked to be mindful that there will a limit on what [REDACTED] will be able to say at the moment.

### **Vaccination Programme – [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] began by advising that it was hoped by this stage to have an update from JCVI by this time but she is happy to come back when it is published.

[REDACTED] gave her presentation via PowerPoint, she has kindly agreed that that the slides can be shared and can be accessed in the file below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] discussed the following points based on the slides.

What we don't know

- There is still no independent advice that the vaccinations work.
- Not known at this moment if boosters or an annual approach to vaccinations will be needed and if it will be a 4 nations approach.
- Can we vaccinate children?
- Supply can be “lumpy” and we don't always get the amount that we think we are going to or when.
- Not known at this time what other vaccines there might be beyond the 3 already in use.

What we do know

- People really want the vaccine, higher than expected uptake which is having a strong effect on hospital admissions. 85% - 94% reduction.
- Vaccinations can be delivered to population by summer.
- Outbreaks have shown us that the vaccine is only one part of protection from Virus. There is still a need to follow all guidelines.

How are we doing

- Almost one third of the adult population have now been vaccinated with a first dose
- More or less everyone in the higher age group has been vaccinated
- The high uptake may change with younger people with different attitudes to the Virus and vaccines.

What are we worried about

- Cohort 6 is about to begin. It will be a 4 nations approach and is the biggest and most complicated cohort with a number of complex groups within it including those with underlying health conditions, unpaid carers and those who currently get the Flu Vaccine.

- Hard to be confident of the size of cohort 6 as it relies on health records databases but we know that not everyone engages and there is a real questions about how we get these people to come forward. There is some work ongoing on an online portal to allow people to assess their entitlement to a vaccination at a given time.
- With the hard to reach groups there is a risk that people are being missed and there is a need to make sure access to the vaccine is easy for everyone.

#### Passports

- Some organisations are already starting to say that vaccine passports will be required.
- There is a very real risk that use of passports will widen the gap of inequality.

#### What's next

- Because of Scotland's make up, once groups 1-9 have been completed 3.5 million people will have been vaccinated with only one million to go.
- This is a slightly less daunting task but information on the next stage from the JCVI is needed.
- There is a commitment to the 4 nations approach.

[REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for her update and opened for questions from members at this point.

VSS – [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and queried if it was ok for the slides to be shared with wider third sector victims' groups (confirmed ok). In reference to the high risk groups in Cohort 6 that perhaps are less likely or do not engage, [REDACTED] asked if there is something more VSS could be doing to support the outreach of such groups in this space.

[REDACTED] – It's hoped on Monday (01/03) an advice portal will go live to identify eligibility. If a person is eligible they complete a short pro-forma that will get to the relevant NHS department.

On the harder to reach groups [REDACTED] offered to put [REDACTED] in touch with [REDACTED]. Concern at that moment is that is someone is not registered with a GP or details not up to date the appointments are being missed or sent to the wrong place.

There is a helpline that people can call if they think they have missed appointments.

VSS – Helpful to know about helpline.. [REDACTED] highlighted that [REDACTED] from Women's Support Project is concerned that women in the sex industry are potentially missing out on the opportunity to be vaccinated, and in a high risk profession

[REDACTED] – Further to the conversation around Cohort 6 [REDACTED] added that Criminal Justice policy colleagues have raised the point that individuals will be on the Flu list but not a list for underlying conditions.

[REDACTED] - Following on from [REDACTED] on non-shielding categorised groups [REDACTED] highlighted women who are involved in prostitution and who do

not want to give their address. She added it may be worth her speaking with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]– Will send an email to [REDACTED] to make introductions to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

There is a need to look at the mechanisms for women in prostitution and if they have been in touch with healthcare profession what is the right pathway.

[REDACTED] – highlighted they were hearing there is still a level of prostitution services being offered and with that comes the risk of spreading or catching the virus. It needs to be recognised how vulnerable they are.

CJS – There is a need to think about people who have been released from short term custody. They may have tested positive but when released back into the community they are not engaging with service providers.

[REDACTED] - There are regular meetings with prison colleagues. All vaccinations are being recorded in an APP whether in prison or not, this is need so that people are being appropriately notified for the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination.

There is a question around how we ensure that people going back into community are registered with GPS and all details up to date.

People in prison should be vaccinated in prison at the same rate as the public in accordance with the current JCVI prioritisation groups.

[REDACTED] – Tactful reminder to members of there are any issues that they are coming across then to route it through the SCJD Hub for direct engagement with the Vaccination Programme Team.

SWS – Around the issue of vaccine passports, it's not an easy one to remedy but it's not a new issue as there are already companies that use them from the employers for example the airline industry. [REDACTED] queried How/What is the thinking about how this issue might be resolved.

[REDACTED] – At the moment it is only a thought about using them. The First Minister was clear that they could be valuable and are some practical uses. It is possible that that they may be required for international travel.

It raises a lot of questions about how we help people evidence they have had vaccination while protecting human rights and addressing equality issues. Proper consideration is needed across the 4 nations.

PETAL – Thanked [REDACTED] for time and highlighted the issue of victim homicide. Some of the victims of this don't want to live in the house and want to move. As such appointments are being missed. Is there any advice on action to take for missed appointments.

[REDACTED] – Advised that people can use the missed appointment service helpline. They can update details and look at eligibility.

[REDACTED] – Thanks to [REDACTED] on behalf of members and advised there her engagement and involvement with group is always welcome. Anything that has to be circulated can be send through Hub and we will ensure it goes to members.

Update – Since [REDACTED]'s presentation on 25/02 the JCVI has published their Phase 2 advice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **FWES COVID STUC Roundtable Note Mr Hepburn 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Attendees:** [REDACTED] (STUC), [REDACTED] (STUC), [REDACTED] (GMB), [REDACTED] (EIS), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (GMB), [REDACTED] (USDAW), [REDACTED] (Disabled Workers committee), [REDACTED] (FBU), [REDACTED] (UCU).

### **Opening Remarks**

- [REDACTED] welcomed the new measures announced by First Minister but highlighted that concerns remain about continued non-essential operation in the manufacturing and construction sectors. STUC would welcome an opportunity to discuss implementation plans.
- **Mr Hepburn** Reaffirmed the importance of working in partnership to ensure guidance is right and to do that SG needs to balance public health issues and economic impacts.

### **Agenda Item 1 - [REDACTED]**

#### **Agenda Item 2 - Social Care & Vaccination**

- [REDACTED] was pleased to report progress with arrangements for homecare staff in Glasgow but consideration needs to be given to how they will be trained if they have to test themselves. There is also a need to consider transportation to vaccination centres for those who often don't have transport. The key issues are time, pay and transportation.
- **Mr Hepburn** confirmed employers need to support employees to be vaccinated.
- [REDACTED] was reassured that TU's would be involved in second phase of programme development and asked for an update on how the vaccination rollout will be extended to key workers. There is a need to ensure the messaging for teachers reflects the current dual roles of those teaching from home and those in school teaching children of key workers.
- **Mr Hepburn** confirmed there are ongoing discussions about the roll out plan and these will pick up all other issues.
- [REDACTED] asked whether there was sufficient supply of the vaccine to meet demand.
- **Mr Hepburn** confirmed SG are always seeking to increase supply and the approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine will hopefully help with this.
- [REDACTED] raised the issue of fire fighters, particularly those working in the control rooms, being vaccinated to protect operational response and resilience. There are only 3 control rooms in Scotland and presents a serious resilience risk.
- **Mr Hepburn** stated this will be pickup with relevant colleagues.

### **Agenda item 3, 4 &5 - [REDACTED]**

**End of call**

## FWES COVID STUC Roundtable Note Mr Hepburn 22 Jan 2021

**Attendees:** [REDACTED] (STUC), [REDACTED] (STUC), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (UCU), [REDACTED] (Disabled Workers committee), [REDACTED] (FBU).

### Opening Remarks

- [REDACTED] was thankful for the meeting with FM on Monday(18/01/21). Roz asked what stage officials were at in the request for a shared response to be created to encourage uptake of the vaccine.
- **Officials** confirmed, that they were aware anti-vaxxers were using the scheduling of vaccine rollout to target specific and discourage them from taking the vaccine. [REDACTED] will be heading up the comms around vaccine uptake and will engage with the STUC. There are also plans in place for a webinar with social care staff, where a clinical lead will answer any concerns and address some of the misinformation. There will also be a TV campaign.
- **Mr Hepburn** reinforced the importance of 'messaging' and asked that this taken forward asap.
- **Mr Hepburn** Passed on FM's thanks to the STUC and affiliates for attending the Bi-annual meeting.
- [REDACTED] has asked to have an economy presentation, that is usually given by [REDACTED] at the start of the Bi-Annual meeting, but was cancelled due to time constraints. Officials have taken this as an action.
  
- [REDACTED]

### Agenda item 1 – [REDACTED]

#### Agenda item 2

- [REDACTED] raised a concern in relation to firefighters working in operational control and that Ambulance control staff were to be vaccinated, but she feels that firefighters who work in operational control rooms should also be prioritised for that vaccination.
- **Mr Hepburn** highlighted health service who are deploying vaccine to those who are working in the Scottish ambulance service met the criteria and there happened to be additional stock.
- **Officials** policy line is the JCVI prioritisation list. In terms of wastage we have a very small percentage of waste of the vaccine (would like to have 0%) our estimate was 5% but it is much lower than that.
- **Mr Hepburn** will continue to take away the point raised

**End of call**

## FWES COVID STUC Roundtable Note Mr Hepburn 05 Feb 2021

### Attendees

[REDACTED] (STUC General Secretary), [REDACTED] (STUC Deputy General Secretary), [REDACTED] (UNITE), [REDACTED] (FBU), [REDACTED] (EIS), [REDACTED] (Disabled Workers committee), [REDACTED] (UCU), [REDACTED] (CWU)

### Opening remarks

- [REDACTED] referred to FM announcement on the opening of schools and noted that various concerns will be raised from affiliates in the course of the meeting.
- **Mr Hepburn** referred to the the publication of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, highlighting the full chapter on Fair Work which outlines in detail the challenges and opportunities that present themselves. *An extension to the eligibility for the Self-Isolation Support Grant has also been announced.*
- [REDACTED] welcomed the publication and noted if carried out, the review has the potential to make real changes. [REDACTED] mentioned that the only negative is the potential of profit element.

### Agenda item 1 [REDACTED]

#### c. Fire service control room staff

- [REDACTED] referred to the decision to add NHS24 staff to the Covid vaccine priority list and asked if the same will be considered for of Operational Control Room Staff.
- **Mr Hepburn** advised that NHS 24 Staff are re-categorised as being essential front line NHS staff critical to dealing with the current surge in Covid cases and hospitalisations.

#### d. Information and guidance following vaccination

- [REDACTED] noted the importance of messaging to ensure that people know that vaccination is only one part of the measures towards recovery and normality. [REDACTED] expressed that this message isn't shared widely and quoted articles that promote thinking that people can resume their normal life after vaccination.
- **Mr Hepburn** advised he understood this concern and there is a necessity to constantly reinforce the message about sticking to the measures since we don't have evidence yet that the vaccines prevent transmission. Mr Hepburn flagged the need of enhancing the messaging.
- **Officials from safer workplaces** advised that this a live issue and the guidance on safer workplaces will reinforce the message that vaccine is only part of the measures. Officials also referred to early research that vaccine reduces transmission to some degree.
- **Officials from vaccination** confirmed that early research on Oxford vaccine does show reduced transmission, however this is still very early stages. The

message in place is that once people get their vaccine, the current measures are vital and are required until there is further evidence. Officials confirmed that further work needs to be done from a communications perspective and is underway at the moment. There is an expectation that vaccinators should promote this message as well.

**Agenda Item 2 [REDACTED]**

**Agenda Item 3 [REDACTED]**

**Agenda Item 4 [REDACTED]**

**Agenda Item 5 [REDACTED]**

**End of Call**