



Minutes of the Service Development Subcommittee meeting held on Microsoft Teams on 22nd May 2024 commencing at 12pm

Present: Fin McCaul (Chair), Sami Hanna, Clare Kerr, Olivier Picard, Faisal Tuddy, Phil Day (left at 12.30pm)

In attendance: Alastair Buxton, Rosie Taylor, David Onuoha, Zoe Long, Sian Retallick, Stephen Thomas, Ifti Khan, Peter Cattee (joined at 12.15pm).

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

2.1 No apologies for absence were received.

Item 3 – Conflicts or declarations of interest

3.1 No new conflicts or declarations of interest were raised.

Item 4 – Flu vaccination programme 2024/25

4.1 The meeting was focused on various matters related to the vaccination programme. These were discussed and the matters of concern would be raised with NHS England.

Comms plans regarding the delayed start of the programme

4.2 Alastair Buxton advised that NHS England is waiting for JCVI to advise on what the start date of the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be; the Flu Vaccination Service start date will then mirror this due to the desire for co-administration of vaccines to occur.

4.6 A discussion was held on the delayed start date and the following points were noted:

- Alastair Buxton advised that as well as GP and pharmacy colleagues, there also needs to be comms for patients as many will be expecting to get their flu vaccination in September as they have previously done. The following is planned:

- The Services Team will be working with the Comms Team to produce some posters which can be displayed in pharmacies to highlight the policy change.
- Work will be done with patient groups to alert patients through these organisations.
- LPCs may be able to do work on a local basis so we will explore issuing some template press releases.
- It was highlighted that some patients seem to wait for national comms or text messaging about vaccination services, as was the case during the pandemic and are therefore not coming forward for vaccination. This will be fed back to NHSE.

NHSE's plans re. NBS and messaging to patients

4.7 A request was made to open NBS earlier as this would be beneficial for all and to ensure this is ready at the start of the flu/COVID-19 programme. This will be proposed to NHS England.

Any other matters related to the programme

4.8 **Stock write off** – Due to the theoretical risk that some pharmacies may end of with excess stock, the point was made that we should go back to NHS England again about refunding left over flu vaccinations at the end of the season. Alastair Buxton said he would discuss this with NHSE again.

4.9 **Funding for extra fridges** – Due to the changes in the timings for the campaign, a lot of flu vaccine will be received before pharmacies can vaccinate most eligible patients. This will mean they have to store flu vaccinations for a longer period than normal. This has highlighted that they may not have enough fridge space and will therefore need to invest in another fridge in order to store these. It was agreed that this should be highlighted to NHS England, with a request for additional funding for new fridges.

4.10 **Increased administration fee if co-administration is not possible** – It was highlighted that some GP practices are choosing to not offer COVID-19 vaccinations but are still offering flu vaccinations. This therefore makes the option of co-administration of vaccines more difficult to achieve as many patients will choose to have their flu vaccination at their GP practice but then want the pharmacy to provide the COVID-19 vaccination at a later date. It was suggested that if co-administration is not possible, due to the patient already having received their flu vaccination at their GP practice, pharmacy owners should be eligible for



the higher vaccination consultation fee. Alastair Buxton advised he would make this point to NHSE.

Item 5 – Any other business

5.1 There was no other business.