

Meeting of:	<b>Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 29 April 2021</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	GVS Involvement in Covid-19 Vaccination Programme
Purpose of Report:	To report to the Committee on the work undertaken by Glamorgan Voluntary Services relating to the Vaccination Programme
Report Owner:	Rachel Connor
Responsible Officer:	Rachel Connor
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	N A
Policy Framework:	GVS represents the Third Sector on a range of VOGC Partnerships, Board and Joint Working Groups
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) is the umbrella organisation for the third sector in the Vale of Glamorgan. We provide information, advice and support to the sector as well as ensuring the views of the sector are represented to government and policy makers. GVS also directly deliver projects that aim to improve the lives of people living in the Vale of Glamorgan.</li> <li>• In August 2020 GVS was invited to a Pandemic immunisation stakeholder event and was subsequently, along with C3SC, invited to join a UHB facilitated Vaccine Planning Group in September. This has involved attendance at weekly and then fortnightly meetings so far and is continuing</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendation**

1. That the Committee receive the report for information.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. To inform the Committee of the work undertaken by GVS relating to the Covid 19 Vaccination Programme.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In August 2020 GVS was invited to a Pandemic immunisation stakeholder event and was subsequently, along with C3SC, invited to join a UHB facilitated Vaccine Planning Group in September. This has involved attendance at weekly and then fortnightly meetings so far and is continuing

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 GVS contribution to vaccination programme
- 2.2 Apart from bringing a third sector perspective to the meetings outline above, GVS has also contributed in the following ways:
  - Raising the issue about inclusion of essential frontline third sector staff in early priority cohorts (in liaison with C3SC);
  - Advising how the third sector can assist the vaccination programme;
  - Highlighting areas of good practice, e.g. engagement with BME communities;
  - Linking the Health Board to third sector providers of community transport;
  - Highlighting areas where specific communication may be need to dispel misinformation, e.g. news in Vale community newspapers about the absence of plans for a mass vaccination centre in the Vale;
  - Ongoing liaison about volunteering opportunities to support the vaccination programme;
  - Disseminating official information about Covid-19 and about the vaccine;
  - GVS involvement in third sector scoping exercise (in liaison with the public health team and C3SC).
- 2.3 In addition to this, and the largest piece of work, has been the scoping of third sector organisations in order to identify their essential front line staff. This has involved the following:
  - Liaising with the public health team about the definition of 'frontline' and further developing these criteria to allow for third sector identification to take place;

- Liaising with third sector organisations across Cardiff and Vale (in liaison with C3SC) to help them identify priority cohorts of staff/volunteers;
  - Adding this information to a spreadsheet (staff/volunteer roles and numbers involved) and forwarding this to the public health team on a weekly basis;
  - Disseminating public health information with regards to the vaccination programme;
  - Advising the identified third sector organisations when they are able to advise identified staff to book their vaccine appointment;
  - Ensuring that all third sector organisations which are contacted have consistent messages about the vaccine.
- 2.4** Given that there are approximately 3,000 third sector organisations in Cardiff and Vale, this is an ongoing task and has to be done in a sensitive way to ensure that all appropriate organisations have an opportunity to identify their frontline staff.
- 2.5** The importance of the vaccination programme, the need for rapid responses and the importance of ensuring vital communications reach the third sector (and in turn their clients) has meant that GVS has had to set aside other areas of health and social care work.
- 2.6** Supporting the Vaccination Programme and eventual easing of lockdown
- 2.7** There are many other ways in which GVS can support the vaccination programme going forward, but these would need some further resource in order for the work to be done swiftly and in an effective way. These could include:
- Working with third sector organisations which support specific client groups which are underrepresented in vaccine take up, e.g. ensuring that specific messages focused on those client groups are shared and third sector organisations are able to work with the public health team to dispel myths which have arisen.
  - Working with organisations which support people over 60 to enable them to disseminate public health messages to their clients and to work with statutory partners to access vaccinations.
  - Intensive dissemination of messages about continued guidance on lockdown and on coming out of lockdown, to avoid risk of complacency as more people access the vaccine.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** GVS aligns it works to the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

## **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

**4.1** None

### **Employment**

**4.2** None

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

**4.3** None

## **5. Background Papers**