

Meeting of:	Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 29 April 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	GVS evaluation of feedback from third sector organisations about access to the Covid-19 vaccination as priority frontline health and social care staff
Purpose of Report:	To report to the Committee about the evaluation exercise
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"> • 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. • GVS conducted a "light touch" evaluation to gather feedback from Third Sector organisations that had been involved in the scoping exercise. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Committee receive the report for information.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To inform the Committee of the results of the evaluation exercise conducted by GVS.

1. Background

1.1 GVS contacted Third Sector organisations which had been included in the scoping exercise for the Covid-19 vaccination, to get feedback on the experience. We asked the following questions:

- The general view amongst your staff and volunteers about having the vaccine (including those listed as priority and other staff/volunteers not yet invited to book).
- Any concerns which you have heard from staff and volunteers which might make them reluctant to have the vaccine.
- An understanding of the rate of uptake amongst your staff and volunteers who were identified as a priority for the vaccine, e.g. the percentage of those priority staff who have had the vaccine.

1.2 24 organisations responded and this is a brief summary of their feedback.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

Question

2.1 The general view amongst your staff and volunteers about having the vaccine (including those listed as priority and other staff/volunteers not yet invited to book).

- Very positive about the vaccination. This was mentioned by many organisations.
- Pleased to be acknowledged as frontline. This was mentioned by many organisations.
- Provided them with extra security and safety.
- Will enable services to continue.
- It was difficult to get through. Although mentioned several times, organisations were understanding about this.
- The booking process and process at the Mass Vaccination Centre was very efficient and worked well.
- “Excitement and relief.”

Question

2.2 Any concerns which you have heard from staff and volunteers which might make them reluctant to have the vaccine.

- Effect on fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding. This was cited by quite a few organisations.
- Effects on people with long term conditions.
- Effects on people with allergies.
- How efficient the vaccine is and concerns about the quick development.
- Adverse effects of the vaccination.
- Difficulties for people with a learning disability; knowing how to book, getting to the appointments, some fearful of the vaccine.

Question

2.3 An understanding of the rate of uptake amongst your staff and volunteers who were identified as a priority for the vaccine, e.g. the percentage of those priority staff who have had the vaccine.

- Uptake ranged from 75% to 100%.
- In one organisation 4 out of the 5 staff who had not accessed the vaccine are BAME. The organisation is working with them and has been sent public health information about the vaccine and BAME communities.
- There were few side effects reported. Side effects reported were sore arm, flu like symptoms, general feeling of being unwell and a high temperature.

2.4 Further comments:

- “All volunteers and staff were very pleased to be able to receive the vaccines – it gave them extra security and a sense of comfort.”
- “The information given to staff after the vaccine was a lot more useful than the information given before because this included: side effects; adverse impact / severe allergic reaction; those it is not recommended for; all ingredients contained in the vaccine; answered a number of queries / concerns they had about the vaccine & its ingredients.”
- “We have had a high take up, with the vast majority of our team being very positive about receiving the vaccine.”
- “We have some staff members who have sight loss and so access to information in accessible format (audio/ large print or braille) was a negative point. But, all felt relieved having the vaccine.”
- “Another staff member felt anxious about having the vaccination because she does not like injections in general, but reported that the staff at the vaccination centre were really supportive and put her at ease straight away.”
- “We are so grateful for the vaccine and just wanted to thank you for helping with this process.”

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