

# **Berkshire West Autumn COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Sept – Dec 2022**

Prepared by Eiliis McCarthy, Jo Reeves and Andrew Price

Adopted by the Berkshire West Vaccination Action Group on 25 August 2022

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- The Autumn Covid Vaccination Programme commenced on 5th September with PCNs beginning to visit care homes and housebound residents.
- There are two strands to the programme: maintaining an ‘evergreen’ offer of a primary course of vaccination and delivery of the autumn booster to JCVI identified cohorts (**section 2**)
- In Reading the autumn booster is available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre, community pharmacies and most PCNs.
- The evergreen/ primary course is available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre and at selected community venues to be visited by Oxford Health’s Outreach and Health on the Move services. This links in with Reading’s successful Community Vaccine Champions Project and the Berkshire West Inequalities approach for Autumn 2022.

## Key Updates w/c 26th September

- Most PCNs have received vaccine deliveries and have begun to visit care homes and housebound patients. The deadline for completions is end of October.
- PCNs have also begun inviting eligible patients in for their vaccination, often they plan to co-administer with the flu vaccine.
- The National Booking System has opened to over 65s, carers, frontline health and social workers and pregnant women. Texts and letters are being sent to eligible patients to encourage them to book.

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# 1. Background

- Delivery of the **National Covid Vaccination Programme** has been one of the biggest challenges faced by the NHS. It has required an immense amount of collaboration with local and system partners, armies of volunteers, and the tireless efforts of clinicians and admin staff throughout the many arms of the NHS. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved so far.
- In Berkshire West, we have largely enjoyed vaccination take-up at or above national and regional averages. Nonetheless we have variation in take-up across our Place. Throughout the Covid Vaccination Programme, we have continuously needed to **respond to the challenges** posed by logistics, workforce capacity, rurality and entrenched health inequalities.
- We have also witnessed the impacts of **low vaccine confidence**. A survey completed by the Reading and West Berkshire Healthwatches provided useful recommendations which form part of our emerging inequalities plan for Autumn 2022.
- For Autumn 2022 the aspiration in Berkshire West is to continue to build on our success. It is proposed that the Vaccination Action Group adopt the following core principles to guide our plan:
  - Continue to provide a **strong core offer** of covid vaccination with a **diverse provider mix**
  - Provide **agile support to communities at risk of health inequalities** to access a covid vaccination in a way that's right for them
  - Maximise opportunities to **improve efficiency** through collaboration and **Make Every Contact Count**

## 2. JCVI and NHS England Guidance

### Evergreen Offer

- Systems need to continue to deliver a Covid-19 vaccination offer, with a focus on addressing inequalities and reducing variation, which as a minimum should ensure:
  1. A vaccination offer to all children aged 5 – 11 years.
  2. A continued vaccination offer to those who have recently become eligible, including: at risk 5-11s, 12-15s, and newly at risk groups such as those who are pregnant, eligible severely immunosuppressed and their families or households.
  3. Continuous community engagement to improve confidence and promote uptake supported by appropriate access to vaccination.
  4. Appropriate access to the overseas vaccine record validation service to meet local demand.

### Autumn Boosters

- The government have accepted final JCVI advice which states the following people should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine this autumn:
  - residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
  - frontline health and social care workers
  - all adults aged 50 years and over
  - persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, as set out in the Green Book
  - persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
  - persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers, as set out in the Green Book.
- JCVI advise that deployment of a **single type of vaccine** throughout the autumn booster programme promotes simplicity and is therefore desirable.

### Co-administration with 'Flu Vaccine

- Systems *should* maximise opportunities to co-promote and co-administer vaccinations where possible and clinically advised (eg COVID-19, flu and pneumococcal), especially where this improves patient experience and uptake, but this should not unduly delay administration of either jab.
- We will work with the leads for flu planning to identify opportunities for coadministration and joint promotion of the vaccines.

### 3. Expectations, Planning Assumptions and Challenges

#### Expectation

- At least 75% of eligible patients should take up the offer of a covid vaccination (national target).
- Access to a covid vaccination should be within a 30 minute drive.
- Care home and housebound patients should receive their vaccines in the first seven weeks of the programme.

#### Planning Assumptions

- Patient demand is likely to be lower than in previous rounds of the programme.
- Vaccine supply and site capacity will meet patient demand.
- The aspiration to deliver the vaccine as locally as possible will need to be balanced with achieving value for money from the public purse.

## Challenges

### Children

- Not all sites are assured to provide vaccines to under 16s. This means that access for patients aged under 16 eligible for an Autumn booster (for example because they are a household contact of a patient with immunosuppression) need to be understood.
- Due to assurance process and cohorts, the location for whole family vaccination will be limited to the Broad St Mall.
- Positively, BOB is working with School Imms Teams to vaccinate CEV children in SEN settings.

### Booking

- The majority of PCN sites are implementing local booking systems, meaning they will only be offering vaccine to their own patient lists. As a result, we will need to understand access for patients not covered offered a vaccine by their own practice. While the default option will be to book at a pharmacy or the mass vaccination centre using the National Booking System, we will need to identify and mitigate any access barriers in order to meet take-up targets, such as with outreach services.

### Surge

- “Surge” means an operational response for the management of a rapid short-term increase in capacity as a consequence of a new variant or a specific instruction to vaccinate or revaccinate a defined population. It is a system change in line with JCVI Guidance to ensure the defined population in England is offered and has access to a Covid 19 vaccination.
- Where there is, in the reasonable view of the NHS England, a requirement to increase capacity at pace to respond to a Surge, providers shall agree with the Commissioner (NHSE) their role in the system wide response to the Surge, both in terms of increased volume and rapid timeframe.
- The BOB Operational Executive confirmed that the current surge plan is for existing sites to work at maximum capacity. The Berks West Vaccination Action Group will commence complementary planning should surveillance of covid rates indicate rising infection levels.

## 4. Provider Mix

In Berkshire West, and indeed nationally, a **diverse provider mix** continues to be essential in achieving good access to the covid vaccination.

- **PCN groupings**

- Groups of practices, known as PCNs, remain essential in the Programme particularly to ensure that the most vulnerable, including care home residents, housebound patients and the immunosuppressed, are offered a vaccine ahead of other patient groups.
- 16 out of 17 PCNs in Berkshire West have opted in to deliver Covid Vaccinations to these most vulnerable groups.
- Alternative providers will need to be identified to cover care home and housebound patients for non-participating PCNs. This could be Oxford Health or PCNs can subcontract to pharmacies or other PCNs.

- **Community Pharmacy**

- Pharmacies are at the heart of their communities and provide a range of primary care services. They have been an integral part of the flu vaccination campaign for some time.
- 14 community pharmacies have opted in to deliver the Covid Vaccination in Berkshire West, enabling greater access to the vaccine closer to where people live.

- **NHS Trusts**

- **All acute trusts** have been expected to deliver vaccinations to their staff as well as specific groups of the most vulnerable patients. **All non-acute trusts** must offer vaccination to their staff and should either vaccinate themselves or direct staff elsewhere.
- RBFT are vaccinating their own staff and some vulnerable inpatients. BHFT are vaccinating their own staff.

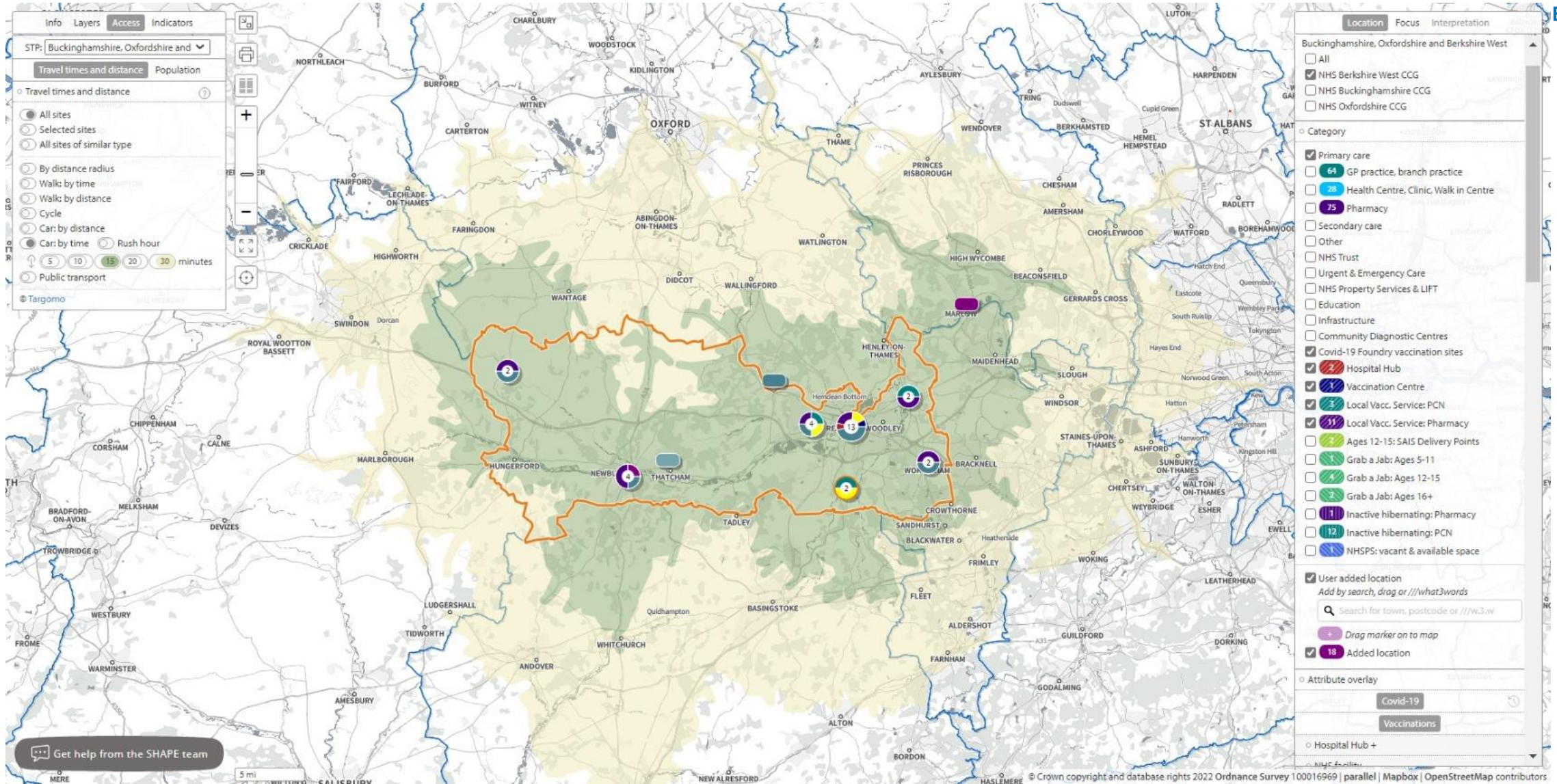


## 4a. Provider Mix (continued)

- **Oxford Health**

- Oxford Health continues to operate a mass vaccination centre from **Broad St Mall in Reading**. It is open Thursday – Monday, 9am to 5pm. Appointments can be booked online via the National Booking System or by calling 119.
- The Vaccination Centre is assured for all vaccine types, all vaccine cohorts, including children aged 5-11s and is accessible and convenient for the local population.
- There is also access to the overseas vaccine record validation service.
- Oxford Health continue to offer **outreach** in community venues to address geographical gaps in provision. These include Wokingham Library and The Croft Field Centre in Hungerford.
- Oxford Health will also deliver vaccinations for 5-11s at community sites in Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire.
- The **Health on the Move Van** and **Pop-Ups** are also managed and staffed by Oxford Health. 50 days of staff time are available in Autumn/ Winter across Berkshire West. Deployment of this service will form part of our **Inequalities Plan**.

# 5. Locality Coverage



## 5a. Locality Coverage – West Berkshire

- All PCNs are covering older people's care home residents, housebound and immunosuppressed patients.
- There are three contracted pharmacies, two of which are high volume sites. There is also another pharmacy which has expressed interest in providing covid vaccines.
- There is a geographical gap in coverage around Hungerford. As mitigation, Oxford Health will continue to offer an outreach service in Hungerford one day per week.
- Oxford Health will continue to offer a service to 5-11 year olds one day per fortnight. A location has been identified and a timetable will be confirmed in due course.
- Appointments for primary doses (the 'evergreen' offer) are available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. The Health on the Move service will be deployed to offer primary doses to targeted communities at risk of inequalities in the locality.
- Access to Autumn Boosters for eligible 12-17 year olds is available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. Investigations are being made into any further provision needed in the locality.
- Nabbs Lane Pharmacy in the Kennet Centre (Newbury) have highlighted a risk that their ability to deliver might be impacted by increased estates costs. This has been escalated to SVOC. The situation is being monitored and no further action is required at this time.

## 5b. Locality Coverage - Reading

- All PCNs except for Reading West are covering older people's care homes, the housebound and the 18+ immunosuppressed. BOB is currently seeking a solution to cover Reading W care home residents and housebound patients.
- There are 7 contracted pharmacies and 2 who have applied but not yet been assured. There is good geographical coverage.
- Oxford Health will continue to offer a service to 5-11 year olds one day per fortnight. A location has been identified and a timetable will be confirmed in due course.
- Appointments for primary doses (the 'evergreen' offer) are available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. The Health on the Move service will be deployed to offer primary doses to targeted communities at risk of inequalities in the locality.
- Access to Autumn Boosters for eligible 12-17 year olds is available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. Investigations are being made into any further provision needed in the locality.
- Discussions are currently underway with Oxford Health regarding the vaccination to be held on the HOMV outreach offer which will determine whether only boosters can be given or evergreen vaccinations

## 5b. Locality Coverage - Wokingham

- All PCNs are covering older people's care home residents and housebound patients.
- There are three contracted pharmacies, either medium or low volume sites.
- As mitigation for the limited coverage by pharmacies, Oxford Health will continue to offer an outreach service from Wokingham Library (or similar) two days per week.
- Oxford Health will continue to offer a service to 5-11 year olds one day per week.
- Appointments for primary doses (the 'evergreen' offer) are available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. The Health on the Move service will be deployed to offer primary doses to targeted communities at risk of inequalities in the locality.
- Access to Autumn Boosters for eligible 12-17 year olds is available at the Broad St Mall Mass Vaccination Centre. Investigations are being made into any further provision needed in the locality.

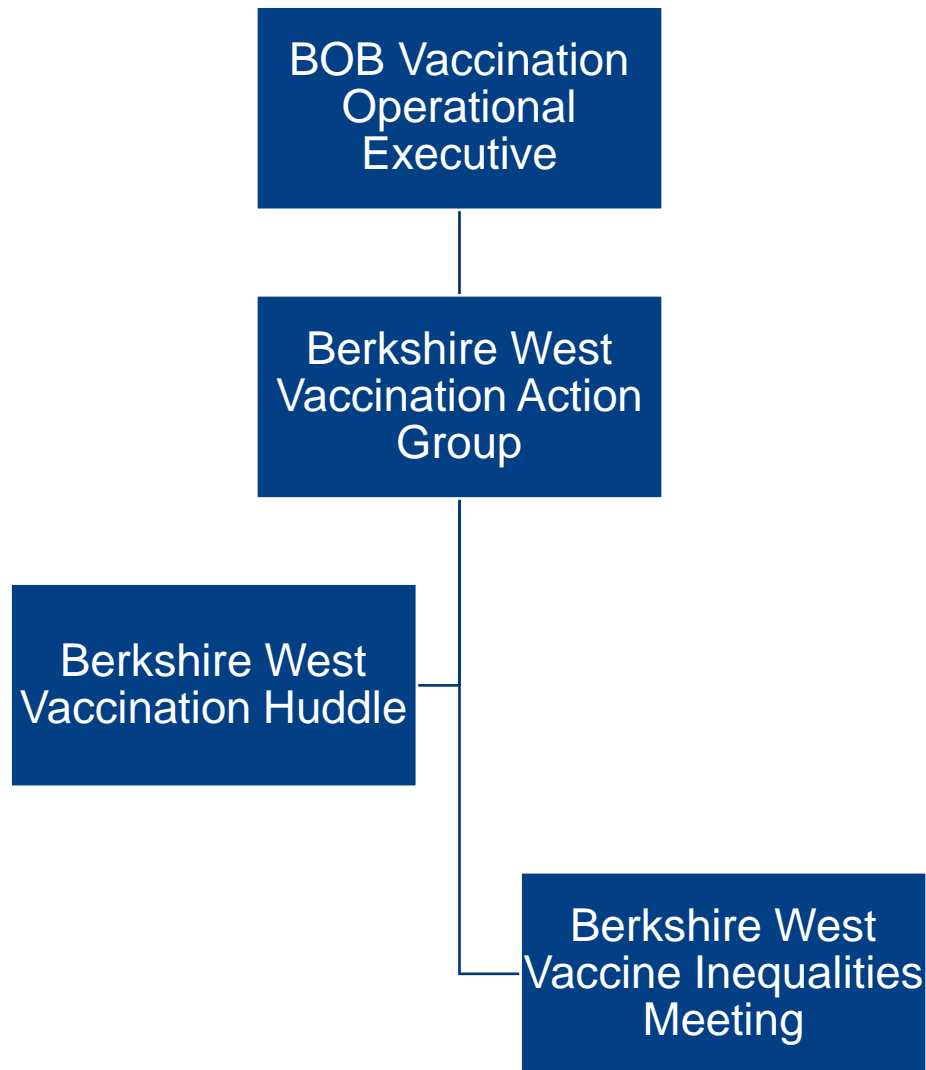
## 6. Inequalities Plan - Summary

Action	Evergreen	Autumn Booster
Identify priority groups using take-up data and feedback from community engagement services	Ethnically diverse communities Areas of Deprivation IMD 1-4 Younger people Asylum Seekers and Refugees	LD, SMI Further analysis to commence end October 2022
Identify usual routes to access a vaccine	Use NBS to book a Sunday appointment at Broad St Mall	Invite from GP or use NBS to book at Broad St Mall, outreach centre or community pharmacy
Produce tailored comms materials to support access to usual routes	The 'It's Never Too Late' campaign	National and System communications plan
Deploy Health on the Move service to identified communities	Sept – Dec 2022	Jan – March 2023

## 7. Communications Plan

- A **Communications Plan** has been developed across BOB which fulfils the following needs:
  - Clear information to be available for patients and professionals about who is eligible for an Autumn Covid booster, when and how they will be invited to book and where the locations for vaccination delivery are.
  - Clear information to be available for patients and professionals about how and where people who have never had a vaccine, or who have not had a complete course, may access further vaccine doses. (This is known as the evergreen offer.)
  - Information should be available in a number of languages and formats such as social media graphics, videos and flyers.
  - Opportunities to make use of partner organisations' communications channels, including social media and newsletters, are maximised.
  - Able to respond in an agile way to feedback arising from community engagement.
- The Plan has been drafted and is being reviewed by Place leads before onwards sharing.

# 8. Governance and Monitoring



**BOB Vaccination Operational Executive**

Provides system leadership for the Covid Vaccination Programme  
Meets weekly  
Is attended by programme leads and place leads for the ICB

**Berkshire West Vaccination Action Group**

Provides place leadership for the Covid Vaccination Programme  
Meets fortnightly  
Is attended by ICB officers, LA officers, provider reps and VCSE reps

**Berkshire West Vaccination Huddle**

Coordinates activity agreed by BWVAG and prepares reports back to BWVAG  
Meets fortnightly  
Is attended by ICB officers

**Berkshire West Vaccine Inequalities Meeting**

To be stood up if necessary to coordinate Health on the Move Van and other activities deployed to address inequalities in vaccine take up.



## 8a. Performance Monitoring and Reporting

We will monitor take up on a fortnightly basis as follows:

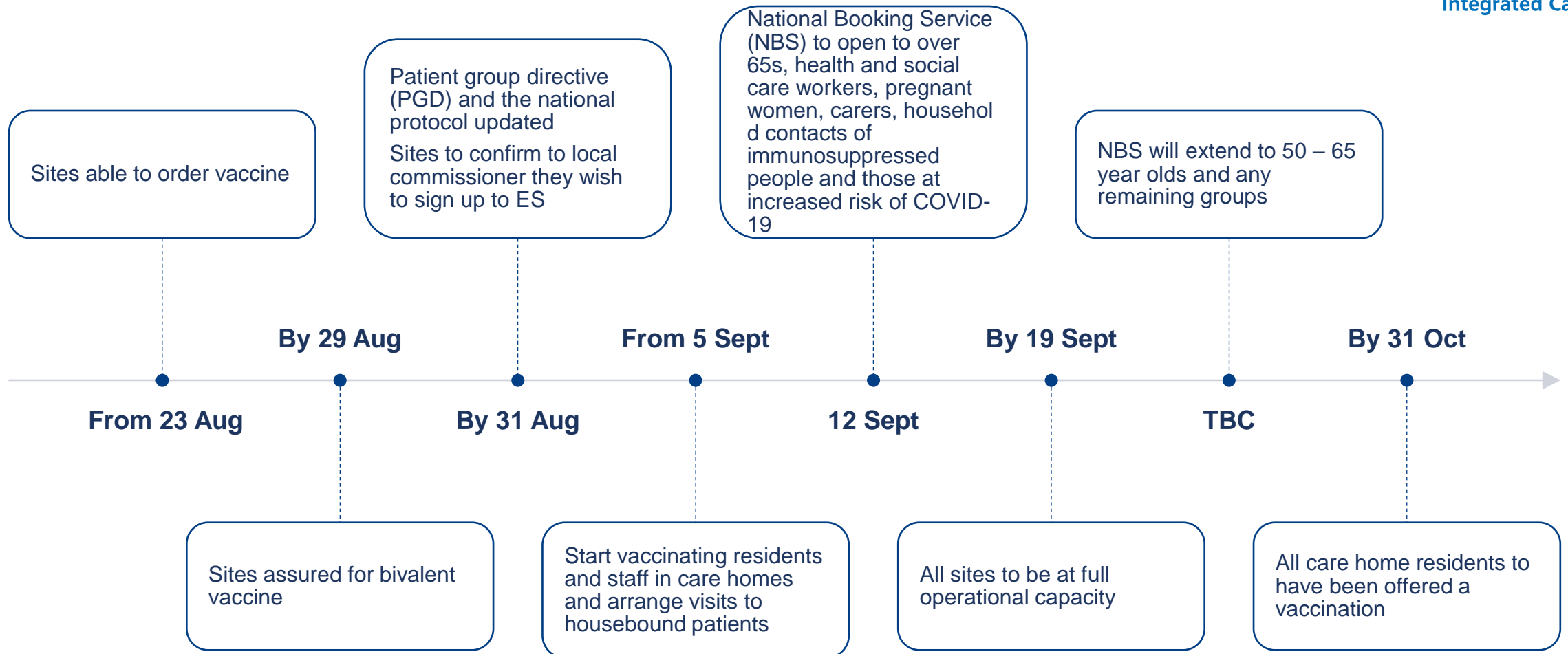
- By cohort
  - % total cohort uptake by Berkshire West, locality, ICB and nationally (if available)
  - % eligible cohort uptake by Berkshire West, locality, ICB and nationally (if available)
  - Number of vaccine doses administered above the baseline (5th September)
- By ethnic groups
  - By cohorts
- By deprivation (IMD 1&2 LSOAs)
  - By cohorts
- We will produce a fortnightly performance and insight report for Berkshire West Vaccination Action Group and the unitary authorities
- Other performance analysis will be undertaken as required

# Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire

#	Action	Owner	RAG	Date	Comment
1	Map provision and identify gaps	Jo/ Eiliis/ Andrew/ Will	Complete	From 31/8/22	Completed
2	Identify any issues and ensure offer to all care homes and housebound patients	Helen Clark	On track	Ongoing until 21/9/22	One Reading PCN has opted out – alternative provider being sought by BOB SVOC and NHSE
3	Confirm Oxford Health offer in respect of Outreach locations and 5-11 sites	Mark Chambers OH	On track	7/9/22	Outreach offer to include 2 days per week at Wokingham Library and 1 day per week at Hungerford Croft Field Centre 5-11s offer to include 1 day per week at Wokingham Library, 1 day per fortnight in Reading and 1 day per fortnight in West Berkshire
4	Confirm community pharmacy offer in respect of age groups	Lucy Stroud NHSE	Action required requiredlucy	7/9/22	Update required.
5	Develop Inequalities Plan including agreed process for deployment of Health on the Move service and parallel MECC offer	BW Vaccine Inequalities Group	Complete	From 7/9	Group met for first time on 7/9/22. Plan has been drafted.
6	Identify opportunities to cascade communications through system partners and their networks	BOB Comms	On track	From 5/9/22	Draft Comms Plan has been produced and is being reviewed by Place Leads
7	Confirm availability of sites and vaccines for Evergreen offer	Jo/ Eillis	Complete	Ongoing	Broad St Mall MVC is main access point. Confirming use of HOTM to continue evergreen offer in localities.
8	Align activities with Flu Plan	Jane Thomson-Smith	Action required	By end Sept	Jane to present Flu Plan at a meeting of the Vaccine Action Group
9	Discuss opportunities for sharing use of physical resources ie. vaccine vans and buses	Charlotte Church BHFT	On hold	By 8/9/22	The Berkshire Healthcare bus should be launching next week but still has some teething issues. Once it is fully up and running we can share the dates we are using locally if other local services wish to come along and provide wider health promotion.
10	Confirm vaccine offer and access to groups of particular interest such as CEV children and LD patients	BOB Inequalities group	Action required	Ongoing	Discussing at BOB Inequalities Group
11	Develop forecast model of supply and capacity to ensure delivery is on track	Andrew Price	Complete	22/09/22	Data to develop model requested is not available. An alternative performance model has been developed and will be presented to the Vaccine Action Group.

# Appendix 2 - Timeline



# Appendix 3 – Programme Leads



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire  
and Berkshire West  
Integrated Care Board

Topic	Lead
BOB ICB Covid Vaccination Programme Lead	Louise Smith
Berkshire West Covid Vaccination Programme SRO	Belinda Seston
Berkshire West Covid Vaccination Programme Manager/ Coordinator	TBC / Jo Reeves (interim)
Care Home and Housebound Patients	Helen Clark
Inequalities and Community Engagement (Berks West)	Eiliis McCarthy
Data and Performance (Berks West)	Andrew Price
Flu	Jane Thomson-Smith
Pregnancy	Carrie Grainger
Covid Outbreak Surveillance	Tracy Daszkiewicz
Communications	Tom Broadfoot

# Appendix 4 – Cohorts and Dose Eligibility

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3rd	Booster Au tumn 21	Booster Spring 22	Booster Autumn 22
Over 75s	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
50-74	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
16-49	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
5-15	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Residents OP care home	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Front line H&SC Staff inc. OP care home	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Self-declaring adult carers	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
12 and over Immunosuppressed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 to 49 years in household contacts of people with immunosuppression	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
5 to 49 years in clinical risk group	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Self-declaring pregnant women	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y