

## **BIGSPD COVID Vaccination Statement**

Dear BIGSPD Community,

Below we provide a statement and update relating to the recent announcement of COVID vaccinations. You may note that last weekend (13<sup>th</sup> February 2021) the vaccination priority list now includes those in Cohorts 5 and 6. This includes prioritisation of people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI).

Some confusion has however been raised relating to this and you may have seen that in the JCVI Greenbook (Public Health England (Weblink 1) that a broad statement that is open to interpretation is included '*Individuals with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, or any mental illness that causes severe functional impairment*'. NHS England have provided guidance to the Primary Care networks (PCN) with correspondence explaining how a 'broad definition' to this should be applied (Weblink 2). Within this letter the following statement should be used to support the prioritisation of people with a diagnosis of personality disorder or eating disorder. '*JCVI also determined that those with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, or any mental illness that causes severe functional impairment are within cohort 6, and we would encourage GPs to take a similar approach for this group of people, to that being proposed for learning disability, working in partnership with secondary care mental health services and VCS partners to ensure appropriate outreach mechanisms are in place*'.

Our advice to members of our community who have a diagnosis of personality disorder and those who work with them in practice is as follows;

- **You DO fall under the broad category for inclusion in cohort 6.**
- **If you haven't already been invited for your vaccination, then please contact your GP to arrange this.**
- **If your GP needs further information, please feel free to print off / forward this statement to your GP.**

Dr Gary Lamph  
BIGSPD Communications Officer

Dr Oliver Dale  
BIGSPD Co-President

Dr Julia Blazdell  
BIGSPD Co-President

## **Weblinks**

Weblink 1- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020>

Weblink 2 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/vaccination-of-jcvi-cohorts-5-6-and-additional-funding-for-vaccination-in-residential-settings/>

## **Supportive References**

Fok ML-Y, Stewart R, Hayes RD, Moran P (2014) Predictors of Natural and Unnatural Mortality among Patients with Personality Disorder: Evidence from a Large UK Case Register. PLoS ONE 9(7): e100979. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0100979

Sanatania, R, Middleton, SM, Lin, T, Dale, O, Crawford, M (2015) Quality of Physical Health Care among patient with personality disorder. Personality and Mental Health. DOI 10.1002/pmh.1303

### **BIGSPD Administration Office**

Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Nasmyth Building, 60 Nasmyth Avenue, East Kilbride, G75 0QR  
Company Registration Number 06634246 VAT number: 309837575