**Message sent on behalf of Melanie Craig, Chief Executive, NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group**

Dear all,

I wanted to write to you all following the Prime Minister’s speech on Monday evening this week, confirming a delay to the Government’s road map due to rising cases nationally of the Delta variant.

Firstly, I wanted to reassure you that teams across Norfolk and Waveney continue to work exceptionally hard to vaccinate at pace. As you will know, the Norfolk and Waveney health and care system was confirmed as the top performing system across the country last week for the number of first doses given. Despite the strong progress we have collectively made, we continue to vaccinate at pace to ensure as many people as possible receive first and second doses of the vaccine.

In line with the ask from Government, we are looking to bring forward second doses for all patients over 40 and to vaccinate as many as possible within an eight-week window.

Latest figures from Public Health England show that having two doses of the vaccine responds well to the Delta variant, with efficacy at more than 90%. With this in mind, the national booking service and our local primary care vaccination sites will be contacting individuals to bring their second doses forward, where possible, in line with vaccine supply. More walk-in vaccination sessions will also give people this additional opportunity to get their second dose earlier.

We are doing all we can to ensure that within this four-week delay window, as many people are asked and encouraged to come forward for their first and second doses.

It is highly likely that the vaccination programme nationally will open to individuals over the age of 18 in the coming days. Teams across Norfolk and Waveney are working to diversify their offer at each site; this includes but not limited to the following:

* More walk-in sessions – we know younger cohorts respond better to walk-in clinics without the need to book an appointment. The national booking system and all sites available across Norfolk and Waveney will still be available to book
* Clinic times will also be reviewed – we will work hard to ensure that as many clinics as possible take place early morning, late afternoon, into the evening and at weekends.

Walk-in clinics will be advertised via the NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG social media channels on a regular basis, so please watch out for these. If your respective communications and engagement teams to share, like and retweet these that would be appreciated.

A new campaign, aimed at individuals over the age of 18 is also being developed and will be launched when this age group is eligible to book a vaccine. It would be hugely appreciated if all MPs, Councillors and partner organisations could share these messages when they become available. We will be focussing even more attention on social media as opposed to more traditional communication channels, in line with younger cohort preferences.

We continue to regularly address myths on social media and correcting these where we see them. More than 1,000 young people have been surveyed over the last few weeks and it is pleasing to see that more than 90% said they will get their vaccine when it is offered to them. The feedback from the survey has given us valuable insight into some of the key factors where individuals may not be considering the vaccine. These are historic issues that we and other systems continue to address, such as pregnancy, breastfeeding and impact on DNA. We continue to share videos and useful materials to correct any disinformation and reassure people where they may be concerned.

Finally, I wanted to pay particular thanks to all our hard working staff and volunteers across Norfolk and Waveney for making this vaccination programme the success it truly is. Thousands of vaccination staff and volunteers continue to support this immense vaccination drive; their help, support, drive and determination has and continues to be invaluable.

With best wishes,

Melanie

**Melanie Craig**

**Chief Executive, NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Executive Lead, Norfolk and Waveney** **Health and Care Partnership**