



NHS Wakefield CCG
White Rose House
West Parade Wakefield WF1 1LT

12 March 2021

Dear Julian

Re: Local vaccination centre in Skipton

Thank you for your correspondence regarding vaccination services for patients at the Fisher Medical Practice. I appreciate how concerned you are about this and we have worked with Modality to try to improve access for these patients.

However, I just wanted to explain a little more about the way the vaccination programme works so you understand the background to this situation.

As you will be aware, GP practices are working together as primary care networks (PCNs) to provide vaccinations for their combined patients. This approach was agreed nationally to enable practices to manage the extra workload alongside continuing to provide all other services to their patients and in recognition of the scale required to maximize the use of available vaccine supplies and avoid wastage.

Each PCN set up a dedicated centre to provide vaccinations from, which had to be of a suitable size and layout to enable social distancing and meet the other strict safety standards required. Consideration was also given to finding locations which would be accessible to patients from all member practices, which have tended to be in the most central area geographically.

There are two PCNs which have practices in Skipton, Modality and the Wharfedale, Airedale and Craven Alliance (WACA). Modality includes ten practices, which are based across the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven area, including Skipton, Keighley and Silsden. In recognition of the wider geographical area they cover, Modality has set up two vaccination centres – one in Keighley and one in Silsden. However, as would be the case for most PCNs, they do not have capacity to run more than this.

WACA's member practices are similarly dispersed, including Addingham, Ilkley, Keighley, Skipton and Settle. They set up their vaccination in Skipton, as this was a geographically central point between their member practices.



Under their standard contractual arrangements, PCNs are only able to provide vaccinations to patients of their member practices, so unfortunately PCN vaccination centres cannot offer vaccinations to other practices' patients, even if they are their nearest centre.

We appreciate that people would like to have their vaccinations as close to home as possible and PCNs have tried to find locations that are as equitable as possible for the patients they cover. In addition, we have a number of community vaccination centres and community pharmacy centres that people can choose from and we are adding additional pharmacy services to reflect the needs of more rural populations or to improve access in areas where uptake of the vaccine is below average.

The nature of the vaccines and the scale of the delivery required means that it is not possible to deliver in individual practices as a general approach. However, we are working hard to respond to any concerns regarding access and Modality has managed to put in place arrangements to provide a clinic at the Fisher Medical Centre for patients to have their vaccinations there if they choose.

With regard to your follow-up enquiry about vaccine supplies, as explained in my previous letter, all centres have been receiving smaller allocations over the past few weeks due to the reduction in availability nationally. This includes the WACA centre at Gateway House in Skipton. Where possible, centres have built in the capacity to increase provision as required but this obviously is dependent on the vaccine supplies available to them.

There are discussions ongoing nationally about potentially adding PCN centres to the national booking system. However, centres on the system are open to any eligible person regardless of where they are registered so there are issues that would need to be resolved around these for PCN centres, which only provide vaccinations to their registered patients. We will of course keep you updated on the progress of these discussions.

I hope this letter has addressed your concerns, and those of your constituents, and has also been helpful in providing more detail about the vaccination programme in general.

With best wishes



Dr Phil Wood, Chief Medical Officer, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
SRO, Vaccine Programme, West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership

