Darlington residents encouraged to share COVID-19 vaccine experiences

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

- Call for Darlington patients to help local health services and national policymakers understand their views about the COVID-19 vaccine programme
- Local Healthwatch urging Darlington patients to share their COVID-19 vaccine experiences
- Darlington patients are being encouraged to share their COVID-19 vaccine views with local Healthwatch

We are in the middle of one of the largest NHS vaccination programmes ever launched. With all over 40 year olds now offered a vaccine this marks a huge milestone within the vaccination programme rollout.

Healthwatch Darlington want to be able to help local services and national policymakers understand how they can improve the vaccination programme based on the experiences of our local population so far.

Their Covid-19 Vaccine research project includes a survey that will be LIVE up to 30th June 2021.

Individuals in Darlington will be able to tell them what they think about the vaccine programme and how well they understand the information being shared in our community. The survey will be shared widely across all Healthwatch Darlington's online communications channels and for those individuals who are not online, they will have paper surveys at designated community venues, or they can arrange telephone appointments with one of their trained volunteers.

Healthwatch Darlington are keen to hear from individuals, local services, voluntary sector organisations and community groups inviting key groups of service users to take part in online focus groups with their friendly team.

You can take part in the survey by visiting their website: www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk

Michelle Thompson BEM, Chief Executive Officer from Healthwatch Darlington said -

"We know how much the vaccination rollout has been welcomed not just in Darlington but all over the country and we thank our Darlington GP's for working incredibly hard to reach the different age and vulnerability cohorts in super-fast time. Your feedback will help our local services shape and improve the process across Darlington including experiences of booking and attending a vaccination centre. We'd appreciate any help you can give in sharing this piece of work with anyone you feel would be interested, and who has had their vaccination. This includes family members, neighbours, friends, and social media."

Contact us

For more information about the survey and project: Healthwatch Darlington Limited Jubilee House,1 Chancery Lane, Darlington, DL1 5QP 01325 380145 or 07525237723 email: <u>info@healthwatchdarlington.co.uk</u>