

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 17 JUNE 2021

QUESTION C

Councillor Mrs O'Rourke to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Can the leader of this Council explain why it is that that the roll out and uptake of the local COVID vaccination program in Rugby is below the National average?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

‘Firstly before answering this question I would like to thank all the hard work by volunteers, NHS staff, Public Health and council staff. The number of people vaccinated in Coventry and Warwickshire is now over 1 million in just 6 months and this should be celebrated.

While the figures for Rugby are slightly lower there are a number of reasons for this, the first being the different demographics in the area with a larger number of younger workers.

Vaccinations within the highest risk groups of cohorts 1-9 is similar to the national average.

There has been a delay in the provision of vaccines at Locke House due to the transition from cohorts 1-9 being provided by the local GP surgeries to cohorts 10-12 being provided by Rugby Health. However, the Brownsover pharmacy and the regional vaccination centre at Stoneleigh have ensured local vaccinations are possible.

The council has been working hard with partners to increase vaccine uptake including communications, working with employers, use of the Benn Hall for vaccinations and setting up a vaccine support facility at the Benn Partnership supporting residents including black, Asian, and Eastern European residents.

We are confident government targets will be met.’