

Covid-19 Vaccine: Uptake and Hesitancy in Hangleton and Knoll



**The Hangleton
& Knoll Project**
Working for a better community

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Overview of the Report

During 2021/22 the Hangleton and Knoll Project worked with our local communities to maximise vaccine take up via ongoing, regular communications around access to and information about the vaccine.

From May - August 22 we undertook a more intensive piece of work to uncover feedback from specific groups in the community children, families and young people, older people and our additional language communities, predominantly Bengali and Arabic speaking.

We talked to local people one to one in structured interviews and in targeted focus groups. We communicated our work through social media, Facebook, and Instagram, via Posters and hard copy flyers, in print and e newsletters and with young people conducted an in-depth survey throughout our summer programme.

The results of all this work are detailed in this report and contain some findings for Public Health to consider going forward if, together, we are to encourage equitable levels of uptake in our more deprived and geographically isolated communities.

What we discovered was local, accessible vaccination services were key in supporting uptake but also that many of our community experienced a great deal of anxiety around vaccination and an ambivalence around the Covid vaccine whether they had taken it or not. This distrust of public messaging and generalised unease around vaccination was especially pronounced in the work undertaken with young people and their families.



For older people we found significant distrust of the Moderna vaccine and the start of vaccine fatigue during the Spring booster time. There was generally trust in vaccines, including Covid, faith in public information and little anxiety attached to the general practical process bar the digital access aspect.

As with the whole community, there was strong emphasis on the need to have local, easy access to vaccination with good transport links.

All the over-75s who attended the community session for a booster had heard through word of mouth. This cohort was late to the booster because they were not comfortable with booking online nor the travel to it. What worked in reaching this group was community outreach, printed publicity, and telephone contact for questions.

For young people what came out clearly in both focus groups and survey interviews was the high level of generalised anxiety, a fear of needles, of crowded spaces and of side effects. Many (around 45%) of the young people attending youth activities have some sort of additional needs and experienced vaccination as overwhelming. Parental attitudes played a significant part in how they felt about vaccines with some 'forced' to get it and some 'not allowed' to. There was a lot of fear about the actual practical process of administration, the unknown and unfamiliar experience and significantly how much it would hurt.

Even though most people under 50 that we spoke to were vaccinated they didn't feel that positively about the benefits nor their experience of getting it.

What was also clear with young people and their families was public messaging must compete with social media messaging which presents a significant challenge.



The parents' group were invited from families who are members of the Big Munch, our holiday food programme. It was a small group of 6 that took up the invitation, interestingly 3 were unvaccinated, with the 3 that had the vaccine expressing regret about their decision and reporting that they would not accept another if offered. By the time the booster came, the importance of having a vaccine had waned for them.

Parent interviews were targeted at parents who we knew had not vaccinated their families or themselves and provide an insight into their decision making and reasons. Their stories are sobering, pre the Covid jab they report they were not anti-vaccine, but their feelings developed as they experienced that their questions were not answered by the system. This will possibly have an impact on future vaccination rounds whether Covid or not. Included in this work is a round up of where they found their information as all had done extensive research

Working with our Bengali and Arabic communities we found the main drivers to vaccinate were travel and the worry around underlying health conditions. They did not in general get their information from social media but from their children who had got information at School. For the few that had chosen not to be vaccinated concerns were concentrated around side effects on menopause and fertility and without the travel requirement, uptake would have probably been lower in this group.



Moving forward, if there is a need to vaccinate under 50s again, we need to work differently with young people and families if we are to avoid an increased vaccination equity gap within the city. Imaginative ideas that emerged from the community included School trips for those who missed out on the school jab, different delivery mechanisms that don't include needles and young people friendly sessions in safe spaces with reassurance and a bit more time for those that need it. The need for reassurance at every stage was emphasised throughout.

We also found that the basics are what really matter. Strong, clear national messaging backed by tailored local communications, above all easy, convenient opportunities to get vaccinated –and a clear and updated FAQ list that could develop as community questions arise.

The young people's survey interviews underlined the focus group work with similar messaging coming from all the research we conducted. This full report underlines the levels of anxiety that still surround the vaccine, interestingly at this stage there was little fear of Covid, for nearly everyone has now had it which potentially will pose challenges for future Covid vaccination programmes.

Young People's survey

Introduction

During the 2022 Hangleton and Knoll Project youth summer programme (July to August), 23 local young people aged 11 to 19 years were interviewed about their thoughts on the COVID-19 vaccination programme. A standardised interview card was used for each participant, see Figure 1. Young people were not specifically asked whether they were vaccinated or not during interviews, however it emerged throughout the project that both vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals were present.

Three questions were asked:

- (1) What information or messages about vaccines are useful for young people?
- (2) What do you think stops young people from getting a vaccine?
- (3) What could make getting a vaccine easier?

The image shows a blue interview card with a white syringe icon. The card is divided into two main sections. The top section is a blue arrow pointing right, containing the text: "Can you answer some questions to help us understand young people's views on vaccines?" and "If you can, we will enter you in a free prize draw to win a £20 voucher." Below this is a smaller blue box with the text: "Please remember to complete both sides to enter the free prize draw." The bottom section of the card is white and contains three numbered questions, each with a red virus icon to its left: "1. What information or messages about vaccines are useful for young people?", "2. What do you think stops young people from getting a vaccine?", and "3. What could make getting a vaccine easier?"

Figure 1: Standardised interview card with prize draw incentive. Personal and demographic details were entered on the reverse of the card.

Demographics

Figures 2-4 show the age, gender and ethnicities of the young people who participated in the interviews.

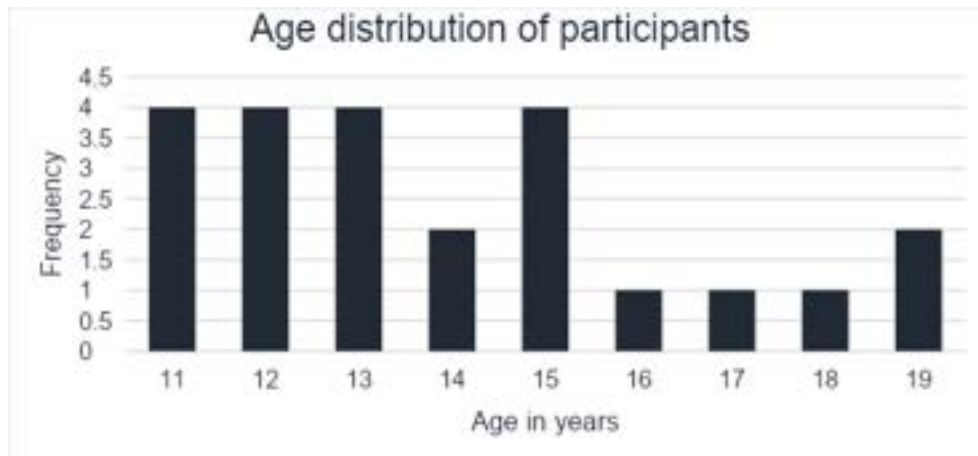


Figure 2: Age distribution of interview participants.

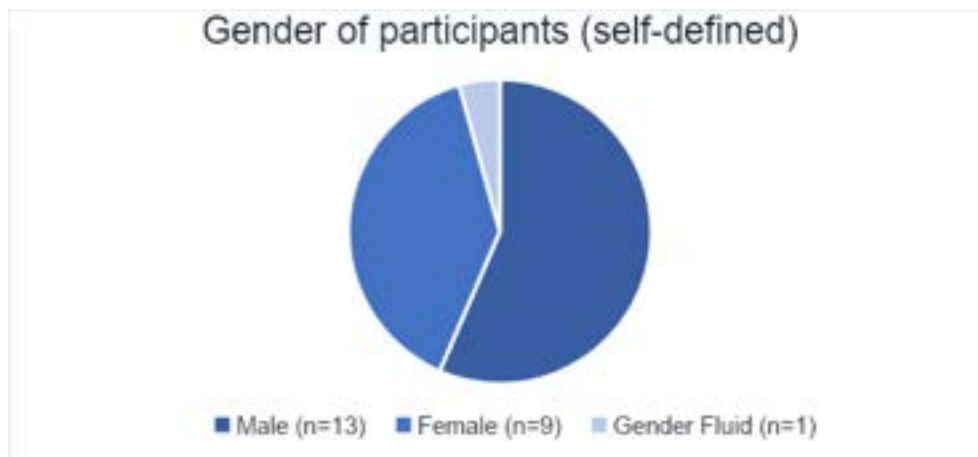


Figure 3: Gender distribution of interview participants.

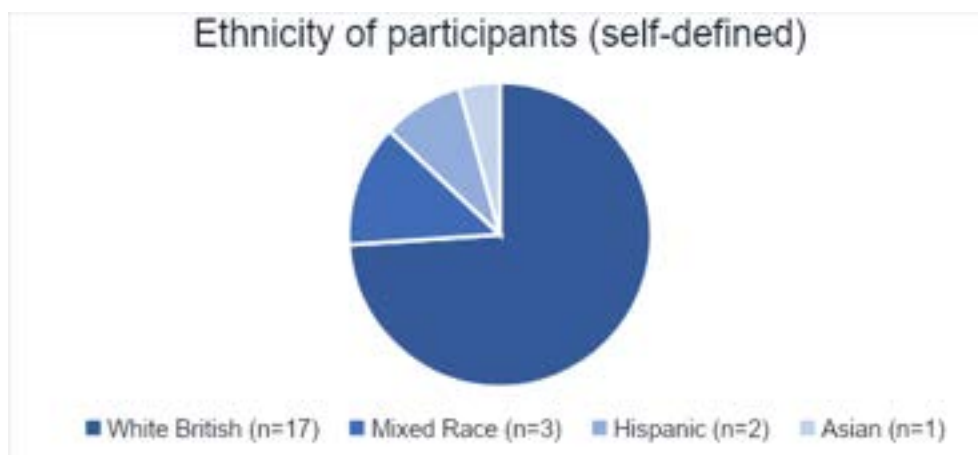


Figure 4: Ethnicity distribution of interview participants.

Results

What information or messages about vaccines are useful for young people?

The most frequently recurring answers from our selection of young people around COVID-19 vaccination messaging were information on the benefits and effectiveness of the vaccine (n = 15) and its potential side effects (n = 9), see Figure 5. Some quotations about the benefits of vaccination are shown in Figure 6.

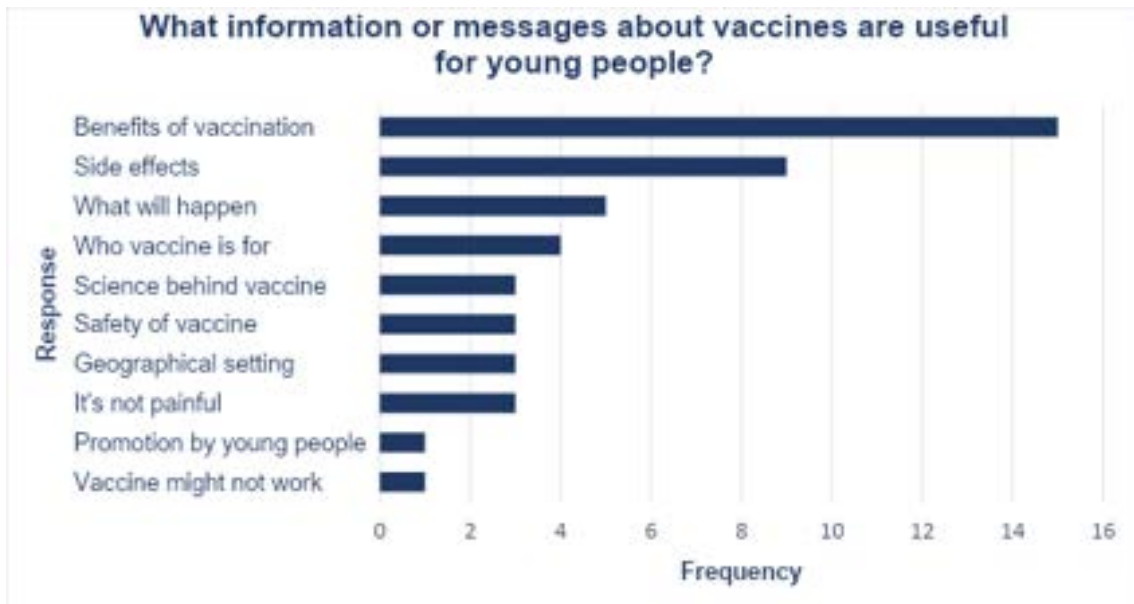


Figure 5: Messaging for young people around COVID-19 vaccination by frequency of mention during interviews.

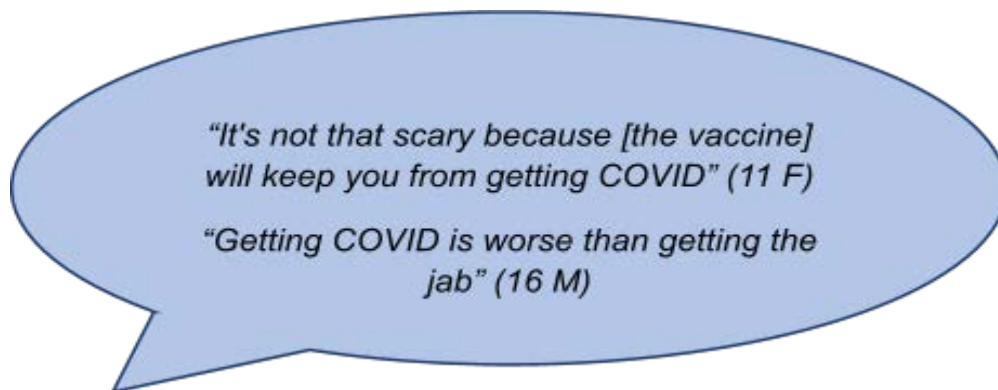


Figure 6: Quotations from young people about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Other messaging that interviewees considered useful was information on what will happen at the vaccination appointment, for example: "What parts of the body are involved and what equipment will be used", and "If it is indoors or what the environment will be". Other key messages were seen to be around the properties of the COVID-19 vaccine, such as the target population (for example, different age groups or in pregnancy), the safety of the vaccine for the person receiving it and the mechanism of action or "the science behind it". One young person also considered the benefits of having "people their own age speaking positively about the [COVID-19] vaccine" being integrated into current vaccine messaging.

What do you think stops young people from getting a vaccine?

The predominant factors that were considered to prevent young people receiving their COVID-19 vaccination were a fear of needles (n = 12) and safety concerns due to

misinformation (n = 11), see Figure 7. Some quotations around misinformation are shown in Figure 8.

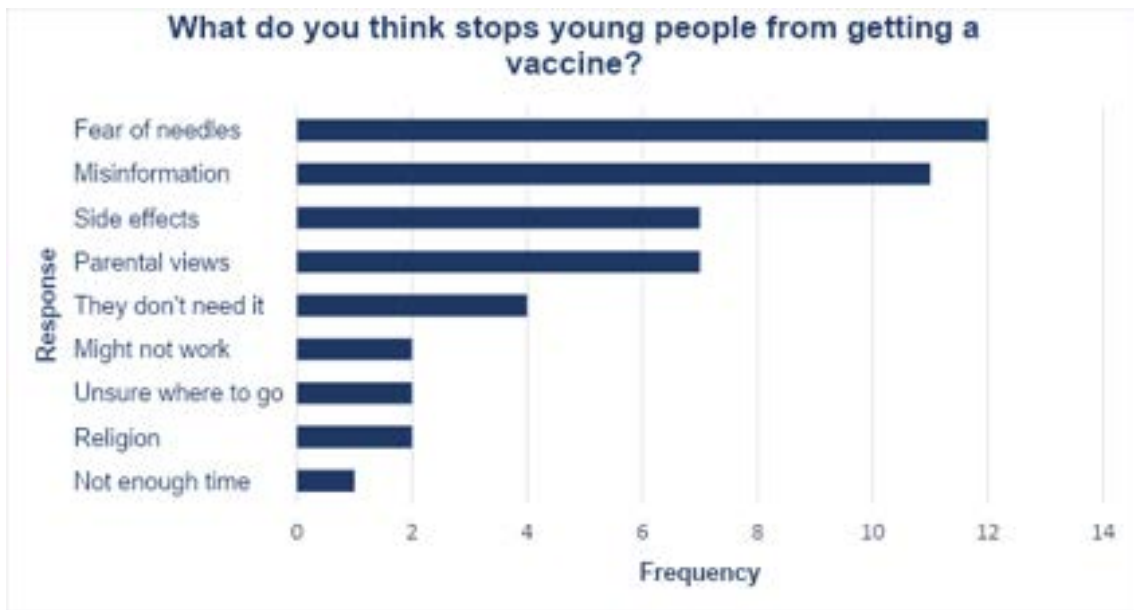


Figure 7: Factors that may prevent young people from receiving COVID-19 vaccination by frequency of mention during interviews.

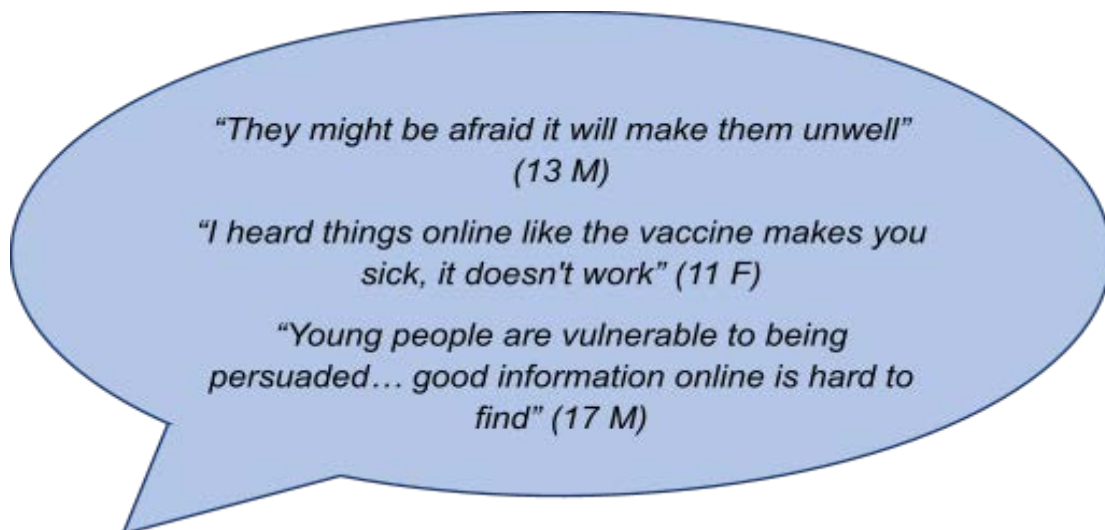


Figure 8: Quotations from young people about misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine and how it affects them.

The fear of side effects was seen to be an important hindering factor for young people considering COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, parental views on vaccination were seen as a pivotal determinant for a young person to receive the vaccine, regardless of the young person's own volition. The last prevalent idea preventing uptake was young people thinking that they do not need the COVID-19 vaccine, as shown in Figure 9.

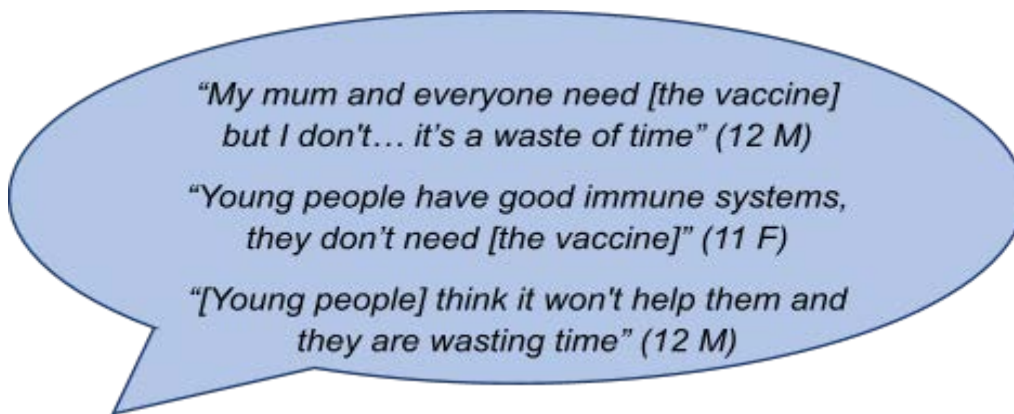


Figure 9: Quotations from young people regarding not needing the COVID-19 vaccine.

What could make getting a vaccine easier?

The most mentioned factors that were seen to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine uptake were having local and accessible vaccination centres (n = 10) and having sufficient reassurance and comfort before receiving the vaccine (n = 8), see Figure 10. Some quotations around the accessibility of vaccination centres are shown in Figure 11.

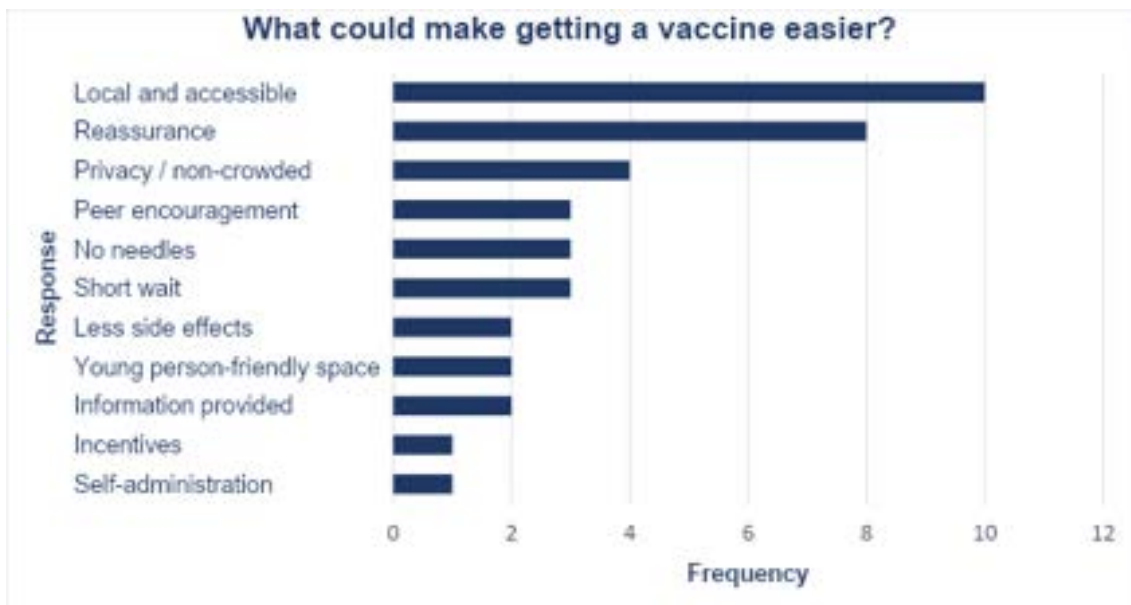


Figure 10: Facilitating factors that may encourage young people to receive COVID-19 vaccination by frequency of mention during interviews.

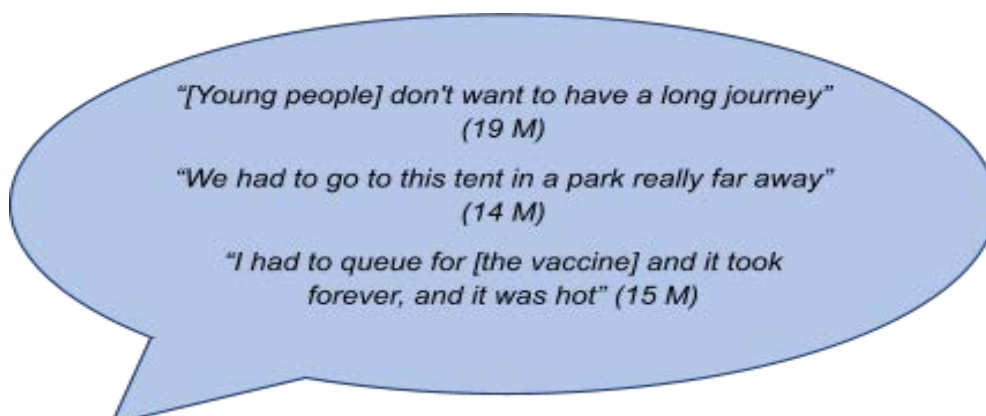


Figure 11: Quotations from young people about location and accessibility of COVID-19 vaccination centres.

Young people considered creating young person-friendly spaces in COVID-19 vaccine centres to be essential in bolstering vaccine uptake, for example, by “allow[ing] young people to attend with friends so they don't feel frightened or alone”. Peer encouragement was mentioned in other contexts: “It could be like a school trip where you sign up to go with the rest of the class”. Conversely, having a private, non-crowded space to get vaccinated was also seen to be important to enable some young people to attend, especially for those with anxiety or additional needs.

Discussion

In summary, young people who engaged with the Hangleton and Knoll Project summer programme highlighted several important factors that they thought may increase vaccine uptake in their age group. Firstly, vaccine-related communications must include information on both the benefits and side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine to improve transparency. Secondly, anxiety around vaccination must be tackled with clear messaging and a calm, reassuring environment at vaccine centres. Thirdly, vaccine centres must be easily accessible and preferably local to encourage young people to attend.

The importance of clear, transparent messaging around the COVID-19 vaccine was highlighted by the majority of young people during interviews. This suggests that messaging around the benefits of vaccination should continue to be emphasised so that young people understand why they need to receive the vaccine. Additionally, the potential side effects following vaccination should not be hidden from young people. Participants said that young people need to understand that vaccination side effects are mostly minor and the vaccine will not harm them; promoting transparent messages from official sources will hopefully tackle misinformation that young people might see online. These messages are necessary to reduce the fear of vaccination resulting from rumours and “anti-vax” propaganda that young people may come across. Finally, participants suggested that it might be helpful to know what will happen at the vaccination appointment prior to attending, so virtual walkthroughs or similar messaging may be appropriate to allay any worries young people may have.

Our sample of young people suggested that anxiety around vaccinations is prevalent and may prevent certain individuals from receiving their COVID-19 vaccine. “Needle phobia” and fear of side effects were frequently reported reasons for why young people do not receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To help support individuals experiencing anxiety around vaccination, it was suggested that vaccine centres should offer private spaces away from crowds. Additionally, allowing a friend or relative into the vaccine appointment to support the young person receiving the vaccine was mentioned several times as a significant intervention that could enable certain individuals to complete their vaccination. Staff working at vaccination centres should be offered training to deal with anxious young people, giving staff the knowledge and confidence to reassure them.

The accessibility of vaccine centres was repeatedly emphasised as a key factor in encouraging young people to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine centres should be available locally where possible, with subsidisation if travel is required (such as free buses or group trips with schools). Furthermore, booking an appointment is not feasible for young people who may not have the motivation to plan a vaccine in advance; for this reason, walk-in sessions are an effective way of getting “spur-of-the-moment” COVID-19 vaccines administered. Similarly, long queues outside vaccination centres may put young people off waiting as they may not have the time. Ensuring centres are adequately staffed may alleviate these pressures. Finally, in cases where young people feel unable to attend a vaccination centre it may be appropriate to make home visits available on request.

Young Women's Focus Group



8 young women attended of whom



Had received at least 1 Covid-19 vaccination. The young woman (age 12) who wasn't vaccinated said:

I haven't had it yet. I've only just become old enough to have it and it's been chaos trying to find somewhere for me to get it because we don't know where you need to go to get it. My older brothers have had it but it's chaotic now and no-one says where you can go to get it.

Following this feedback, the group was asked

Was there anything that made getting the vaccine difficult?

Stories about bad side effects from people who had already had it 😞



Where did you receive your vaccination(s)?



3 said they had been vaccinated quickly without having to wait too long (for both their first and second vaccinations)

What was it like having the vaccine?

No side-effects, but I was a bit tired. I've only had 1. It swelled a lot - it was a big lump. They said come back in 3 months for a second one - you had to sign up on the NHS app. It was easy to understand. They were wriggling my arm a lot which I didn't understand and it hurt a lot.

I don't care about needles or anything, then my Mum was saying I had to get it to go to a concert of a Queen tribute band. So I did it for that - not the pandemic. I think lots of people got it just because they were there [at school] giving them out. The schools didn't do much to encourage people to get it - they just said to get parental consent and then we could get it done. I don't know which [type of vaccine] I had, but it's not important to me anyway - I couldn't care less, I just wanted to go to the concert.

I had a really achy arm. I don't like needles in general so I don't want to get a second one.

I had 2 vaccien
1 vaccien never hurt
but 2 vaccien really hurt.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

1 young woman was given "a card with yes/no questions" while queuing to receive her vaccine at Churchill Square.

We were just told to go and get it



Is there any other information on vaccines that would be helpful to you?



Explaining possible side effects in a simple way

Explaining the process of getting vaccinated - how long it takes, what it feels like.

The school should have given out more information about the benefits of vaccination and encouraged people to have the vaccine.

No - I just knew you had to do it

What's actually in it. I asked questions about what was in it and they didn't tell me.

How can you still get Covid after having the vaccine? My auntie had the vaccine but she still got properly sick

More advertising on where to go to get it. I've been trying to find out where to get it and I can't.

I didn't get a chance to ask people questions when I was there, but also didn't feel there was anything I needed to ask.

[Details of the] 2 types of vaccines: 1 for people who are asthmatic and then the normal one (which people with asthma couldn't get)

Would anything make it easier to get the vaccination?



Giving vaccines using something that's not a needle



What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?

I don't feel like the second one is necessary.

The [vaccine unit] is still in Churchill Square but doesn't have as many appointments there now.

I got told they put a bit of Covid into the vaccine to help your body fight it.

[The vaccine] feels a bit pointless and there for nothing.

my mum had Covid 3 times and is still really ill from it which also affected her other illnesses. Also have a vulnerable sister at home.

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

I really felt like I wanted it the minute I turned 12. I wanted to get it straight away but I've been searching online and nothing is telling me how to get it or where. There was 1 vaccine at the start of the year at [my school] but if you weren't old enough then you missed out. I would much rather have it in school because it's much easier and I find it a safer environment and it would take less time.

Having vaccines available at school because it's easier (even though it's a lot more crowded [than the vaccine centres]).



Do you have any other suggestions about how the vaccination programme worked?



No-one's talking about Covid any more, including the Government. They're acting like it never happened, which is worrying, and Boris [Johnson] said "If you've got Covid just, y'know, carry on".

Lots of people fainted getting the vaccine at school because they didn't know it was a jab and they were just lining us up and jabbing us and we saw the people fainting in the line in front of us. They didn't tell us anything.

Our year group didn't have mask wearing enforced. There were also people faking disabilities so they didn't have to wear a mask, so the school started giving out Covid passes.

Being able to take someone with you [to stay with you during your vaccination] was nice

More information on Covid in general would've been helpful. I was in Year 9, 10 and 11 for Covid, and apart from telling us to stay 5 feet apart they didn't explain anything about what Covid was and what was happening.

We were having to wear masks walking around [school] but then you went into the classroom and took them off so it was like "what is the point?"

We used to get Covid tests in school for free but we don't get those any more.

Would you have another vaccination?



No

Reasons given for this answer included:

I don't care

There's no point as you still get Covid.

Afraid of needles



I got a 'flu vaccine when I was 8 and then had bad flu and was off school for 2 days, so I thought vaccines were fake

I was meant to get my second one but never got round to it because it was getting more packed every time and the queues got massive so we didn't go and I don't think we'll bother any more. I don't think it's as important now it's calming down a bit and there are a lot less restrictions now.

I only got the first one because I wanted to go to a concert and you had to have it. I didn't even want the first one.

Although the survey was about Covid vaccines, the group also wanted to share wider stories about their experiences of Covid and the pandemic - as they hadn't been able to share those experiences until now and felt they needed to get some "closure" on it.

At the start of Covid they told us we'd have a week off, and it ended up being a whole year - and they were horrible at home schooling and I didn't learn anything during year 5 or year 6 at all. It was really bad. We didn't do SATs in year 6 either, and we didn't know anything going into year 7 so now we're going into year 8 and it's all delayed. I'm in year 11 now and some GCSEs have got good aspects, but they haven't gone over everything we were meant to learn in lockdown in year 9 and 10 so we're sitting GCSEs on stuff we don't know and if you didn't get it you didn't get it and they weren't good with home schooling.

Young People's Focus Group



9 Aged approximately



to

of whom were/were not vaccinated

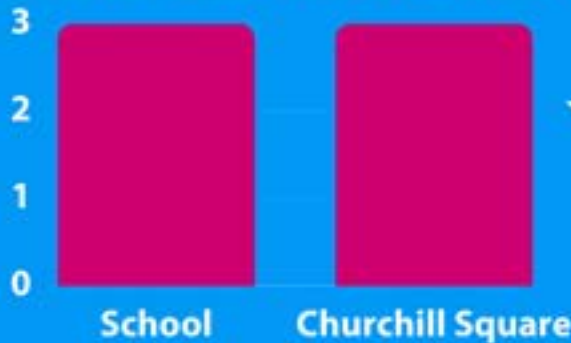


The facilitator asked who did not join the session if they had been vaccinated. 1 said



No. I don't need it. I'm not worried about getting Covid

Where did you receive your vaccination(s)?



My Mum said Churchill Square was the one to go to because it was the only one that would accept me at my age at the time (16). I was with my Mum the first time and my brother the second time. My anxiety was high because there were lots of people around, but the vaccine was fine. It was just having lots of people around. My anxiety was mostly about not knowing what to expect when I was there in the building - not so much about the needle.

For a family that doesn't drive, the school was the easiest option [instead of Churchill Square]. Also, people weren't getting to leave the house so school was the best place.

What was it like having the vaccination?

I liked the fact we missed a lesson. The first one was 30 minutes because we sat around and had to wait for 20 minutes, but the second one was only 10 mins

It was bad. It hurt. The pain that was in my body!

It was fine

I was more worried about the run up to it, but when we had it, it was alright

My auntie had it - the first day she was tripping and so dizzy. She said she felt drunk and fell over on the bed.

What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?



As a family we decided it was probably best. It wasn't hard to decide to have it.

Me not so much because it was the right thing to do, but it was kinda hard to find out where to get it and how to get it

I didn't want to get it - I was forced by my parents.

1 then said she "likes [that she's had] it now"



A lot of people are getting their jobs so they can get their passport, because they need to get their second jab.

For my safety and the safety of the customers in my store. I wanted to keep myself safe and them safe which felt like the right thing to do.

My Mum's had 5 jabs. She's a carer

I spoke to one of my friends about it. It was quite a heated discussion.

Were you given any information when you had it?

My mum got an email but I wasn't really aware until after I'd had it, and they gave me information then

At my first one you got a thing to read while you waited. It was easy to read for me, and I read it. It was mostly symptoms and what you could expect (after the vaccine) I think.

I didn't know what to expect. They just shoved the needle in my arm

No



What did you see on social media?

I go on social media quite a lot. There was a lot of propaganda on there and I tried to stay away from it. I wanted to find actual facts at school. People who think they shouldn't get it think that because of what they've read on social media, and you shouldn't trust everything on social media.

It was everywhere on social media - saying it's fake and you can't get it. It was on Instagram and TikTok. I don't know about Facebook - I don't use it.



I avoid social media most of the time.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

I don't think so

It's often targeted at parent carers but the child having it done might want to know what it's about and find out about it themselves. We weren't informed as much. We weren't really told much in school.

Was there anything that made getting the vaccination difficult?

I don't want to get it. I've got a fear of needles

I'm scared as if something will happen to me, and I have a health condition so I take other medication

Work. I predominantly do 4am starts at work, so I felt drained when I went for the vaccine. My third one was Christmas Eve and I was feeling like a slug by that point so trying to keep going (tiredness wise) was tough. I had a really sore, achy arm afterwards

It was really bad timing. I think the first jab last year - in year 8 - coincided with Ramadan, where people were fasting and kids were fasting and had to have the jab.

What has your experience of other vaccines been like?



I had loads of jabs when I was younger and didn't know what they were for

The one thing was that the 'flu vaccine we had before [the Covid vaccines], a lot of people had it who were vegetarian or didn't eat meat and it turned out there was animals in it, which was misinformation. That was the 'flu one and they should have told people.

Do you have any other suggestions about how the vaccination programme worked?



2

Have more places across the city aside from Churchill Square. It's difficult for people to get to, especially people who don't drive, and the other ones in the city are pop-up ones.

Telling people where they can go to get it. It's all quiet now and not easy to find out where to go.

I've had 3 jabs this year as well as Covid and had 1 last year besides Covid. Seeing people faint can make it a shock for everyone. There were 16 seats next to each other for the jabs [at school] and it made you self-conscious, even if you just flinched and didn't faint, because you felt like everyone was watching

Based on learning from the responses at the recent Young Women's session, the group were then invited to share their wider experiences of Covid and the pandemic. They said:

There was a lot of misinformation, but the school was helpful. They were giving out masks and open to people wearing masks in class and had windows open, and they were giving out tests until they stopped them being free. I feel like social distancing isn't really a thing any more. I overthink a lot of things and I think I would still prefer if we were keeping a meter away because I would feel terrible if I gave someone Covid. I preferred wearing masks in stores to keep people safe.

I thought my school handled it quite bad. At first, they handled it ok, but after the Government changed [the regulations] they stopped the tests and started acting like it had gone. But it's still here and people are still catching it.

I was so scared of Covid. I cried. I had to hold my hands over my mask. I cried when I saw an old man. I love older people.

My school managed it quite well. There weren't lots of people and it was one big room when we had our HPV vaccines and my anxiety wasn't that bad.

When I was going to college they handled it well. They had masks at reception and the security guards at the front had masks to give out.

There's been a lot around in the last 2 weeks. My friend did a [Covid] test on their birthday and they had Covid.

Parents' Focus Group



6 parents/guardians at the family event took part in the session, of whom were/were not vaccinated



1 young person, who had been vaccinated, also shared with us:



I had it at school. It was OK. I had a really achy arm. It was alright, but I didn't want to get it done at school because there were so many people there.

What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?

I haven't had the vaccine because I didn't get lots of information about it. My dad had [the vaccine] and 2 days later he had a stroke. There was so much conflicting information it was really hard to know whether to have it or not.

I've had it, but wish I hadn't because I've since spoken to other people who've said it is a fix and we're being forced to by the Government. We're all being made to have it - with no choice. You have to have it to go on holiday. I had mine so I could go to Portugal with my family. I'm not going to have boosters and stuff - I'm going to go with the defences in my own body. When they said they were going to put it in the kids I thought "why do they need it if their body is healthy?". I got upset about it quite a lot, because I didn't know what to do. I tried to encourage my older children to read things about it before they got [the vaccine] but they said they wanted it to go on holiday. I felt bad saying not to have [the vaccine] because I had it.

I haven't had it - and I don't want it. It felt very pushed - [you have to get it] if you want to go here or here. It feels like your world is opened up again when you've had it. I have a skin condition that you can't see - it's under my clothes - but I don't want to make that worse and get lesions on my face. Maybe I'll have it in a few years when they've done more research on my condition and the longer term effects of the vaccine. My partner couldn't move after having [the vaccine] - he was covered in bruises up and down his legs afterwards - and the doctors didn't know what it was. So many people had bad side-effects. I just feel like it needs more time for the testing. There's so many different brands of it. Why make so many different brands? They don't put the ingredients list on it either. I don't read [the ingredients list on] every bit of food I eat, but they should put ingredients on [the vaccine] - like food. I bet if we knew what was in it we wouldn't want it. You feel like you're crazy. My parents said "you need to give your head a wobble". People close to me saying we couldn't join them for days out [because we haven't been vaccinated]. I won't do it for [my parents] because then I'm part of their society.

I have a heart condition and one of the symptoms is severe palpitations. I was concerned the vaccine would trigger palpitations/worsen my condition, and I couldn't talk to anyone to find out if this might happen. Because of this I was too scared to have the vaccine. I needed expert guidance but I was also too scared to wear a mask (because it triggers my palpitations) to go into GP to ask the questions. I was VERY scared

My whole point was I don't want to get Covid because I'd be ill for longer [than I was after my vaccination]

There was an argument between a man and a woman outside the school. He was giving out leaflets about children not having vaccines. They were arguing, and I tried to be the peacemaker, but it's a personal choice

The main reasons for a lot of people getting it was going on holiday or [because they have] elderly parents.

Did you get the information you needed to help you decide?



No, I don't think I got enough information about whether to have it or not

2

This was said by one woman who is vaccinated (but says she now regrets having the vaccine) and one woman who wasn't vaccinated.

Where did you receive your vaccination(s)?



Mine was alright. I had a headache afterwards but otherwise I was absolutely fine.

The experience was good. The first two [vaccinations I had] were really good- very efficient, almost too efficient - they had so many people guiding you where to go - they didn't need that many! I felt tired for a couple of days afterwards

I ended up rushing down [to Churchill Square] to get it so I could go on holiday. I was wearing a vest so I got to do a bit of sunbathing and have a quick break from the kids, which was nice!

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

Why do kids need it when their bodies are healthy? They should educate us on how to be healthy and build our immune systems instead. I still eat a load of junk food, but maybe educating us on how to be healthier instead of putting stuff in our bodies that we don't know about would be better.

Information on the vaccine and how it works and what was in it would have helped me make a decision. I haven't had it.

Did you see anything about the vaccine on social media?

Yeah. At at the beginning it said everyone should have it done because you're being unfair on other people. Then they were saying the opposite and [getting vaccinated will] stop your children from having kids. I just stopped reading it in the end

It's basically just two extremes - either you must definitely have it or it'll make you ill and your legs will fall off

The profiteering by companies with all the kit generated during Covid makes me very cynical, e.g. masks/tests/travel requirements - someone is coming out of it very rich, and that is wrong. The politics around Covid are a turn off and too much to listen to

I don't go on it - I keep myself away

What would you say to NHS leaders about your experience of the vaccines and the information you received?

Let people have a choice [about getting vaccinated. Don't say you can't go on a holiday without a booster because then you're forcing people. The other side is that I haven't had anyone pass away from [Covid] - so I might feel different if that had happened. But at the end of the day you've got to give people a choice.

The fear of lockdown for a lot of people - I'll go bonkers if we have another one. My youngest was born in it and we haven't done much. I've been angry about all the things we've missed out on. He had appointments that we missed. Everything stopped - including the centres for the children and the vulnerable children. We're only just catching up now on the children's writing and reading. It was strange they were opening McDonalds and places that basically kill you anyway, but you couldn't go to the library or the doctors.

My GP Surgery has "Congratulations if you've had your vaccination!" in a poster on the wall. What the hell? It makes me cross. You need to get over [seeing things promoting the vaccine]. I've seen so many now I'm kind of blind to it. [A vaccination invitation leaflet] came through for my daughter now and she's eligible but we don't know what will happen 10 years down the line.

On the TUI website there's a section with a list of places you can go [on holiday] if you're not vaccinated. You can go anywhere if you're vaccinated, but unvaccinated you can't go to big countries like America. And when is that going to stop? That's like saying you can't do stuff if you haven't had your childhood vaccines.

[Covid] was written on my Mum's [death] certificate. She had Covid, but 8 months earlier she got stomach cancer - but they put Covid Pneumonia on her death certificate.

In response to this:

That's what they make you think isn't it

Did you experience any barriers?

They've got a yellow card scheme where you can fill out your side effects and bad reactions, but apparently the form is so hard to fill out and submit it's easier to just leave it - so I wonder how many people have just left it? The Doctors should let you know about the form and help you fill it in. It's like feedback. They could use that to do comparisons with the other jabs to see which side effects you get.

The yellow card is not just for vaccines - it's for any medicine and doctors should tell people about it. [As a Pharmacist, I know] that's what the side effects list on the side of the medicine is for

Would you have another Covid vaccination?

No

The reasons given for this were:

So many people have gotten ill even with the boosters and the jabs. They've had a booster and then they've somehow got all these illnesses.

I think my family had Covid very early on so we concluded we were immune/protected.

They've opened everything up and you can do whatever you want now [without being vaccinated]



The group then resumed their discussion about reasons why they had or had not decided to have a vaccine. 2 women who had previously shared that they had been vaccinated said:

I had it done because I'm classed as vulnerable so I automatically assumed that as I'm vulnerable I should've had it done. Now, listening to everyone [in this session] I'm thinking "Oh! I don't know what's in it, and maybe I shouldn't have had it done?". You think the NHS know what they're talking about and you should trust them but maybe not? Then you look at the figures of everyone dying - but then my parents are saying they put Covid down for most of the deaths in hospital and it's not always that.

I didn't want to have it in the first place. I had [the vaccine] because my parents live in America, and I haven't seen them now for 4 years even though I've had it done. I was against it because you just don't know - and why would I put something in my body I'm not sure about?

The group also had a wider discussion about their experiences of NHS services and said:

The Doctors have been scared of catching Covid so they've been sending people to us [at the Pharmacy] for all sorts of things like blood pressure, but we're still people and we can get [Covid] too!

I've heard they're going to start doing everything [health-related] online - even the dentist. But how can you do everything online?

[Doctors] were just dishing out antibiotics over the phone whether you need it or not. They can't hear your chest over the phone!

The Doctors still see you when they need to see you but it's hard to get a telephone appointment

They've only got one GP working at my doctors - so they've got nurses and people coming in from the hospital.

Multi Cultural Women's Focus Group

We invited women of all ages from local multicultural and ethnically-diverse communities to a coffee morning, hosted by Hangleton and Knoll Multi Cultural Women's Group.



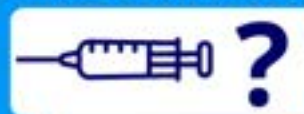
16 June
2022

and took part in

FREE



art and craft activities, yoga, and a discussion on Covid-19 vaccines.



The event also included a free lunch. The women who attended the coffee morning reflected the diverse communities around Hangleton and Knoll, including women from the following backgrounds and communities: Bengali/Bangladeshi (which had the highest community representation at the event), Persian, Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, European, Palestinian, Egyptian, Chinese/Mandarin, African and English.

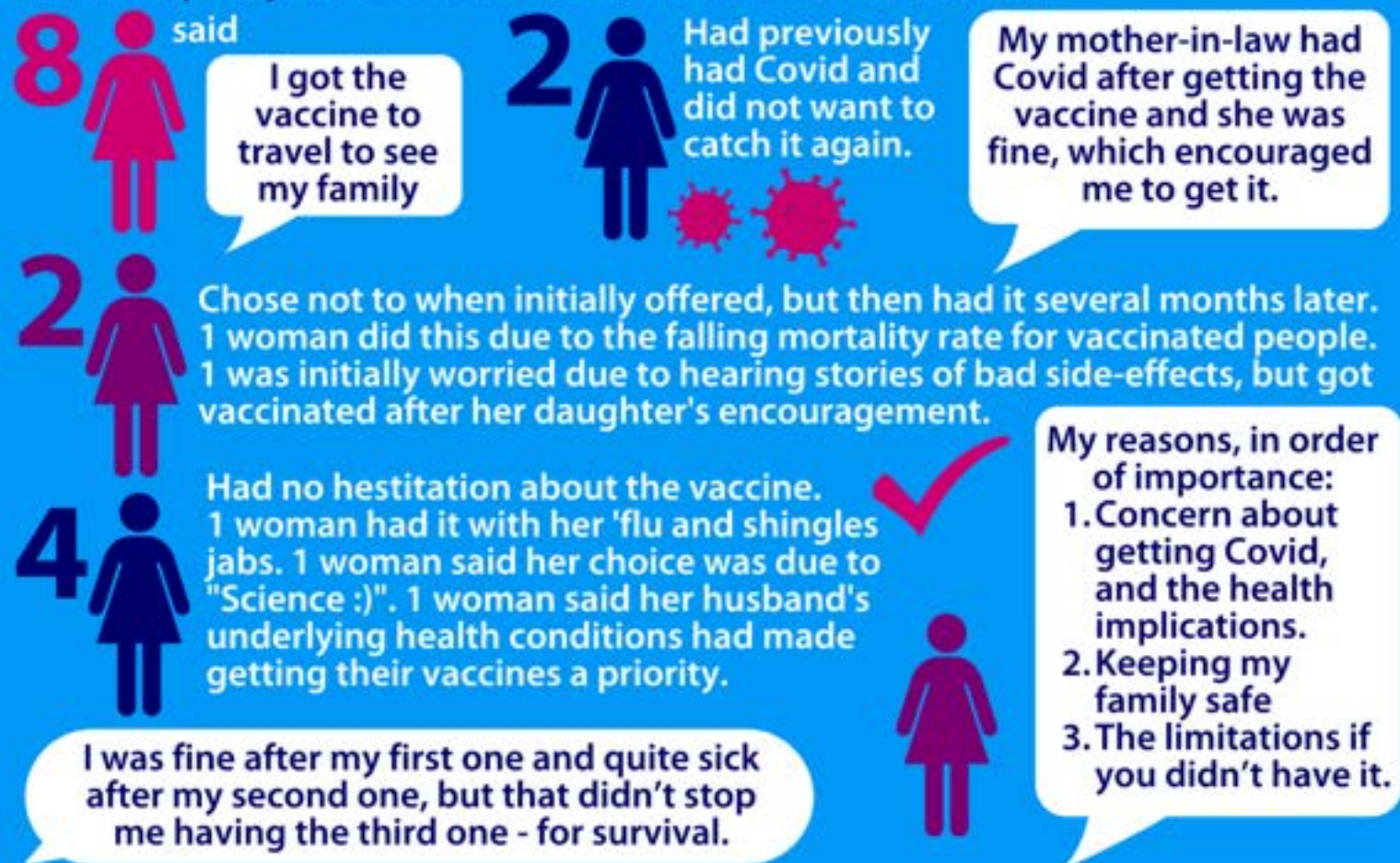
The group's answers the following questions are summarised below:

When asked "Have you had a Covid vaccine?":

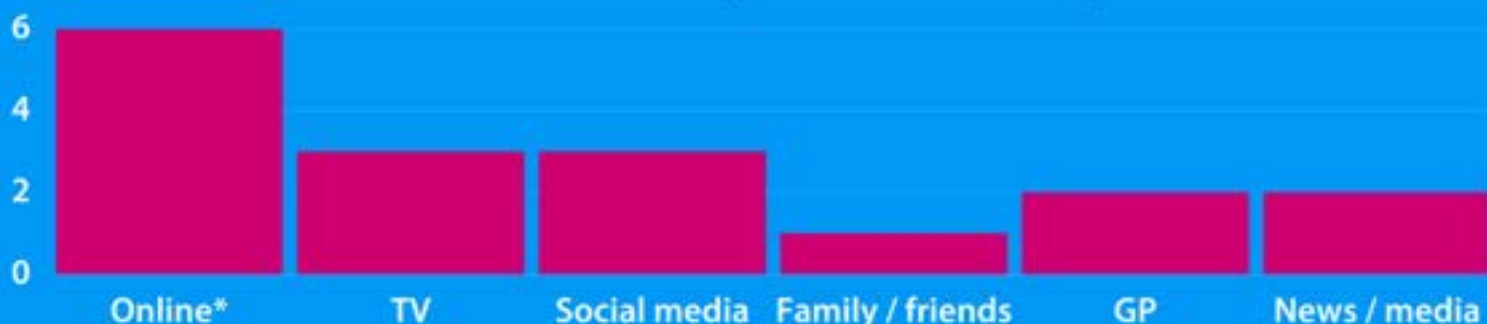


Others mentioned their vaccinations later, but did not answer this question. All respondents were vaccinated twice, and some had received boosters. 1 woman said: "We've had 3 vaccines in a year, which is a lot! And I've got a 4th one coming up too!"

What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?



Which sources of information did you find most helpful?



*including the NHS and UK Government websites.

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?



As a busy business owner, I struggled to find the time to get vaccinated.



Worry due to hearing about/knowing people who had severe side effects after their vaccine. All 3 women are now vaccinated, but 2 of them had deliberated for several months.



No, and my husband didn't either. There was a lot of awareness [at the time] about how to get a vaccine.

1 woman's aunt was diagnosed with cancer during the pandemic. She had her 1st and 2nd jabs during treatment, then went into remission. After her booster jab, her cancer cells increased and she passed away. The woman felt this could be a coincidence or the cause of her cells increasing, but she could not be certain.

Mixed messages about whether people with certain health issues (e.g. cancer) could not be vaccinated.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?



wanted to know what will happen when current vaccines expire, including the vaccines' lifespan(s) and plans for more vaccinations (e.g. winter boosters).



Sharing details of possible side-effects before people book their appointment; especially for people with multiple health conditions.



said she didn't want any more vaccinations.

Reassurance for people who are worried that the number of vaccines they have may affect their future health.



mentioned seeing stories on social media about the vaccines causing issues with periods, pregnancy, giving birth, and/or causing facial muscles to droop. They noted their uncertainty around the lack of scientific proof behind the social media stories.



1:1 interviews with men from multicultural communities

We interviewed 4 men from local multicultural and ethnically-diverse communities the seek their opinions and feedback. The men were aged from late-40s to mid-80s. 2 men were British Bangladeshi, 1 had Brazilian/Australian/Indian heritage, and 1 was from Jordan. 1 man was living with dementia, and 1 man was a wheelchair user with a long-term heart condition. They said:



Have you had a Covid vaccine?

All 3 men who said yes had received a winter booster jab, and 1 man had also received a spring booster. 1 other was not old enough to be eligible for the spring booster jabs yet.



What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?

3 had them to keep themselves (and others) safe, due to their age, disability, underlying health conditions, or to feel confident leaving the house.



2 had them to keep themselves/others safe while travelling. 1 man said he didn't need to be vaccinated to visit his home country, which "helped us to make the decision not to have it. If they did maybe it would force us to have the vaccine as we have [family] there."



2 men (and their wives) spoke to family, friends and people in their community. 1 man said he got vaccinated as a result of the reassurance he received, while another said "[they] said they are not like how they were before they had vaccine they can certainly see the changes to their health and body - making us more anxious about the virus" and "my sisters had to have the vaccine because of job but they are not happy about it".

2 spoke to NHS staff. They said "It was scary but once I found out more information and call from doctor that really reassured me" and "My nurses at the vaccination centres explained everything that I needed to know. I asked them questions there."



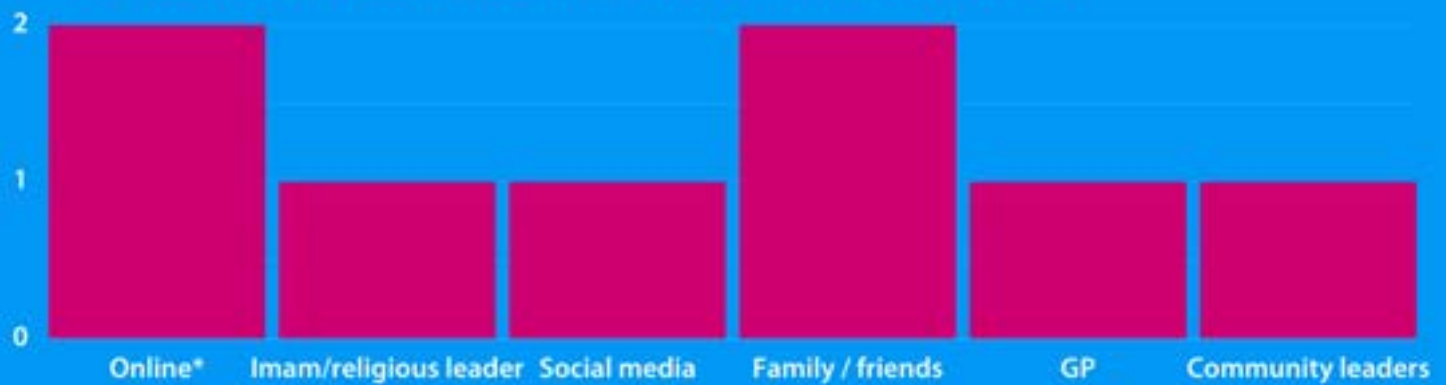
2 sought advice from other sources they trusted, including the Government, Facebook, the Imam of their mosque and local community leaders.



1 didn't believe the vaccine would protect him because "[it] is very new, any vaccine need 10 years to develop, to test and examine [and] see the impact. How it works and how it protects."

We as a family decided not to have the vaccine. We already have had Covid. [It was] like flu, had it for four days. Last summer did PCR and the results were positive the whole family, so we do not need the vaccine as we already had the virus.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?



*including the NHS website.

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?



No



The 3 men who responded "no" gave the following reasons:

1 man used 'Istikhara' to ask God for an answer through prayer. His wife had done this several times, and each answer told them not to take the vaccine.

1 man felt reassured that his GP would contact him when his appointment was due (and follow up with him afterwards), and the ease of booking an appointment online via the text hyperlink. He noted that, while an appointment had been unavailable at his closest vaccine centre, his disabled parking badge enabled him to go to Race Hill for his vaccine without issue, and the Warden had prioritised him due to his disability so he didn't have to queue.



1 man said he'd experienced no barriers, but the process was overwhelming.



- Difficulty accessing accurate, myth-busting NHS information and to speak to his GP.
- Shielding due to being high risk isolated him from his usual information source (the mosque community) and social life.
- Needing his son's support to make online appointment bookings; some of which were far away due to lack of local appointments, and only possible due to having a car and his wife's support.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?



asked: what will happen when current vaccines expire (including the vaccines' lifespan, and plans for more vaccinations e.g. winter boosters), and suggested having 1 clear source for new guidance around restrictions, recommended precautions, and NHS information; with options to access this online, in print, and via a support hotline. 1 man suggested providing this information in easily accessible formats and other languages.

Scientific evidence to really show how, where and when the virus happened and how the vaccine was developed, tested proven research to show how it works. I think there is no virus it is just made up virus [to] try to control the world and population.



Over-75s Covid-19 Spring booster drop-ins



ran two Covid-19 Spring Booster vaccine drop-in sessions for local residents aged

Sessions were held at Hangleton Community Centre and St Richard's Church and Community Centre.



23 people attended the sessions, including **2** carers and **3** vaccinated people who came to check in and chat.

Two Community Development Workers invited attendees to answer the following questions, but not all were interested in doing so. They also asked the older people attending St Richard's Community Centre for Standing Tall and the Lunch Club.

What helped you decide to have/not have the vaccine?



5 had been happy to queue for over 1 hour for at least 1 jab.

3 wanted a Spring booster but were not aged 75 yet.

2 were concerned about having Moderna due to hearing about other older people having bad side effects, but chose to have it anyway.

- 1** got a Moderna information leaflet but didn't understand what it said.
- 1** changed their mind about where to have it, as they preferred their GP.
- 1** Changed their mind due to having blood tests earlier that week, as they'd had enough of needles.



The consistency of the drop-in weekly MVU at the Polyclinic for all jabs is helpful as it makes it much easier to go for people, there is parking there and a good bus link. It is a familiar place for older people to go to.

Some people weren't interested in having the booster, despite having the 3 previous jabs, due to complacency from vaccine fatigue in some and lack of motivation in others (as Government messaging about it has significantly reduced).

"Fourth jab is even more effective than the other 3"

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

Get Together Club*

HKP Health Forum

HKP Newsletter



HK50+ Committee emails and phone calls

*Attended by Community Development Worker as group outreach.

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

Lack of national publicity/ NHS messaging about spring booster jabs.



Lack of access to information via GP as people aren't going into Surgeries any more.



Lack of neighbourliness, due to closure of local pubs, cafes and networks.



Lack of IT access for some older people



Lack of accessible information about Moderna and the potential side effects.



Is there any other information on vaccines that would be helpful to you?

"A poster with less busy colours/graphics and larger heading would make it more eye-catching on busy noticeboards in GP Surgeries and perhaps attract more attention."

1:1 interviews with local residents

Interview 1

Age: 52

Ethnicity: White British

Gender: Female

Number of children and ages: one child, 12 years old

Have you had a Covid vaccine?

No

What helped you make the decision to have/or not have the vaccine?

I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole. I think I'm at low risk from the disease which is caused by Covid 19. I'm fit, healthy and not overweight. I think the risk from a vaccine which is still in the trial phase, far outweighs any risk from Covid 19. There is still not full data or results from vaccine trials, they are not due to be published until 2023 at the earliest. It just doesn't add up and I do wonder if there's a hidden agenda and someone is making a lot of money from this. In my opinion natural immunity is 10 X better than the vaccine, and then there's the ingredients to consider.

At the beginning of the Pandemic I would not have described myself as an anti-vaxxer, just someone who takes care of my health, avoiding pharmaceutical products and always trying the natural route first. Now, because of the experience of the last 2 years I would definitely say I'm an anti-vaxxer and proud of it.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

- Dr Steve James
- Dr Tess Lawrie
- Children's Health Defence
- The Daily Sceptic
- The Delingpole Podcast
- The Highwire with Del Bigtree
- The Better Way Conference
- Talking to friends, family and natural health groups

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

Yes, the online censorship is alarming. If you google anything to do with Covid or the pandemic it's all blocked. You can only get the 'official' narrative, no alternative viewpoints are allowed. For example, the hashtag 'Natural Immunity' has been banned on Insta, and if you mention the word 'Ivermectin' anywhere on the internet you get banned or blocked. I was watching Patrick Holford, a well-known and well-respected nutritionist on the Pandemic Podcast, and he was talking about how helpful Vitamin C is for treating viral illnesses, including Covid 19, and the broadcast was immediately taken down, literally mid-sentence. There are loads of examples like this. The lack of transparency, and the censorship has made me very suspicious of the authorities. If you're not allowed to discuss and debate and ask questions, how can you make up your mind or trust anything? I've lost all trust.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

No, my mind is made up.

Anything else?

The lack of transparency around Covid 19 is truly shocking. People are not admitting what is going on. Not admitting to the harms and side effects. Why are young footballers collapsing with heart attacks? It is now acceptable to discredit people who ask questions about the Covid vaccine, and discriminate against people who have not taken the vaccine.

Vaccine passports are just ludicrous when you consider the vaccine doesn't stop you getting or passing on the virus. It's just a way of pressuring people and shutting down debate. It's absurd, and vaccine injuries are just being brushed under the carpet. I've lost all trust in doctors because of what has happened.

Interview 2

Age: 62

Ethnicity: White Irish

Gender: Female

Number of children and ages: One, 20 years old

Have you had a Covid vaccine – Yes/No

No

What helped you make the decision to have/or not have the vaccine?

I had Covid early on, and felt I was better protected by natural immunity than by an untested vaccine. I also read of some doctors who were raising a concern that people who already had Covid antibodies through naturally acquired infection were at higher risk of adverse reactions to the Covid Vaccine. When I enquired about this and the possibility of getting an antibody test instead of a vaccine I couldn't get a satisfactory answer, I faced a lot of hostility and was labelled an 'anti-vaxxer'.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

- NHS
- The Alliance for Natural Health
- UK Medical Freedom Alliance (UKMFA)
- The HART Group (Health Advisory & Recovery Team)
- The PANDA Group (Pandemic Data & Analytics)
- The BIRD Group – Dr Tess Lawrie
- The Great Barrington Declaration
- Dr Steve James
- The Pandemic Podcast

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

Yes. All of the sources I mentioned, other than the NHS, have been blocked and censored at one point or another. The people involved have been trolled and slandered for daring to ask questions, even though they are professionals - doctors, scientists and lawyers. Good science should not fear debate as it will stand the test of time. The fact that the official line cannot be questioned makes me think that it is not underpinned by 'good science'

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

Yes, all information should be freely available to the public, including independent sources of information about risks and benefits. There should be no censorship at all. People should be trusted to evaluate the information and evidence presented and make up their own minds. The patient information leaflet should be available before the vaccine is given,

so that an informed choice can be made. The public should also be informed about the importance of reporting any adverse vaccine effects to the MHRA. No-one I know who has had a Covid vaccine has been told where and how to report any ill effects. Propaganda and spin should have no place in public health policy. For the sake of transparency, it would be helpful if people were made aware that vaccine manufacturers are indemnified by the government (in other words the tax payer) against damages before they are encouraged to take one of their products.

Anything else?

Given that the vaccine neither prevents infection or transmission It makes no sense at all to adopt a 'one size fits all' approach. Not everyone has the same risk profile. A 20-year-old fit and healthy young male has a different risk profile to a morbidly obese 75-year-old with diabetes. The 20-year-old is arguably at far more risk of having an adverse reaction to the Covid vaccine than he is from the disease. If the vaccine can be shown to be safe and effective then a targeted approach could possibly make sense. What doesn't make sense is using coercion, and scare tactics to force people to have a Covid jab. In my opinion this sledgehammer approach has damaged public trust. If the authorities want public support for their health strategies, then encouraging discrimination and threatening people with the loss of their livelihood is not the way to go about it.

The experience of the last 2 years has damaged my trust in authority. The last straw was when I saw an NHS leaflet encouraging 12–15-year-olds, to '*just text*' to come get their Covid jab. The leaflet said '*we will not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact us*'. I honestly couldn't believe that the NHS, who I've always trusted, would encourage children as young as 12 to have a medical procedure without their parent's knowledge and consent. Actually, I thought it was a scam and wrote to Alastair Hill the Director of Public Health to find out if it was true. Unfortunately, it was. Has anyone considered how potentially damaging it is to undermine parental authority in this way? Has anyone considered what the long-term consequences might be?

The relentless pursuit of one size fits all approach that defies logic is deeply depressing. I could say a lot more but don't want to take up any more time. Sometimes I honestly do despair.

Interview 3

Age: 51

Ethnicity: White British

Gender: Female

Number of children and ages: 4 children, 20/18/16/13 years old

Have you had a Covid vaccine – Yes/No

No

What helped you make the decision to have/or not have the vaccine?

Based on my personal history. I've had experience of serious side effects from medication (life threatening blood clot) so I'm wary of taking any medication. Also, we are all fit and healthy so I didn't feel we needed to have a Covid vaccine.

I also had concerns that it was untested on the population as a whole and there was a lack of short term and long-term safety data. From talking to other people, I found I was not

alone with my concerns. Hearing about other people suffering side-effects from other vaccines made me cautious.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

Mainly talking to friends but also following various FB groups and listening to news channels.

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

No

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

No, I've got enough information.

Anything else?

I don't think so

Interview 4

Age: 56

Ethnicity: White British

Gender : Female

Number of children and ages: two children 18 and 16 years old

Have you had a Covid vaccine – Yes/No

No

What helped you make the decision to have/or not have the vaccine?

Historical experiences of adverse reactions and vaccine damage in my close family and subsequent research of vaccines in general has made me wary. I did lots of information gathering from trusted sources that I have used before. I work in the NHS and had many discussions with colleagues about the vaccine being new and untested. I weighed up the risk to myself from contracting Covid and the risk from a new and untested vaccine and decided the risk from the vaccine outweighed the risk from Covid. I also had to consider my daughter who is disabled, highly dependent and clinically vulnerable, but with information about the vaccine constantly changing I wanted to discuss my concerns with a medical professional. Unfortunately, this wasn't possible as everyone seemed to be aggressively pro-vaccine and not open to any debate at all. My viewpoint was not listened to. I move in medical circles because of my work and I hear and see incidents of vaccine damage, but this it's not acknowledged and I find that really troubling. The lack of discussion and the intolerance of questioning has made me distrust the government. No medical product is 100% safe, but the Covid vaccine was presented that way. For me, it's all about safety and as time passed I started to see cases of adverse reactions at the hospital with my own eyes.

As an NHS worker I was facing a vaccine mandate, so I started looking at the companies who were producing the vaccines and was considering taking the French produced Valneva vaccine. I felt more comfortable with this type of traditional vaccine as it does not use the new and untested mRNA technology like the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca ones. It was about to be manufactured in Scotland then the British government cancelled the contract so I wasn't able to access this type of vaccine as an acceptable alternative.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

- Speaking to NHS colleagues and friends
- MHRA – Yellow Card Reporting
- TV, newspapers and social media, both pro and anti
- Children’s Health Defence newsletter
- Dr Suzanne Humphries
- Dr Peter McCullough
- Dr John Campbell
- The Hart Group website
- The UK Medical Freedom Alliance website
- Dr Jayne Donegan
- I read many articles and discussions
- I spoke to practitioners, alternative, complementary and medical

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

Yes. Lots of barriers. I couldn’t have any proper, honest, conversations with medical professionals, as most were aggressively promoting the vaccine. I really wanted to ask important questions but my viewpoint was not considered and I found that asking questions or expressing doubt meant I was stigmatised, judged, criticised, slammed down and labelled. I was not allowed to question and as a senior professional working in the NHS that is scary. My status as a professional with 26 years’ NHS experience was diminished. None of the senior management had an understanding of a different way of thinking. As an employee I was given no opportunity for discussion. Still, today, there is nowhere to go for an untainted, independent and objective view. There are no voices in the middle, and no balanced and considered views. It feels like there is a political agenda behind this, and obstacles are put in the way of information gathering.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

Yes. The ingredients for a start. What is actually in the vaccine? Where can we have an honest, truthful and objective discussion about the ingredients? It would have been so helpful to just have an open dialogue, and to hear from someone in the pharmaceutical industry with a bit of integrity. People are only just now acknowledging some of the adverse effects of the vaccine but at the beginning no-one was allowed to mention adverse reactions.

Anything else?

This whole experience has been horrendous and I feel traumatised by it. I nearly lost my job, my career and my house. This experience nearly destroyed my marriage. I feel differently about my work now and consequently have changed the way I work. The lack of support from my managers has destroyed my sense of being a team player. I no longer have job satisfaction and I have felt judged and stigmatised. I would never have thought I would be so marginalised by choosing not to have a vaccine. It has been incredibly divisive and friendships have been lost.

The constant stress has affected my health, and I have suffered chronic insomnia, and serious digestive problems. The far-reaching effects of this are as yet unknown. I have had to support my eldest child through the coercive pressure, and peer pressure he has experienced as a young adult for not taking an unnecessary vaccine. I feel a lot of anger and a lot of bitterness and grief, because life will never be the same. This experience has changed me forever.

One silver lining is that I've formed new and valuable friendships with people who feel the same and the support from the many thousands of NHS workers rejecting the mandate has been incredibly validating and has kept me going through the toughest of times.

Interview 5

Age: 54

Ethnicity: White Irish

Gender : Female

Number of children and ages: One child 12 years old

Have you had a Covid vaccine – Yes/No

No

What helped you make the decision to have/or not have the vaccine?

I'm naturally a risk averse person and a late adopter of things. I've got two masters and my job is looking at raw data, research and evidence. When the Covid vaccine was introduced, I was watching and waiting for more data to emerge so that I could assess the risks and benefits. I was initially really afraid of Covid but after a few months I could see it wasn't a substantial risk for me or my family. I read about early mRNA vaccines being tested on animals and proving to be ineffective and in some cases harmful. I came across Geert Vanden Bossche a virologist and vaccine expert and was very interested in what he had to say about the new vaccines, which was at odds with the mainstream narrative. The justification for vaccinating everyone didn't make sense to me. The fact that any Covid treatments put forward, other than vaccines, were forbidden or devalued made me suspicious. I've got a good nose for bullshit and I smelled a rat. When I weighed up the risks of Covid against the risks of a new and novel type of vaccine the choice was obvious. Now I can see the financial agenda behind pushing this particular vaccine and I'm upset about the misappropriation of public funds. I don't want any part of it. I'm just concentrating on getting enough Vit D, eating a healthy diet and following a healthy lifestyle which I believe will keep me and my family safe.

Which sources of information did you find most helpful?

- Friends and social media groups (though I applied a filter and veered away from conspiracy theories)
- Dan Astin Gregory's podcast
- Dr Peter McCullough and other doctors who were making very compelling cases (as opposed to the Matt Hancocks and Faucis of this world)
- The Daily Sceptic
- I looked at a lot of raw data published by the government and also interpretations of the data
- I switched off from mainstream media, TV, Radio and papers as I found them unreliable. They were only pushing one undisputed narrative

Did you experience any barriers in accessing what you needed to make your decision?

I found the information I needed but had to search for it. Forget Facebook, YouTube, Google etc. They are all so heavily censored as to be totally unreliable as a source of independent objective information.

Is there any other information on vaccines you think would be helpful to you?

No. I'd rather take a bullet now than the Covid vaccine.

Anything else?

I want to say that I'm not an 'anti-vaxxer' at all. My child has had all the recommended vaccines as well as some travel vaccines. I've had all the recommended vaccines too (apart from the Covid one). So, I can't be labelled an anti-vaxxer. That said, the experience of the last two years has made me highly suspicious of all vaccines where I wasn't previously. It's ironic.