The Cardiff West Neighbourhood Cluster worked together to arrange for housebound patients to get their flu vaccine early in the season across all the cluster practices. This initial work then developed into a much wider project, with the cluster arranging a ‘Community Flu Day’ for patients aged 65 and over. This was the first ‘Community Flu Day’ that the cluster had organised.

The aim was to be proactive offering the flu vaccination to this eligible group, and to also make the event an engaging ‘social event’ for the community in a more holistic sense, with refreshments, information stalls from the voluntary and health services, crafts stalls, and music, promoting wider public health messages.

This initiative not only raised awareness of the flu campaign within the community, but also enabled more collaborative working within the cluster, helping practices to connect with their local community and also with each other, and highlighted a range of issues to older people in the neighbourhood.

What did you do?

We contacted housebound patients early in the season to ensure they were aware of eligibility and could access the vaccine.

We held a community flu day:

- It was open to all patients aged 65 and over registered with a practice within the cluster.
- Two practice managers took the lead on organising
- Involved the community from the local Church Centre
- All older patients from the eight practices were sent a flyer in the post telling them about the day
- Publicised at all 8 practices and shops throughout the village
- Involved VEST transport to help with housebound
- Invited relevant information stands from both voluntary and health sector
- A number of craft stalls were also included in the day

What have you learnt?

- We worked well together as a cluster and this enabled more collaborative working within the cluster
- The flu day gave an extra place where patients could have their flu injection done, thus relieving time on the GP practice time
• Enabled house bound patients to not only have their vaccination done early, but allowed them to access other services and ‘shop’ for small gifts which seemed to be valued
• Raised awareness in the community of flu vaccination
• Enabled practices to connect to the local community
• The community flu day was more than just flu and provided a useful opportunity for health education for those who attended

Contact details

Carol Howells, Practice Manager – Carol.Howells3@wales.nhs.uk

The Cardiff West Neighbourhood Cluster receive their Beat Flu Award from General Practitioner Committee (GPC) Wales representative Dr Stephen Davies at the Annual influenza Programme Meeting in March 2017