

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Thursday 8 December 2022

1. QUESTION FROM TRISH OLIVER (In Attendance)
Re: Protection against Covid

For 500,000 immune impaired people in the UK, covid vaccines are not effective, these people continue to shield and are socially isolated, unable to see family members and friends; - many are in the last stage of their life. They are also at risk of serious illness or death from Covid if they go into hospital for medical treatment.

The drug Evusheld gives protection against Covid to immune impaired people and is licensed. 32 countries have rolled it out, free at the point of need; the UK government has not. From 20th October this year it has been available privately for immune impaired people who are able to pay, typically a cost of £2,400 which will need to be paid every 6 months. Immune impaired people are disproportionately likely to be on a low income.

Concerns about clinical effectiveness cited by the secretary of state are not backed up by scientific evidence. Rather that reiterate the standard response being given by government to the #forgotten 500k, please will this council commit to educating themselves about Evusheld and taking all possible actions to push the government to roll it out immediately

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Throughout the Pandemic this Council has worked closely with the local NHS in the implementation of nationally agreed COVID-19 vaccinations and Covid-19 treatment and to ensure swift and effective delivery to Devon residents. It is the National Institute for Health and Care Clinical Excellence (NICE) who make the decision regarding the availability of drugs to patients in the NHS based on clinical and cost effectiveness. The Council has enquired with the local NHS on the use of tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld) for preventing COVID-19.

The local NHS confirmed what is published on the NICE website which is that NICE has commenced the work on appraising the clinical and cost effectiveness of tixagevimab and cilgavimab for preventing COVID-19. The NICE committee are scheduled to meet on the 24th January 2023 with an expected publication date for the final guidance of 4th April 2023.

The Council will continue to work closely with the local NHS and will support the implementation of any new NICE guidelines.

