

expected to receive their first dose of the vaccine in the next four weeks.

A spokesman for Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership said: "In Renfrewshire, the vaccination rollout for the 80 years and over age group is now up and running, with the first vaccines delivered at the weekend by the Anchor Mill Medical Practice in Paisley.

"More than 260 Renfrewshire residents in this group have already received their first dose of the vaccine from their GP.

"Delivery of vaccines to GP

made available at medical centres as more supplies of the vaccine are delivered.

Over-80s will, like all others, receive the first dose of the vaccine in this round, which offers up to 70 per cent protection.

The second dose will be delivered up to 12 weeks later.

With Renfrewshire now in lockdown, Dr Linda de Caestecker, director of public health from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, is reminding older people travelling to receive the vaccine is a permissible reason to leave home.

She said: "Approval of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine is great news as it is logistically easier to administer in local settings, meaning that we can roll it out to more people.

"However, we'd urge patience as we work through priority groups in line with the vaccine supplies that we have available.

"Everyone will be invited forward for their vaccine in due course and there is no need for anyone to contact their GP."

The Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine received approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for use in the UK on December 30.

It is hoped that all those in

the top four priority groups will be vaccinated by the middle of February.

These include care home residents, frontline workers, people aged 70 and above and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.

For more information on the vaccine roll-out visit nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine or call 0800 030 8013.

2019/2020
However the average number of deaths have almost doubled since 2009.

Campaigners have now called for immediate action to halt the worrying trend.

Following the announcement of the new lifesaving project, Minister for Drugs Policy Angela Constance said: "Finding out that a loved-one is using drugs, and might even be at risk of losing their lives to their addiction, is one of the toughest things any family can face.

"People want to know the best way to respond, and what they might be able to do to help.

"They also want to feel they are not alone.

"As Minister for Drugs Policy I recognise that we not only have to help people who are facing problems with drugs, we also need to help their family members.

"Help and support is available from a number of sources, including dedicated charities like Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs.

"By funding Families as Lifesavers, and projects like it, we can help ensure that people who are in this terrible position are properly supported."

Her predecessor Joe FitzPatrick was kicked out in December for failing to grapple with the drugs crisis.

Everyone will be invited for the vaccine in due course, there is no need for anyone to contact their GP

Diggers move into High Calside site

The first sod of turf has been cut in a 16-flat public housing development.

The site is in High Calside in Paisley's Castlehead.

The flats are for senior citizens and four have been designed for wheelchair use.

All of the properties will have lift access, low level showers and extra wide doors to allow easy movement.

The project by Paisley Housing Association is supported by the Scottish Government and Renfrewshire Council, and aims to meet local affordable housing demand.

The association's chief executive Kathleen McCutcheon said "High Calside represents the first new build properties Paisley Housing Association will have constructed in

more than ten years.

"The development is testament to the support from Renfrewshire Council and Scottish Government to make this happen."

The housing association has worked closely with builder McTaggart Construction, to create a development which will maximise the site in an established residential area.

Dairy-based McTaggart employs 365 over six divisions and the firm also has an office in Glasgow

Janice Russell, director of McTaggart Construction said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Paisley Housing Association to deliver these highly efficient and sustainable homes.

"Accessible homes can transform the lives

of tenants and families."

Renfrewshire Council Communities, Housing and Planning Convener Councillor Marie McGurk added: "I welcome work on this new development getting underway and look forward to seeing the flats completed, providing specially designed homes to meet the needs of older people.

"This development supports our collective commitment to increase the supply of affordable housing in Renfrewshire and to provide a mix of house types"

Spadework Site manager Mike Murray chief executive Kathleen McCutcheon



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