

## **NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group Update**

Report of the Clinical Chair, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group.

Recommendation: that Health and Wellbeing Board be asked to note the report

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### **1. Vaccination Programme**

- 1.1. Thousands of people in Devon are being vaccinated against COVID-19 every day as the biggest vaccination programme in the NHS's history gathers pace. The NHS has a clear vaccine delivery plan and will contact local people when it's their turn to get the vaccine.
- 1.2. This will be a marathon, not a sprint, and we cannot let down our guard. People must stay at home where they can and follow all the rules to stop the spread of coronavirus.
- 1.3. Anyone who has had the vaccine must continue to follow government guidance on social distancing and wearing a mask, as immunity takes weeks to develop.

### **How local people can play their part**

- 1.4. There are four main things that people in Devon can do to help the NHS give the vaccine to as many local people as possible, as quickly as possible:
  - i. Choose the right service for your needs as GPs are now managing extra pressures from the vaccine programme. Consider self-care for minor illnesses and injuries. You will still get a face-to-face appointment at your local practice if your GP thinks you need one.
  - ii. Attend all appointments, whether it is for a vaccine, to see your GP or at hospital, unless they are personally contacted by your provider and told otherwise.
  - iii. Don't make things harder for the NHS by calling your local hospital or GP practice about getting the vaccine – the NHS will contact you when it's your turn. Blocking phonelines with queries stops other people getting healthcare and diverts staff time, meaning the vaccine rollout will be slower
  - iv. Follow Government rules – the vaccines are a wonderful development, but we are not out of the woods yet. Remember, 'Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives' and 'Hands Face

Space'. Act as if you have COVID, even after you've been vaccinated

1.5. Three main ways the vaccine is being delivered in Devon -

- i. All four of the county's main hospitals – in Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple – are giving the vaccination to priority groups in line with national guidance
- ii. GP practices are working together in groups to set up local vaccination centres. Across the county, 16 centres are now in operation, serving 104 of Devon's 123 practices, with more starting in coming days to cover the remaining parts of the county
- iii. GP-led facilities are delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in care homes

1.6. Large-scale vaccination centres serving wide areas are also planned nationwide and more details will follow on arrangements in Devon when they are confirmed.

### **Vaccinations in care homes**

1.7. Care home residents and staff were set as the highest priority group by the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

1.8. Unlike the Pfizer vaccine, the Oxford vaccine does not need to be stored at ultra-low temperatures and is much easier to move, making it easier to use in care homes. Local vaccination services are being issued with small packs of Pfizer jabs which can be used in care homes.

1.9. GP-led and hospital vaccination services have made good progress in vaccinating staff and residents in care homes in Devon and the focus will now be on offering the vaccine to everyone in care homes as soon as possible.

### **Hospital hubs**

1.10. Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, Torbay Hospital in Torquay, the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple are all giving vaccinations to priority groups.

### **GP-led local vaccination centres**

1.11. GP practices are working together to set up local vaccination centres across Devon, with 16 now established, serving 104 practices, with more to follow soon.

- 1.12. As well as using NHS locations like GP surgeries and health centres, some local vaccination centres in Devon are being opened in more unusual, specially adapted, venues like Exmouth Tennis and Fitness Centre, Plymouth Pavilions, the Riviera International Centre in Torquay and Barnstaple Leisure Centre.
- 1.13. To minimise wastage, local vaccination sites are using unfilled appointments to vaccinate frontline healthcare workers, including pharmacy, dental and optometry teams.
- 1.14. NHS England has written to all practices this week asking them to prioritise the vaccination programme and they have set out some measures to support them to do that.

## **2. CCG Accountable Officer and Chief Executive of Devon's Integrated Care System**

- 2.1. The CCG has been recruiting for the joint post of Accountable Officer for both the CCG and the Chief Executive of Devon's Integrated Care System (ICS – see below). This is in line with national policy and mirrors the joint CCG and system arrangements put in place in some successful systems nearby.
- 2.2. **Jane Milligan** has been appointed to the role. Jane has worked for the NHS for 33 years and has extensive strategic commissioning and operational experience. Having first qualified as a physiotherapist working in Devon and Cornwall, Jane has held a range of senior roles in CCGs and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and thoroughly understands primary care and commissioning.
- 2.3. Jane currently works in a similar role as Accountable Officer for the NHS North East London Commissioning Alliance (seven CCGs) and is the Senior Responsible Officer for the North East London STP. Jane is familiar with the county, its health and care needs and challenges, and will bring a breadth and depth of experience and personal attributes to help build a stronger health and care system in Devon

## **3. Integrated Care Systems**

- 3.1. On the 26 November 2020 NHS England considered a document outlining legislative recommendations that could make ICSs statutory corporate NHS bodies. This could mean CCG statutory functions being merged into the ICS.

3.2. The CCG is in a good position for these changes having prepared for system working by:

- Merging the two Devon CCGs
- Updating senior leadership structure
- Implementing joint teams and roles across the CCG and the Devon system
- Providers collaborating and sharing resources

3.3. As part of the changes, NHS England has committed to support staff by:

- Not making significant changes to roles below the most senior leadership roles
- Minimising the impact of organisational change to staff
- Preserving terms and conditions to the new organisations (even if not required by law) to help provide stability and to remove uncertainty

3.4. Further information will be shared over the course of 2021.

#### **4. Teignmouth and Dawlish consultation**

4.1. At its meeting on 17 December 2020, the CCG Governing Body approved a series of recommendations, which will see some services moved from Teignmouth Community Hospital to a new Health and Wellbeing Centre in the town centre and some services to Dawlish Community Hospital.

4.2. Members also approved a recommendation to continue with a model of community-based intermediate care and reverse a previous decision to establish 12 rehabilitation beds at Teignmouth Community Hospital.

4.3. During the Governing Body session, members considered a range of evidence, including a report by Healthwatch in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay on the outcomes of a formal public consultation on a proposal for the future delivery of services, which ran from 1 September to 26 October 2020.

4.4. The report provided an analysis of the responses to the consultation questionnaire, as well as highlighting common themes, comments and criticisms, and listing a range of alternative proposals and suggestions made by local people.

4.5. The report highlighted how 61% of respondents said that, all things considered, they supported the overall proposal to relocate services and reverse the previous decision on the 12 rehabilitation beds. 34% of respondents said they did not support the proposal.

## **5. Outstanding engagement**

- 5.1. The CCG has been rated 'outstanding' for patient and community engagement for the second year running
- 5.2. The CCG has been awarded a coveted 'green star' (the top rating) by NHS England in recognition of efforts to put local people at the heart of the CCG's work and ensuring services meet the population's needs.

## **6. Think 111 First model introduced in Devon from Tuesday 1 December**

- 6.1. In line with the rest of the country the CCG has launched a campaign advising the public on how to make the right healthcare choices to ensure their safety, as well as making sure they get the right treatment in the most appropriate place – this is known as Think 111 First.
- 6.2. The new approach directs people to contact NHS 111 first, whether online or by phone, if they have an urgent – but not serious or life-threatening – medical need and in some cases, they will be able to book direct appointments or get a referral for a time slot into a service that is right for them, including ED.
- 6.3. It's important to note that arrangements will not change for people with serious or life-threatening illnesses or injuries. People should continue to dial 999 as before. People who attend an ED without contacting 111 first will not be turned away and will be prioritised depending on clinical need, as is the current practice.