

Update from NHS Devon

April 2024

New CEO returns to the NHS in Devon

Steve Moore, the new Chief Executive Officer joined NHS Devon on 12 February 2024 and has been busy meeting colleagues and partners from across Devon.

Steve has worked for the NHS for most of the last 30 years in a variety of roles spanning primary, secondary, community and mental health care.

Steve knows Devon and the wider South-West region very well, as he was previously Chief Executive of NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and the cluster of NHS Plymouth, NHS Devon and Torbay Care Trust (between 2010 and 2013), Chief Executive of the NHS Devon cluster in 2012, and Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Commissioning and Strategic Development for NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly between 2007 and 2010.

Thanks goes to Bill Shields, who has been the interim Chief Executive Officer over the past five months. Bill's expertise, drive and vision have been invaluable to the NHS Devon Board and staff during what has been a challenging winter. Bill continues in his substantive role as Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer for NHS Devon.

Dementia Strategy Update

The development of the dementia strategy will begin in Q1 24/25 and will be led through the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Provider Collaborative.

NHS Devon held a dementia summit at the end of January with 60 local attendees representing the statutory and voluntary sector, to consider the priorities for a dementia strategy in Devon.

The summit considered lessons from neighbouring systems and further afield, as well as the emerging academic evidence-base regarding effective and cost-effective support. The national "Well Dementia" pathway was also considered, which spans prevention, diagnosis, post-diagnostic support, living with dementia and palliative

support. Emerging priorities are in the areas of post-diagnostic support and living with dementia.

Women's Health Update

Women's Health Hubs

A Programme Manager has been appointed to support this work and plans for Women's Health Hubs in Devon are progressing well. The three priorities identified for the Hubs in Devon are:

- Develop a blend of virtual and physical services along a menopause pathway
- Additional Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) capacity for contraceptive and non-contraceptive reasons
- Maximise the benefits of offering an online provision of trusted information and explore alignment with other services offering a digital service

Services are being developed collaboratively with colleagues across One Devon and a clinical workshop on menopause was held on the 20 March 2024. This clinical workshop looked specifically at the menopause care pathway to understand what needs to be in place to make the programme a success. NHS Devon plans to further involve patients and the public once we have analysed the findings from the clinical workshop.

GP training

A menopause education training day for primary care was held recently by Devon Training Hub to share knowledge among Devon GPs. The topics covered included:

- Menopause and HRT
- Genitourinary symptoms of menopause
- Perimenopause
- Managing problematic bleeding
- Menopause post breast cancer

Dentistry

NHS Devon took on commissioning for dentistry in April 2023.

National recovery plan

We are reviewing our plans in light of the newly published national [Dental Recovery Plan](#), and welcome the new focus this has placed on NHS dentistry. We will continue to develop our local plans, aligning to the national priorities, and ensuring the needs of our local communities are being prioritised.

The plan covers a range of areas, including:

- Recruiting more workforce, including providing targeted funding for dentists to work in areas that have historically struggled to recruit and retain staff
- Raising the minimum Unit of Dental Activity value to £28
- Offering dental practices a new patient premium payment to treat patients who have not been seen for over two years

- Offering one-off payments of up to £20,000 for around 240 dentists working in under-served areas

Devon developments

Cornwall and Devon share a **dental helpline** which patients can access via NHS111 and are then put through, where possible, or are given the dental helpline number to call.

Through the helpline people can access urgent or stabilisation advice, or appointments, if appropriate, and put themselves on a waiting list of those seeking a regular NHS dentist.

As part of the national recovery plan announcement, it was also announced in Parliament that Devon would be one of 15 ICBs that would be receiving a **dental van** sometime over the next year (no timeframe available yet).

The van will go to more rural and coastal areas. Staffed by NHS dentists, they will offer check-ups and simple treatments such as fillings.

The [One Devon website](#) has a **dedicated information for patients** with local information about NHS dental services, which is regularly updated with key information and signposting.

There are plans for dental campaigns to be rolled out nationally with local authorities that will focus on prevention and good dental health.

Vaccinations

Winter 23/24 Summary

Covid – 19

Autumn 2023 saw an increasing number of access points for Covid-19 vaccinations as more primary care organisations joined the programme to deliver better local access. This winter over 340,000 Covid-19 boosters (62.1% uptake) have been provided to Devon residents via:

- Three vaccination centres
- 75 GP practices
- 53 community pharmacies
- Five hospitals (for inpatients and staff)
- 480 care homes
- 500 outreach clinics

Flu

The delivery of the flu programme ended on 31st March 2024 for all eligible cohorts. At the end of February over 404,000 flu vaccinations had been registered to Devon residents (74.7% uptake).

Coadministration has been relatively successful with just over 34% taking up the offer of both vaccines (Covid-19 and flu) at the same time when compared to a rate of 21% in the previous vaccination campaign.

Spring 2024 Covid-19 Campaign

People eligible for the Covid-19 spring vaccination are:

- Aged 75 years old or over, including those who turn 75 by the 30 June 2024
- Live in a care home for older adults
- Aged 6 months old or over and have a weakened immune system

When available, there will be different ways to get a seasonal COVID-19 vaccine:

- Booking online
- Going to a walk in COVID-19 vaccination centre (Exeter or Home Park)
- Through a local NHS service, such as a GP surgery
- Through an older adult care home

The Spring 2024 campaign will commence by 22 April 2024 and ends on 30 June 2024.

Eligible care homes and people who are housebound can be vaccinated from 15 April 2024.

The NHS will plan to invite and vaccinate those eligible for a spring dose by 30 June, via a combination of local and national invitations.

Eligible members of the public can book their vaccination via the national booking system from Monday 15 April for appointments from 22 April.

A communications campaign has been planned to promote the spring vaccination campaign in Devon and includes:

- TV and media interviews with local spokespeople at vaccination centres
- Adverts on radio (Heart FM and Greatest Hits Radio) with scripts targeted at 18+ age group with weakened immune system
- Web-based articles/blogs with advice and signposting to local vaccination centres and booking systems
- SMS and letter invites from general practice
- Print advertising in local news and magazines
- Digital screens and bus stop panels in areas with high footfall
- Organic social media promotion on Facebook, Instagram and X, using national materials, and local advertising for outreach sessions
- Additional paid social media targeted to specific groups
- Video/social media reels with clinicians talking about the importance of vaccination
- Advertorial with Devon Live

ENDS