

## 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

### 1. Mass Vaccination

- 1.1. The vaccination programme in Devon has been a huge success. Over half a million people have received their first dose and nearly all those most vulnerable have been vaccinated as well as those who care for them.
  - **593,532 people** in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 21 March, meaning about six in ten people aged 16 and over in Devon have had a first dose
  - **15,202 second doses** were also given in the week leading to the 21 March, with over **45,000** second doses given since the programme began in Devon.
  - The data also shows that in the South West, **78.6%** of people who are aged 16-64 who are at risk or a carer (excluding residents of younger adult care homes) have had at least one dose – the highest of any NHS region.
- 1.2. The challenge, particularly in Primary Care, of delivering the vaccinations and continuing to care for patients has been significant. I would like to express my thanks for their hard work, energy, enthusiasm and versatility in being a key part in protecting our older and extremely vulnerable residents. We continue to plan and adapt to the opportunities and availability of vaccines to ensure that every vaccine that arrives in Devon gets to those who most need it.
- 1.3. On 17 March, the Medical Director for Primary Care at NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to the NHS to update on the latest position on vaccine supply and deployment over the next six weeks. The letter says that after two weeks of increases, there will be a significant reduction in weekly supply from 29 March, estimated to last for four weeks, due to 'reductions in inbound vaccine supply'.
- 1.4. The supply constraint means that as of last week, no further first dose appointments will be made available on the National Booking Service (nationwide) from 1-30 April. Depending on when they opened, some sites are yet to reach the time when they need to start administering second doses.
- 1.5. All vaccination centres – GP-led sites, large centres and pharmacies – have always flexed their opening hours in line with supply. Therefore they are likely to be operating less in April due to the national supply constraints.
- 1.6. A small number of appointments are being rescheduled to alternative days and the NHS will contact anyone affected directly.

## 2. Working with local communities to increase vaccine up-take

- 2.1. We are working with people from minority ethnic communities and those who have learning disabilities to increase take up the coronavirus vaccination.
- 2.2. [Recent engagement work](#) we led suggests that the reasons for vaccine hesitancy locally mirror concerns [identified nationally](#). And, like other areas of the country, take-up of the vaccination in Devon among some communities is lower than in the overall population.
- 2.3. Among the outcomes of the work were that people taking part in the engagement had concerns regarding vaccine safety and side effects.
- 2.4. Acting on suggestions made during the engagement, 'vaccine ambassadors' representing different communities will be working with local groups to provide information and reassurance, so people feel confident to accept an offer of vaccination when they are called as part of the national programme. Other initial support measures we've put in place locally include:
  - Asking people from communities where uptake is low or concerns are high to get in touch with the local NHS so support can be offered
  - [Translating](#) key information about registering with GPs into different languages, with further translated materials to follow
  - Developing a film in partnership with a Devon equality organisation to address concerns people may have
  - Using social media advertising to reach groups who may be vaccine hesitant with reassurance messaging
- 2.5. Those with learning disabilities who took part in the engagement felt that:
  - Information about what to expect at the vaccination appointment would help allay anxieties
  - Delivering vaccinations in safe and familiar environments would support vaccine uptake
  - Clear information in accessible formats were required.
- 2.6. Following this feedback, we're developing Easy Read leaflets and have published a [short film](#) to allay anxieties and support people with learning disabilities to have the COVID-19 vaccination.
- 2.7. The joint project between the CCG, NHS England and The Turning Tides Project features 'Michelle' and her carer 'Holly' who were filmed at Mid Devon Healthcare Primary Care Network's vaccination site at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre in Crediton.

## 3. Integrated Care System

- 3.1. We are delighted that Devon has been approved by NHS England and NHS Improvement to be designated as an Integrated Care System for Devon (ICSD) from 1 April 2021.

3.2. ICSD will bring together our health, social care and wider partners to give patients and service users more joined up care and help us improve population health. We have been building the foundations towards an ICS for the past four years. We have, for example:

- Built strong partnerships between our organisations – including joint posts between the NHS and local authorities.
- Set up a new collaborative agreement between three of our hospital providers.
- Merged our two CCGs to enable us to commission services more effectively across the whole county.
- Forged strong links with our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners.
- Partnership working has been at the heart of our remarkable response to the coronavirus pandemic and the vaccination programme. The establishment of our ICS will help to ensure that agile approach and can-do attitude follows into the future.

3.3. ICSD will see the CCG, our three local authorities, NHS Trusts, general practice, community services, mental health trusts, and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector work closely together to improve the health of all residents, better support people living with multiple and long term conditions, prevent illness, tackle variation in care and deliver seamless services while getting maximum impact for every pound.

3.4. As we continue our transition to integrated care systems and await the outcome of the White Paper proposals, it is important we get the governance of the wide system and commissioning functions right. To this end, the shadow ICS partnership Board has established a task and finish group to develop a proposed governance model that will help in this next 12 months of transition and be ready to potentially take on statutory functions next April.

#### **4. Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all**

4.1. On 11 February, the Department of Health and Social Care published the legislative proposals for [a Health and Care Bill](#). The proposals in the white paper are a combination of:

- Proposals developed by NHS England (NHSE) to support the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan
- Additional proposals that relate to public health, social care, and quality and safety matters, which require primary legislation

4.2. The White Paper emphasises that the legislative proposals should be seen in the context of broader current and planned reforms to the NHS, social care, public health and mental health. It commits to bringing forward detailed proposals for reform on these key policy areas later this year.

4.3. As the Board is aware, Devon has been preparing to become an ICS for the past few years. As part of these preparations, we have made changes to how our organisation works so that we strengthen partnership and system working. These changes mean that we are in a good position to implement the proposals set out in the White Paper.

4.4. The White Paper seeks to underpin two forms of integration with new legislation:

- Integration within the NHS to remove some of the boundaries to collaboration and to make working together an organising principle.
  - Greater collaboration between the NHS and local government, and wider delivery partners, to deliver improved outcomes to health and wellbeing for local people.
- 4.5. To deliver this integration, measures will be brought forward to place Integrated Care Systems (ICS) on a statutory footing. These will be comprised of an ICS Health and Care Partnership and an ICS NHS Body.
- 4.6. The ICS NHS Body will be responsible for the day to day running of the ICS and will merge some of the functions currently carried out Devon's STP /ICS with the functions of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The ICS NHS body will be able to delegate significantly to place level.
- 4.7. The ICS Health and Care Partnership will bring together the NHS, local government and other local partners to support integration and develop a plan to address the systems' health, public health and social care needs. The ICS NHS body and local authorities will have to have regard to that plan when making decisions.
- 4.8. The ICS will be expected to work closely with local Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) and the ICS NHS body will have a formal duty to have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.9. Integration will be supported by a broad duty to collaborate across the health and care system. A new duty to collaborate will be placed on NHS organisations (both ICSs and providers) and local authorities and will replace two existing duties to cooperate.
- 4.10. Within the White Paper there is the possibility of further delegation of Primary Care commissioning passing to the Devon system, opening up the opportunity to work more closely with wider primary care providers.
- 4.11. To that end I am pleased to have been invited to both the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, who I met with on 3 March, and the Local Optical Committee to discuss both our Covid experience and the potential that ICS brings. Both are very keen to explore how we can work more closely together and this brings yet more opportunity to integrate the care and support we provide.
- 4.12. Overall, the commitment to further integration and the recognition of the importance of place as a building block for integrated care is welcome. The document is in line with the recent policy direction and builds on the closer working and collaboration between the NHS and local government at a system level. These initial proposals will have implications for the whole Devon ICS system. However, the full impact cannot be assessed until the full text of the Bill is published and further guidance is issued.

## **5. 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance**

- 5.1. The NHS's operational planning guidance outlines how the NHS will operate in 2021-2021. The government has agreed an additional £8.1bn for the first six months of the year, and the financial settlement for the second half will be agreed later. The sum includes £1.5bn allocated for elective recovery, mental health, and workforce development.

5.2. This years guidance is markedly different from those that went before it, the guidance focuses staff wellbeing as its first priority, other priorities include -

- Delivering the NHS COVID vaccination programme and continuing to meet the needs of patients with COVID-19
- Building on what we have learned during the pandemic to transform the delivery of services, accelerate the restoration of elective and cancer care and manage the increasing demand on mental health services
- Expanding primary care capacity to improve access, local health outcomes and address health inequalities
- Transforming community and urgent and emergency care to prevent inappropriate attendance at emergency departments (ED), improve timely admission to hospital for ED patients and reduce length of stay
- Working collaboratively across systems to deliver on these priorities.

5.3. The CCG's teams are currently reviewing the impact of guidance for the 2021/22 year and I will provide the Board an update at a future meeting.

## **6. Long Term Plan**

6.1. As the committee will be aware, at the beginning of the pandemic response NHS England directed local systems to defer the publication of local Long Term Plans.

6.2. As the system begins to de-escalate further work is continuing on the Long Term Plan. As part of the development of the shadow ICS the road map for meeting the requirements of the National NHS LTP reflecting local service delivery and priorities for action are being reviewed.

6.3. This roadmap for implementation of the Devon LTP will be discussed widely as it develops and will form basis of strategy work going forward including the New Hospital Programme which is developing in 3 of the localities.

6.4. Progress will be overseen by the shadow ICS Partnership board.

## **7. Devon Together newspaper reaching thousands**

7.1. I'm pleased that we have published a [community newspaper](#) containing essential information on coronavirus vaccinations, testing, safety and local services to hundreds of thousands of people across the county.

7.2. The 16-page colour newspaper, which was jointly commissioned by the CCG, Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, is being included as a pull-out supplement in more than 300,000 newspapers published across Devon.

7.3. It is also being delivered free directly to homes as well as being offered in selected supermarkets and other publicly-accessible settings.