

Devon Health and Wellbeing Board update

9 January 2023

Management of Industrial Action

The NHS in Devon has actions in place to manage services during industrial action, including an Industrial action plan which coordinates with trusts and Local Care Partnerships and has cells covering key areas such as primary care, and community pharmacy. A system at capacity protocol is being developed, ensuring clear triggers are in place for moving the health and care system in and out of critical incident.

During industrial action dates in December the health and care system continued to experience high demand for services. Locally negotiated derogations enabled some services to continue. During industrial action by ambulance workers, it was agreed that 75% cover would be provided and that Category 1 and Category 2 in public calls were answered as normal. Military personnel also provided additional cover in the South Western Ambulance region, with support from private ambulance providers.

Industrial action is currently planned on Wednesday 11 January 2023, by UNISON (10:00-22:00) and GMB members (00:01-23:59) and on Monday 23 January 2023 By UNISON (00:00-23:59).

On days where there is strike action, South Western Ambulance Service advises that patients should only call 999 if it is a medical or mental health emergency [when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk]. Ambulances will still be able to respond in these situations, but this may only be where there is the most immediate risk to life. Less serious calls may not receive a response for the duration of the strike action. Where the situation is not life-threatening, alternative support will be available through NHS 111 online or through calling NHS 111, and where possible, it is advised that people arrange alternative transport.

Cost of Living summit

The Integrated Care Partnership recently organised a Cost of Living summit, joining more than 70 people from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

One of the key issues was the development of a cost of living dashboard, including a cost of living index. The meeting also allowed for discussion of the VCSE's views on

distribution of the NHS England funding of £300,000 to support activity on the cost of living crisis across the Integrated Care System.

Covid-19 and vaccination update

December marked the second anniversary of the vaccination programme. So far in Devon the programme has administered more than 3.5 million Covid vaccinations.

The number of number of people admitted to hospital with flu and Covid in England has rose quite sharply before Christmas in line with cases in the community. We are continuing to urge eligible people to have their vaccinations.

South West Learning Disability and Autism Capital Inpatient Development

The South West has seen a substantial reduction in the number of people with a learning disability or autism in hospital over the past year.

This has been possible due to an award of £40.5m to develop regional learning disability and autism inpatient beds, which focus on ensuring that resources for inpatient care are focused on care when it is needed, is much closer to home and aligned with the agreed regional clinical model.

Urgent Care improvement and winter resilience

Urgent Care improvement

In line with performance across many systems, in Devon, delivery against the constitutional standards for urgent care has failed to meet national standards. In terms of time lost to ambulance delays. All systems have submitted trajectories to reduce hours lost; however, these trajectories are not yet being consistently met.

Each trust is developing an integrated performance improvement plan targeting urgent and elective care, with key primary care enablers brought together into a system plan. Additional support has been mobilised to support University Hospitals Plymouth.

Winter resilience

NHS England published the Going Further for Winter letter on 18 October 2022 which set out the key actions to be undertaken by systems to improve operational resilience going into winter. This included all systems setting up a 24/7 System Control Centre (SCC) to support system oversight and decision making based on demand and capacity across sites and settings.

The SCC has now been set up in Devon to balance the risk across hospitals, community, mental health, and social care services with an aim of ensuring that clinical risk is appropriately dispersed across the whole ICS during periods of surge. Led by operational leaders and harnessing the power of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), the SCC will ensure a consistent and collective approach to managing system demand and capacity as well as mitigation of risks.

Integrated Quality and Performance update

Trusts are continuing to experience pressures on waiting times in Emergency Departments (ED) and an increase in hours lost to ambulance handover delays. Causes include continued demand, capacity within EDs and patient flow. Actions to mitigate this include creating additional surge capacity, support for discharges and community capacity.

Additional winter funding is supporting additional capacity, equivalent to 310 beds and is split across a number of schemes that support flow and discharges.

Long waiting patients continue to be a priority across the system, with a focus on treating all long waiting patients in specialities with fewer than ten patients waiting above 104 weeks.

NHS Devon Finance report

On 20 June 2022, Devon Integrated Care System (ICS) submitted a deficit plan of £18.2m and an expectation that £138.9m of efficiency savings are needed to meet that plan. Within that plan the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) planned financial position is breakeven with a requirement to deliver £36.5m of efficiency savings.

The delivery of savings and efficiencies is off plan at month 7 by £5m, driven by a slower than expected delivery of savings linked to prescribing, placements and targets associated with the recovery programme.

As at month seven some service lines are currently exceeding budget including some acute services, continuing healthcare, individual placements and primary care prescribing. These variances are currently being covered by contingencies held in reserves.

The ICB has identified risk to delivering a breakeven position of £17.9m at 31 October 2022 including risks relating to delivery of the savings target and increases in prescription drug prices. Actions have been identified that fully mitigate the identified risk, including releasing balance sheet flexibilities and use of non-recurrent funding streams.

Overall, subject to the ICB receiving the expected allocation from NHSE for the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) costs, we are reporting a balanced position. The ARRS relates to primary care additional roles employed by Primary Care Networks that are funded centrally and reimbursed in arrears.

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