

NHS Devon Update

July 2023

Industrial Action in July

The British Medical Association (BMA), British Dental Association (BDA) and Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (HCSA) have announced 120 hours of continuous junior doctors' strike action from 07:00 on Thursday 13 July until 07:00 on Tuesday 18 July. This is the longest period of strike action ever undertaken by doctors in the NHS.

The BMA and BDA has announced that consultant doctors and dentists will also be taking strike action for 48 hours from 07:00 on Thursday 20 July until 07:00 on Saturday 22 July. During the two days of action, both BMA and BDA has advised that consultants will provide Christmas Day cover, meaning they will continue to provide all emergency services but routine services will need to be impacted.

Members of the Society for Radiographers will proceed with 48 hours of strike action as well, from 8am on Tuesday 25 July to 8am on Thursday 27 July 2023.

During the strikes, we will prioritise resources to protect emergency treatment, critical care, maternity, neonatal care and trauma and that will be our absolute priority. We would not want colleagues to underestimate the impact this industrial action will potentially have on our patients.

The NHS will contact patients if their hospital appointment needs to be rescheduled due to strike action. GP practices will continue to be open during the strikes. Patients should continue to attend your GP appointments, unless they are contacted and told otherwise.

Updates about services in Devon and advice to patients during the strike periods will be posted on the NHS Devon website: [Health Pressures - One Devon](#)

Pharmacy Update

The transition for NHS Devon taking on commission responsibilities for Pharmacy, Optometry, Dental from NHS England continues to progress. As it has not been possible to identify additional staff resource for NHS Devon to undertake this work, we are managing the process through a blend of the following three actions:

- 1) Along with the six other ICBs in the South West we are utilising the former NHSE staff under 'hub' arrangements hosted by NHS Somerset
- 2) Exploring and progressing where we might work jointly with NHS Cornwall
- 3) Repurposing some NHS Devon staff capacity previously directed to supporting General Practice to supporting the Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental agendas

Five Year Joint Forward Plan

Our Five Year Joint Forward Plan has been published and is available to read here: <https://onedevon.org.uk/about-us/our-vision-and-ambitions/our-devon-plan/>

Our Five Year Joint Forward Plan is a shared delivery plan for the Integrated Care Strategy and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JLHWSs). It is supported by the whole system, including Local Authorities and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners.

Thank you to the members of the Devon Health & Wellbeing Board for their contributions to the Five Year Joint Forward Plan.

Spring COVID-19 booster

The spring COVID-19 booster campaign ended on Friday 30 June. The NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Spring booster campaign in Devon has provided more than 137,813 vaccinations, which is 72.2% of the eligible population. 72.6 % of over 75s in Devon received their booster (115,688 vaccinations). Devon was the 7th highest (out of 42 ICBs) for the percentage of eligible people receiving their spring booster.

This was the last opportunity for anyone who hasn't had their first or second doses to receive them too. The NHS is now moving to a targeted seasonal offer for those at increased risk.

Further details will be available in the autumn.

Access Treatments for Immune Impaired Patients

The way in which immune impaired patients access treatment if they catch Covid-19 changed on the 27 June. They will no longer be contacted by the NHS about treatments if they report a positive test, they should instead contact either their GP, NHS 111 or their hospital specialist.

The ICB has been working to ensure that GPs, hospital specialists and other healthcare professionals were prepared for the change of responsibility. The following [NICE guidance](#) is available to those who need it.

Highest risk patients who can be digitally identified will [receive a letter](#) explaining the changes.

Over the last few weeks, we have been sharing updates with our practices to inform them of the changes, through both our email bulletins, and a regular webinar that we hold for general practice.

NHS75 – 5 July 2023

The NHS celebrated its 75th anniversary on the 5 July. There has been significant media coverage for NHS 75 in Devon including BBC Radio Devon, BBC Spotlight and ITV Westcountry News. Chair Sarah Wollaston took part in a live panel discussion on BBC Spotlight with fellow NHS representatives from across the region as well as contributing to a feature on BBC Radio Four.

A number of celebrations have taken place for NHS 75 across Devon and we have made the most of this opportunity to thank our hard-working staff.

On the 5 July, ten members of staff from NHS Devon, along with colleagues representing our Trusts, went to Westminster Abbey for a multi-faith service as part of the national NHS 75 celebrations.

Learning Disabilities Nurse Training Launched

Plymouth Marjon University has launched a ground-breaking initiative aimed at training learning disability nurses and combating the decline in the number of registered professionals in this crucial field. It has been developed with partners across the South West including NHS Devon. Further details on this programme can be found here: [Revolutionary training programme launched to address learning disability nurse shortage - One Devon](#)

The new 'Aspire' programme is the first of its kind in England and has welcomed 15 students, ten from Devon and five from Cornwall, as part of its first cohort. 17 further students will join later in the year.

Since 2009, England has experienced a 42% decrease in registered learning disability nurses, from 5,553 to 3,214 in 2021. This new programme from Plymouth Marjon University is designed to tackle this issue and meet the growing demand for qualified professionals across the country.

The launch of this new training programme coincides with the announcement of the new Long Term Workforce Plan from NHS England: [NHS England » NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#)

Making a complaint about primary care services

From 1 July 2023 patients who wish to make a complaint about primary care services in Devon should contact the local integrated care board (ICB), NHS Devon, for advice and signposting.

This includes GPs, dentists, opticians, and community pharmacy services.

In all cases NHS Devon will recommend a complainant raises their concerns or complaint directly with the healthcare provider: this is the organisation where the patient received the NHS service, for example a GP surgery or dental surgery.

NHS Devon will support patients and their representative with any concerns or complaints regarding primary care services in Devon, however, unless directly concerning the commissioning of the service will recommend any complaints are handled with the provider directly.

Contact details

- Telephone: 0300 123 1672
- Email: d-icb.patientexperience@nhs.net
- Post: Patient Advice and Complaints team, Pomona House, Edginswell Business Park, Oak View Close Torquay TQ2 7FF
- Contact information can also be found on the One Devon website: www.onedevon.org.uk/contact-us/patient-advice-and-complaints/

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