

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 28 JANUARY 2021**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN****Coronavirus Update**

As we enter week four of the third national lockdown, it is becoming clear that whilst lockdown has prevented the worst of the explosive rise in numbers seen before Christmas in London and the South East, the lockdown is not driving down rates as fast as was hoped.

Across the breadth of the Incident Management Team partners, work continues at pace. A number of asymptomatic testing sites using lateral flow devices are being set up around the County. Wigston and Blaby are now operational with North West Leicestershire opening soon. A current focus of work involves working with employers to reduce workplace spread and seeking to increase rates of self-isolation compliance.

Health and care response

The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland health and care system continues to face pressure on all services as we work collaboratively to ensure that our population has access to services in a timely manner. The current challenge of the pandemic is coupled with added pressure of winter illness and EU exit as well as the launch of the largest mass vaccination programme in the history of the NHS. Through the Health Economy Strategic Command Group (HESCG) and the Health Economy Tactical Command Group (HETCG) the LLR health and care system continues to coordinate workforce, service delivery and risks as a single unit, with support from the LLR Clinical Executive.

There has been a significant increase in COVID related activity across every sector, including primary care, ambulance and acute services, 111 and other navigation services and our care services. However, all our 'access points' have remained open and accessible to patients, ensuring that patients are directed to the most appropriate service for their need.

At the time of writing, University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) are responding to an increase in COVID-19 positive patients. At Midnight of the 21st January 2021, there were 487 patients within UHL diagnosed with COVID-19. In-line with the full LLR health and social care system, UHL has prepared for up to 50% of the general acute bed base (700 beds) to be occupied with COVID-19 positive patients (this also includes planning to surge to up to 200% of Intensive Care Unit capacity).

The strong UHL & LLR incident management (Command and Control) approach (seen in COVID-19 wave 1) has been maintained. This health and social care joint working has enabled collaborative & rapid approaches to decision making, allowing for daily actions to be taken in response to the ever changing situation. Key actions include the focus on only P1 & P2 outpatient/surgical activity to release capacity (both physical space and workforce). The LLR response to covid-19 is multi-agency

in its nature and (like the first wave of COVID-19) private healthcare providers (such as Nuffield and Spire) have provided capacity to ensure the most urgent elective/cancer work can continue. To ensure private capacity is maximised and no slots unused, daily communications and dynamic waiting list management approaches have been adopted. The relationship between CCG, UHL & private providers has remained very strong throughout the response to the pandemic.

COVID Vaccination Programme

The LLR COVID vaccination programme is split into three areas of focus; Local Vaccination sites, Hospital hubs and the Mass Vaccination Centre.

There are 18 Local Vaccination sites, run by our 25 Primary Care Networks, covering the patients of all 133 GP practices in LLR. These sites began delivering vaccine in 'waves' from December 14th 2020 and January 13th 2021; all sites are currently live and delivering vaccination, starting with priority cohorts (care home residents and staff, those over 80 and health and care staff). At the time of writing 98% of care home residents and staff have been completed, with a significant number of the over 80 cohort completed as well.

At the time of writing, our 3 UHL run hospital hubs have (with support of system partners) delivered over 20,000 vaccinations to a mix of both health & social care staff and patients. This vaccination programme has taken place across all three UHL sites & included both the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines. A further 2 hospital hub sites run by LPT are planned to come on line this month.

Our mass vaccination centre has been designated as the 'Peepul Centre', situated in the north of Leicester City. This will have capacity to deliver 1560 vaccines daily once vaccines are available to that level. The site is expected to open on January 25th with an increase in delivery capacity as vaccine becomes available.

Our current plans are to vaccinate all four priority cohorts by mid-February. These include:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- All those 75 years of age and over
- All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

Vaccine dependant, the LLR system is on track to deliver against this mandate.

Adults Social Care

The Adults and Communities Department continues to review its ability to meet individual and collective needs in line with Care Act Easements and Ethical Care guidance.

Face to face assessment and professional visits are only made where there are no alternatives available and visiting is essential to keep people safe and ensure people have the right care.

The Department are working closely with domiciliary and other providers to ensure there is capacity to deliver personal care services across the county in people's own homes and in care settings. Face to face services continue where they are essential to deliver personal care and support in community and resources are being redeployed to support direct provision and market oversight where possible.

A high priority is to ensure flow across the health and care system through support to hospital discharge processes and reinforcing Home First services. Community Life Choices (CLC) services to support only to those at highest risk. Other service users to be encouraged to remain at home where safe to do so.

Over 80% of care homes in the county have experienced outbreaks since March and currently over a quarter of care homes have ongoing situations.

7,000 tests of care home residents and staff are being undertaken every week which equates to a compliance rate of around 80%, of which on average around 4% are positive. Overall infection rates show 5% of residents tested positive and 3.2% of staff. Of residents who tested positive only 12% were symptomatic and of staff who tested positive 32% were symptomatic.

Sadly, over 80 people have died from Covid-19 illness since beginning of December which equates to 2% of all care home residents in Leicestershire, which has raised the overall mortality rate in care homes to higher than would normally be expected

Social care services are supporting NHS colleagues in aiming for all care homes for older people to be vaccinated completed by 24 January 2020. Key risks include vaccine deliveries and availability, and if care homes have active outbreaks meaning it is not safe for the teams to go in.

The Department is focussing on communication and engagement to promote take up of the vaccine particularly with care home staff including Open Q&A sessions targeting staff who are anxious or have questions about the vaccine, to allay fears, answer queries and address myths.

Occupancy levels in care homes remains at around 80% across the county which impacts on the sustainability of the sector in longer term.

The stability of the care market continues to be monitored and additional support provided where required to ensure continuation of care delivery, and mitigate the potential for failing market in CLC and day care and provider failure in residential care.

The Council is making additional provider payments to meet costs that may be incurred due to extra cost of delivering services and increased demand for service, and we continue to support care settings with advice and guidance on Infection, prevention and Control, PPE, and workforce issues.

It's Down to Us campaign

The County Council is continuing to produce a range of communications to promote the “It’s down to us” campaign across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, with the aim of encouraging residents to play their part in controlling the spread of coronavirus.

Across LLR, partners are working together to communicate key national messaging around coronavirus – including lockdown reminders, NHS ‘act like you’ve got it’ campaign to raise awareness of asymptomatic spread, reduce pressure on the NHS by directing people to the 111 service and encouraging people to get an NHS test if they have symptoms.

Joint Strategic Need Assessments

The three year time period (2018-21) for the JSNA cycle will be come to an end in March 2021. We published a number of chapters throughout the three-year period, these are:

- Demography Report
- Economy Report
- Housing Report
- Oral Health of Children and Young People
- Oral Health of Adults
- Mental Health of Children and Young People
- Mental Health of Adults
- Best Start in life (0-5s)
- Alcohol Misuse in Adults
- Substance Misuse in Adults
- Air Quality and Health
- Obesity: Physical Activity, Healthy Weight and Nutrition
- Multimorbidity and Frailty
- Sexual Health
- Loneliness
- Tobacco Control
- Children and Young People’s Physical Health (5-19)

The chapters can be accessed at <https://www.lsr-online.org/leicestershire-2018-2021-jsna.html>.

Due to capacity being shifted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were two chapters (Dementia and Carer's) on the JSNA work programme that were postponed and will be picked up in the next year. This year (2021/2022), we hope to progress with the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment which was also postponed from 2020/2021 in line with national guidance. The next cycle of the JSNA will commence in March 2022 and we will agree the work programme with the Health and Wellbeing Board in due course

Start a Conversation and Mental Health Campaigns

The campaign signposts to a range of wellbeing or mental health support for adults locally and nationally, collated on the Start a Conversation website:

<https://www.startaconversation.co.uk/coronavirus-and-mental-wellbeing>.

The Council is also using its social channels to signpost to mental health resources for young people, on the Health for Teens website:

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/leicestershire/mental-health-support-during-covid-19/>.

Weight Management Service

The focus continues to be on raising awareness of the service and its free, personalised support over the phone and online. A new area of the service, Weight Management in Pregnancy, is due to launch in March.

Leicestershire Warm Homes Fund Project

As Big Energy Saving Week (18 – 24 January) continues, Leicestershire County Council is working with E.ON to provide people across the region with free, first-time gas central heating installation, and is urging eligible residents to apply now.

Households not connected to mains gas and currently relying on inefficient ways of heating their homes, for example old electric storage or panel heaters, could be eligible for the measures, which are part of the Leicestershire Warm Homes Fund Project.

Residents on certain income levels or those in receipt of certain benefits, including child benefit, or those who are now receiving Universal Credit due to the pandemic, may also be able to apply for the support.

Residents taking up the offer could save an average of around £630 per year on fuel bills and benefit from a warmer, more comfortable home.

In addition to the first-time gas central heating, eligible residents may also be able to receive free insulation measures for their homes, including loft and cavity wall insulation, further improving the warmth and comfort of homes across the county.

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