

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 9 JULY 2020**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN****Coronavirus**

Since the start of the COVID-19 emergency in March 2020, health, social care and community partners have been working together to minimise the spread of the virus, to effectively treat and support people who contract the virus and to maintain essential services for patients and service users.

On behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board I would like to thank all those who have helped manage and deliver the initial resilience response and the ongoing recovery work to protect our residents, local services, and in particular our most vulnerable groups. This appreciation also extends to other key workers who are continuing to work tirelessly to keep critical services going during these unprecedented times.

Local Lockdown

In terms of the Local lockdown of Leicester City and some of the surrounding County, I understand the disappointment felt by those residents, parents of schoolchildren and businesses affected as they see restrictions eased for the majority of the country, but it is crucial that people continue to heed the advice and play their part in helping to save lives and livelihoods.

The lockdown is referenced in the supplementary report which will be considered as item 9 on the agenda. In addition we will consider a presentation by the Director of Public Health which will provide data on cases at the middle super output area (MSOA).

Wellbeing Wednesday

The County Council has introduced a dedicated day for wellbeing on the social media platform Instagram – Wellbeing Wednesday – where we share and promote positive mental health and wellbeing messages.

We have also continued to increase our sharing of messages concerning mental health and wellbeing from NHSE, PHE, DHSC, our health partners across LLR, and charities including Samaritans and Mind.

In response to an increase in the number of suicide cases in the region compared to 2019, we have led a joint project aimed at providing tailored mental health resources for those with diverse needs, in line with our Start a Conversation suicide prevention campaign. We worked in partnership with Leicester City and Rutland County; Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups; and Leicestershire Police, including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The pack can be viewed here:

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

In addition we have also worked in partnership with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, and Leicester City and Rutland County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and Leicestershire Police, to develop a children and young people's Covid-19 Mental Health Resource Pack, which can be viewed here:

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

Quit Ready

We have recently finished a social media campaign signposting to both our Quit Ready service and the national #QuitforCovid campaign and its website, www.todayistheday.co.uk. The messages focused on the financial benefits of quitting, the various health benefits and the increased risks of second-hand smoke during lockdown.

We have interviewed and published new success stories on the Quit Ready website, featuring clients who decided to quit during the lockdown or due to Covid-19.

National Smile Month

We worked with the Oral Health Improvement Team to create a range of communications for National Smile Month (18th May – 18th June), including weekly top tips published on the intranet and our corporate and health and wellbeing social media channels; Share a Smile competition, which encouraged staff across the council to nominate a colleague who makes others smile; and an activity pack for nurseries.

Warm Homes Fund Project

The Leicestershire Warm Homes Fund Project has now launched, in partnership with E.ON and Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland.

We are in the middle of a series of social media posts to promote the launch of the Fund and to encourage residents to get ready for winter now by applying to the project, and/or to contact the existing Warm Homes Service via First Contact Plus for advice on staying warm and cutting fuel costs.

Reporting Domestic Violence

We're continuing to support a campaign being led by the police, encouraging people to report domestic abuse, both if they are recognising their own behaviour being unacceptable or the behaviour of others. This is following a national rise in reports of abuse, during the lockdown period.

This will be accompanied by a video aimed at those experiencing domestic abuse, those who have had a victim of domestic abuse confide in them, and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

A SELECTION OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS

Delivering core NHS and care services during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond: Letter to the Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee

Covid-19 has led to rapid changes in the way health and care services are delivered, as providers refocused their efforts on tackling the pandemic. The House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee has launched an inquiry to better understand the impact the crisis has had on core NHS and care services during the pandemic and beyond. As part of that inquiry, The King's Fund, Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust have submitted a joint letter to the Committee warning that it will take many months before NHS and social care organisations are able to fully restart services following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Read the full article produced by the Kingsfund here:

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/letter-to-health-and-social-care-select-committee-covid-19>

NHS boosts support for pregnant black and ethnic minority women

The NHS is rolling out additional support for pregnant Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) women, as new research shows heightened risks facing women from minority groups.

Analysis out today shows Black pregnant women are eight times more likely to be admitted to hospital with COVID-19, while Asian women are four times as likely.

Urgent action is being taken by the NHS in England to protect expectant mums, including increasing uptake of important Vitamin D and undertaking outreach in neighbourhoods and communities in their area.

England's most senior midwife, Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, has written to all maternity units in the country calling on them to take four specific actions which will minimise the additional risk of COVID-19 for BAME women and their babies.

The common sense steps include:

1. Increasing support of at-risk pregnant women – e.g. making sure clinicians have a lower threshold to review, admit and consider multidisciplinary escalation in women from a BAME background.
2. Reaching out and reassuring pregnant BAME women with tailored communications.
3. [Ensuring hospitals discuss vitamins, supplements and nutrition in pregnancy](#) with all women. Women low in vitamin D may be more vulnerable to coronavirus so women with darker skin or those who always cover their skin

when outside may be at particular risk of vitamin D insufficiency and should consider taking a daily supplement of vitamin D all year.

4. Ensuring all providers record on maternity information systems the ethnicity of every woman, as well as other risk factors, such as living in a deprived area (postcode), co-morbidities, BMI and aged 35 years or over, to identify those most at risk of poor outcomes.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/nhs-boosts-support-for-pregnant-black-and-ethnic-minority-women/>

NHS England announces overwhelming take up of new primary care network contract

Millions of patients across the country are set to continue to benefit from additional action to spot cancer early, joined up care for patients with chronic disease, extra NHS support for care homes residents and easier access to medication reviews thanks to additional investment in family doctors and their teams.

Almost all GP practices in England have signed up to the new Primary Care Network (PCN) contract for the next year, meaning they will receive a share of half a billion pounds a year of extra investment to employ more staff and deliver more services in or near to people's homes – a total investment of £1.4 billion by 23/24 to help deliver an extra 26,000 workforce roles.

Primary care has been at the forefront of the NHS response to coronavirus pandemic and has accelerated the transformation of services first set out in the NHS Long Term Plan last year.

Read the full article here

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/nhs-england-announces-overwhelming-take-up-of-new-primary-care-network-contract/>

King's Fund Podcast

This King's Fund podcast explores the critical role that volunteers have played in the response to Covid-19. Anna Charles sat down with Catherine Johnstone CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Voluntary Service, to find out about volunteering during Covid-19, the NHS Volunteer Responders scheme and how we can ensure that widespread community engagement can last beyond the current crisis and into the long term. Listen here <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/podcast/volunteering-covid-19-human-connection-global-pandemic>

Public Perceptions of Health and Social Care in Light of Covid-19

The Health Foundation commissioned Ipsos MORI to carry out a survey of the general public in Great Britain to gather their views on a range of health and care issues in light of COVID-19.

The survey findings show that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased public recognition of the role of the state in supporting good health. You can read the report on the survey findings here <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/public-perceptions-of-health-and-social-care-in-light-of-covid-19>

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