

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 25 NOVEMBER 2021

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Coronavirus Update

Rates continue to increase across the county with a 24% increase compared to the previous seven day period. Higher rates are witnessed amongst primary and secondary school age children with cases flowing through to the older population, expected continued high rates from now until Christmas.

Included at the end of this position statement is a paper produced by the Director of Public Health which provides an overview of data for the County.

The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Health and care system remains under significant pressure as we seek to maintain service delivery in some areas, restore and recover service delivery in others and begin to implement surge plans in readiness for winter and any further COVID 'waves'.

In regards to system pressures, focus is maintained on four key areas of work: Non-acute services including primary care, Home First services including our joint health and care two-hour response services, acute services provided by Leicester's Hospitals and elective care, including work with both UHL and partner providers. Each of these is inter-related and cuts across service provision in NHS and local authority provided services.

For non-acute services, the system continues to work with primary care to manage the demand on services and to reduce the backlog of care for long term conditions. The LLR system is providing appointments well above pre-pandemic levels (8.5% over 2019) it is recognised that more needs to be done to manage this demand. A large part of this is management of patients with long term conditions. Our ambition is to assess 80% of patients on the primary care backlog; as of November, primary care remains on track to do this, despite national issues such as the recent blood bottle shortage.

For Home First services, our plans remain to achieve the 80% national standard of two-hour response, enabled by 99 additional LPT and 30 additional Leicestershire County local authority staff coming into post by December 2021.

Acute services remain under daily significant pressures, with more patients admitted daily than discharged, causing poor flow and in turn delays to ambulance handovers. At various points of the day, there can be upwards of 40 patients walking into the emergency department, with some patients reporting poor access to primary, elective or social care services as their reason for attendance. There are plans in place to open additional primary care led services on-site at the LRI to support this through the winter period – this will also cover children's services, given the expected surge in children and young people experiencing respiratory illness over winter.

For elective services, we continue to work on reducing the numbers of patients awaiting elective care. Our current modelling shows that we will treat all patient awaiting 104 weeks by the end of March and we are currently on trajectory to do this for all day-case and non-admitted and admitted patients. Our teams continue to work to communicate with our patients; there is however some patient feedback that we could do better on this and we will therefore look to refresh our plans in partnership with patient representatives.

There remains a considerable amount of risk within the health and care system currently and this is expected to continue through the expected winter surge. Plans are also being drawn up with regards to service provision should COVID hospitalisations increase. These will be shared once approved by the LLR Clinical Executive and the LLR Integrated Care Partnership.

Adults Social Care

Adult Social Care services are facing unprecedented demand which is presenting an unsustainable position for the Council both in respect to the capacity of providers to meet increasing levels of need and the capacity of the Council to fund services. A high priority is to ensure flow across the health and care system through support to hospital discharge processes and reinforcing Home First services.

The Adults and Communities Department is 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. Market oversight continues, providing monitoring, early warning, quality support and where required direct intervention where a provider is unstable. However, there has been an increase in the demands for services and the closure of some care services as we move out of the pandemic, recruitment and retention being a significant factor contributing to provider closures, and/ or the handing back of care contracts.

The procurement of domiciliary care services has recently concluded, with the new Home Care for Leicestershire service starting earlier this month.

Recruitment and retention of staff across adult social care remains challenging with many workers re-evaluating their work life balance and career options as other industries, such as hospitality, leisure, retail, and distribution develop following the height of the pandemic. A newly invigorated recruitment campaign from the Council's Inspired to Care initiative is in place for the care sector, to seek social care staff needed to ensure safe services, and sufficient capacity to meet growing demands.

Community Life Choices (CLC) services supported only those at highest risk during the first year of the pandemic; however, over the last few months people have returned to using building based services in line with the easing of national restrictions, where they wish to and where it is safe to do so. The online provision introduced during the pandemic that was offered as an alternative to building based services is now a choice. CLC services have been re-procured, with the new contracts beginning later this month.

The deadline for mandatory vaccination of staff who need to work or visit care homes has now passed; officers have supported providers and worked with the sector to assess and mitigate any impact. By mid-November, 159 out of 167 care homes in Leicestershire were of low risk of instability as a result of the mandatory vaccination requirement, and a small number (8) were medium risk, denoting a small likelihood and impact of some service disruption.

Work has commenced to assess the implications of the mandatory vaccination on the wider health and social care system, which is expected to be implemented in early April, and for which planning and risk management will take several months. In domiciliary care, first vaccine dose take-up has reached 86.8% and 80.2% for the second,

The efforts of care home providers in managing infection prevention and control and supporting their workers to take the COVID-19 vaccine reduced outbreaks in care homes to two in late June. However, as of mid-November, there were eight outbreaks involving eight staff and 32 residents.

The increased outbreak level is the result of many factors including community transmission and waning resident and worker protection from their initial vaccinations. The booster programme is progressing although as at mid-November only 50% of residents are reported as having received the booster vaccination.

Approximately three-quarters of Leicestershire care home residents have a routine COVID test monthly, and two-thirds of care home staff test themselves weekly. At present the rate of infection amongst residents is 0%, and 0.5% for staff.

Despite care homes' incredible efforts to keep people safe, unfortunately 153 Leicestershire care home residents have died as a result of COVID since January. In the time since COVID pandemic records began in early April 2020, sadly 353 care home residents in the county have been confirmed as having died from COVID.

The authority has a dedicated communication plan for seasonal flu to support uptake of adult social care workers' free vaccine entitlement. All internal staff are now eligible and can book a free vaccination at contracted community pharmacists across the county or can be re-imbursed if they choose to buy a vaccination from an alternate site. The roll-out of flu vaccination to care homes is progressing, data as of 11th November records 44.5% of residents and 49.1% of staff being vaccinated.

Occupancy levels in care homes remains at a similar level to January 2021, around 82% across the county, which impacts on the sustainability of the sector in the 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 availability of future care and support.

In September 2020, PPE was made available free through a national portal to CQC regulated providers and the Local Resilience Forum for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has ensured access for other eligible services.

Examples of this provision include packs of essential PPE for social work staff and people on direct payments; rough sleeping and domestic abuse sites have received

stock as have education settings, district and borough councils and unpaid carers. Most recently other agencies have become eligible such as Faith Groups and voluntary sector organisations.

The most notable support came about in response to the introduction of FFP3 masks into care services where staff were undertaking aerosol generating procedures (AGPs). Such masks need to be 'fit tested' to a person's face to ensure efficacy. Local authorities, NHS partners and the Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service came together in this multi-agency response, led by Leicestershire.

The Council continues to allocate national COVID-19 related funding to care providers equitably and in line with the eligibility requirements and nationally set formulas. We seek to be as flexible as possible in its distribution and to make the mandated reporting from providers on its expenditure proportionate. The authority is also appraising the sustainability of adult social care markets to inform its future commissioning strategy.

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Due to the current pandemic, there has been a delay with the 2021 PNA. Work is expected to commence shortly for completion by October 2022. A paper will be presented at the next HWB meeting in February 2022 to outline the process and timescales for the assessment.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The three year time period (2018-21) for the JSNA cycle came to an end in March 2021. We published a number of chapters throughout the three-year period that can be accessed at <https://www.isr-online.org/leicestershire-2018-2021-jsna.html>.

Chapters published:

- *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)*
- *SEND*

Due to capacity being shifted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and more up to date data expected to become available next year (2022), the Carer's JSNA chapter will be included on the next cycle of the JSNA programme. A further update will be provided at the next HWB with regards to the next cycle of the JSNA programme.

Dementia JSNA

The Dementia JSNA chapter was delayed to allow sufficient time to gain further input from key stakeholders working in the area of Dementia across health and social care. It was not possible to achieve this within a shorter timeframe due to some of this work taking place over the summer holiday period (July-August 2020) and as result of ongoing additional pressures on staff capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was thought that factoring a slight delay in the timeline would enable a more useful output and link with the ongoing development of the Dementia Strategy. The Dementia JSNA Chapter will now be presented at the Board's meeting in February 2022.

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan

At today's meeting the Board will be asked to comment on the County Council's draft Strategic Plan (2022 – 26) as part of the consultation exercise.

The Strategic Plan sets the aims which the Council will focus on achieving over the next four years, so it will have a significant influence on all Council service planning and delivery. A 12-week public consultation seeking feedback on the vision, aims and actions within this Plan closes on the 21 January 2022. The consultation webpage which includes the draft Plan and a summary version, along with the consultation survey, can be found here

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/leicestershire-county-council%E2%80%99s-strategic-plan-2022-2026>

We are very keen to hear the views of members from key partnerships and would be grateful if Board members could help to promote the consultation within their organisations and through any networks with residents, community groups and partners.'

Health and Wellbeing Board Communications Update

Covid-19 and Vaccinations

We have reviewed the 'enjoy being back' campaign and changed it to 'stay on track. We are pulling together winter communications and a Christmas campaign including the whereabouts of the community vans.

We are continuing to push out messages on 12-15 year olds clinics and other pop up clinics where needed. WhatsApp messages around winter vaccinations and targeted booster messages are going out to care homes

Mental health and suicide prevention

We are working on the Start A Conversation website to make it more user-friendly and informative for both public and professional use. This is in its early stage with a draft site map proposed.

Weight Management Service

The service has launched two new areas. Healthy4Me is for residents with learning disabilities, and Men's Weight Management is a specialist service for men, with group sessions. New comms materials have been created for both; including posters, leaflets, social media static images and also changes to the materials users are given to complete the course.

The website has also been updated to be more structured, and with a more positive tone and new images.

Warm Homes Fund

We have supported E.ON and Age UK with communications including targeted mailshots and media releases. In addition, we have created a media release telling the story of a resident from Hinckley who has benefited from the scheme. Multiple Google Ads have been running, with the current one focused on the Warm Homes Discount. We have also run LinkedIn ads, and organic social media. To combat negative social media comments, we worked with E.ON to create a statement in response.

Healthy Schools and Healthy Tots

As part of the continuing rebrand, we have designed an email template for newsletters, and have updated certificates and materials the setting receives. Two videos about each service are currently being developed.

Alcohol and substance misuse support

We have created an identity for My Turning Point that is more positive and focused on wellbeing. This has included a social media campaign with new design work, and a toolkit for partners with example messaging for online and social media, and a blurb explaining the service for a consistent message. We supported comms (email invite, newsletter, LinkedIn posts, social media) for the Alcohol Awareness Week workshop event which was well attended by 160 people.

QuitReady

Throughout Stoptober, we promoted the service across social media and on Yammer with each week focusing on a specific topic (motivations, health benefits, managing cravings, further support available). We also created an article on LinkedIn about stress and smoking with helpful tips to manage cravings.