

Scrutiny Briefing Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Adult Social Care and Health)

Date of Meeting: 4 January 2022

Subject: Report of Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer

Organisation: NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG

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Purpose/Summary

To provide Members of the Committee with an update about the work of NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) are requested to receive this report.

Update for Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care) January 2022

If you would like more information about any of the items contained in this update, if you have any questions about local health services, or any particular issues you would like to raise, please call 0151 317 8456.

Update on system changes

There were some important developments at the end of the year in Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's journey towards becoming a statutory Integrated Care System status by 1 April 2022. Naming conventions for the different parts of the system have been confirmed to NHS England and Improvement (NHSE/I). The Integrated Care Board (ICB) will be known as NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) will be Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, with the overall Integrated Care System (ICS) will be Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System. These names, in line with conventions sets out in the Health and Social Care Bill, reflect little change and confirms the commitment shared by all partners in the system to working together and continuing to build on joint successes so far. Partners views have also informed a constitution for the ICB, which is now in place after agreement.

Graham Urwin started in his appointed role of Chief Executive Designate of Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board on 1 December. Graham, former director of performance and improvement at NHSE/I North West, replaces Sheena Cumiskey who has filled the role on interim basis since August last year and who has now returned to her substantive role with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. David Flory has confirmed he will continue as interim chair until 31 March 2022 and this will ensure continued stability during the transition to an ICS. The process to appoint a permanent chair will begin early in the new year and recruitment has begun for two non executive and three statutory executive board members of the ICB.

Sefton CCGs are working towards close down and transfer to the ICB from 1 April. They continue to work closely with Sefton Council and other local partners on the emerging place based partnership (PBP), which is making good progress. The PBP will work as part of the ICS and strengthen local arrangements to improve health and care and deliver the priorities of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the local plan for the NHS, Sefton2gether.

Blood tube disruption

Blood testing in Sefton is now back to normal levels. It follows issues with the national supply of blood testing tubes in August 2021, which led to NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) issuing urgent guidance requiring all primary care and community blood testing to be halted until 17 September 2021, except for clinically urgent testing. The CCGs worked with local laboratory partners and providers to manage and monitor supplies as they have increased to expected levels in November.

COVID-19 vaccination update

The NHS has been marking the first anniversary of the start of the biggest vaccination programme in its history. The COVID-19 vaccination programme launched nationally in hospital hubs on 8 December 2020. The set up of local vaccination centres quickly followed to boost the roll out of the programme and on 15 December the first local jab was given to 85 year old Southport resident, Marilyn Cull at Southport Centre for Health and Wellbeing. The first local vaccination centres were run by groups of GP practices known as primary care networks, working together with NHS South Sefton CCG and NHS Southport and Formby CCG and with vital support from a team of volunteers. As the programme has developed the majority of Sefton's local vaccination centres are now run by local pharmacies. Over the course of the year, vaccination sites have been in a variety of locations such as GP practices, town halls, community centres, pharmacies and more to help make the vaccines available to all communities in Sefton. As well as fixed vaccination sites there have been 'roving' teams launching pop-up sites in different locations, such as Hugh Baird College in Bootle and Peel Ports in Seaforth, as well as visiting care homes right across the borough. Sefton has also had several visits from the 'vaccination bus' – a four wheeled mobile vaccine clinic that has travelled all over Merseyside during the course of the vaccination programme.

One year on and Sefton's COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to make steady progress in delivering first, second, third and booster doses to residents at a variety of centres in the borough – mainly at pharmacy run sites and bookable appointments at Southport Centre for Health and Wellbeing, Seaforth Village Surgery and Netherton Health Centre - and in people's homes for those who are housebound. Concerted promotion of the vaccine continues and the CCGs continue to share information and toolkits with partners so they can help encourage uptake via their communications channels, networks and forums. Monitoring of communities and areas of the borough with lower uptake continues and recent initiatives to address this includes working with COVID-19 engagement officers on a focused and intensive 'boots on the ground' promotion exercise.

To see a video charting the first year of the vaccination programme in Sefton, as well as interviews with volunteers and clinicians who have been involved please visit [here](#)

Winter well communications

Sefton's CCGs have been working with Sefton Council, Sefton CVS, Healthwatch Sefton and other partners on a range of communications activities to help people stay well over the winter months. This includes encouraging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and flu and signposting them to the best service for their health and wellbeing needs. A 'Get Winter Ready' online event brought together speakers from a range of NHS and voluntary, community and faith sector services to raise awareness of the support available to people locally. Attendees included Healthwatch Community Champions and CVS Community Connectors, who were equipped with a winter ready checklist during the session, which they can use to support wellbeing conversations amongst their groups and networks.

Key winter campaign messages have also been shared via press releases, social media, newspaper adverts and leaflet distribution into community venues working with Sefton Council's COVID-19 engagement officers.

You can view the winter ready checklist from the following links:

- NHS Southport and Formby CCG - <https://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/winter-health-checklist/>
- NHS South Sefton CCG – <https://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/winter-health-checklist/>

Public consultation about hyper acute stroke services underway

The NHS in Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and West Lancashire has launched a 12 week public consultation about the proposal to establish a Comprehensive Stroke Centre at Aintree University Hospital. The proposal aims to improve hyper acute stroke services, which is the hospital care provided in the 72 hour period immediately after someone has a stroke. Currently, there are hyper acute stroke services at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Aintree University Hospital, and Southport Hospital. However local expertise and resources are spread across three sites, so it can be difficult to ensure that patients get equitable access to the specialist staff, tests, equipment and procedures they need - especially in the critical three days following a stroke. Local clinicians have developed this proposal for a single, Comprehensive Stroke Centre at Aintree University Hospital. This would bring together local hyper acute services on the same site as The Walton Centre, which provides a specialist stroke treatment called thrombectomy. If the changes went ahead, it would mean that in the future all suspected stroke patients would be taken to Aintree Hospital for the first 72 hours of stroke care – even those who may have previously been treated at the Royal Liverpool Hospital or Southport Hospital. Afterwards, up to half of patients would leave hospital to continue their recovery in their own homes with an early supported discharge team. Those not ready for discharge, would transfer one of three acute stroke rehabilitation units at either Aintree, Broadgreen, or Southport hospitals to continue their recovery. The proposal does not involve any reduction in the amount of NHS funding spent on stroke care locally – in fact, it would see an increase in investment. This includes an additional one off investment of £4m to develop the new Comprehensive Stroke Centre at Aintree Hospital, and an extra £1.9m invested into running the service year on year.

The public can find out more about the proposals for improving hyper acute stroke services and how to share their views between 22 November 2021 and 14 February 2022 from the following website www.liverpoolccg.nhs.uk/stroke

Roe Lane and Christiana Hartley patients surveyed

Patients at two GP practices in Southport have been taking part in a survey about changes to the way their practices operate. Roe Lane Surgery merged with Christiana Hartley Medical Practice in April 2021 to strengthen services for patients as a result of the retirement of the sole GP partner and other workforce challenges. This merger ensured that continuous care and treatment could be provided to patients but it has led to the permanent closure of the site at Roe Lane to consolidate staff and create a single and stronger practice team. In early July 2021, Roe Lane became a COVID-19 Contact Centre, only seeing and treating patients with COVID-19 symptoms. This meant that all patients without COVID-19 symptoms have been seen by the team at Christiana Hartley Medical Practice if they have needed face to face appointments. Roe Lane Surgery stopped being a COVID-19 Contact Centre in September and it is not reopening for face to face appointments. This is due to ongoing estates and workforce challenges and will make the practice more resilient. By bringing the two teams together on one base, more appointments are now offered and the practice is better able to cover periods of leave or sickness. The modern facilities offered at Christiana Hartley have recently been updated, including an additional clinic room and it has better access for patients with disabilities, such as a ramp and automatic door at the entrance. By contrast Roe Lane is outdated and not fit for purpose for delivering modern primary care services and it would be too expensive to re-develop to meet future needs.

Patients at both practices have been asked what the change means for them and the results will inform any mitigations that need to be put in place now Roe Lane is permanently closed. At the same time patients are being asked for their experiences of the changes all GP practices have been required to introduce since the start of the pandemic to keep people safe. The survey closed on 4 December and the results will be evaluated in early 2022.

GP COVID-19 access survey begins to roll out

A survey to gain patients experiences of the changes introduced in all GP practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has started to roll out in Sefton. The survey was launched first in Southport and Formby. From 29 November practices in the area began to send invitations mainly by text or letter asking their patients to complete an online questionnaire about their experience of using their services since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. The survey started to roll out in south Sefton from 6 December. The exercise will help practices respond to the requirements of this year's Local Quality Contract focused on understanding and improving patient access. Flexibility has been built into the survey's design. This means that patients registered at a small number of practices where there have been site changes as a result of the pandemic, or where there are longer term changes, such as those at Roe Lane and Christiana Hartley, will be asked additional questions.

Practice's will discuss their results with patient participation groups to explore how access can be improved. Additionally, the overarching themes will help the CCGs to understand if any wider measures can be put in place to support practices and their patients.

GP practice access

We continue to remind residents, through press releases, social media and other channels about the four ways they can access healthcare at their GP practice during this busy time for the whole of the NHS:

- Visit your GP practice website and complete a confidential online form during normal opening hours to request advice or treatment. You will receive a response as soon as possible, usually within two working days. Online forms should not be used for very urgent medical problems.
- Call your practice to arrange an appointment. You will usually be assessed by a health professional or a member of the practice team on the telephone first, with face-to-face care arranged if clinically needed. If you have a preference about how to access care you can discuss it with your practice.
- For urgent issues or out of hours, you can also call the NHS on 111 or go online to seek NHS advice [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)
- Download the NHS App to order repeat prescriptions and get health advice.

We are also raising awareness of the range of professionals who are part of the practice healthcare team. To support this, we have produced some videos of staff talking about their expert roles, such as an advanced nurse practitioner and practice pharmacist. We have also produced videos of our CCG chairs talking about a typical day in the life of a GP so that residents can see how their day looks from start to finish.

You can find the video playlists here:

- NHS South Sefton CCG - bit.ly/3IHPVsp
- NHS Southport and Formby CCG - bit.ly/31veh1E

Practice self care for life

During Self Care Week at the end of 2021 the CCGs worked with local health and care partners to partners to remind people of the support that is available locally to help them look after their health and wellbeing. The awareness week is organised by the NHS and Self Care Forum to encourage people to take steps to prevent illness, adopt healthier choices, manage minor ailments and look after their health and wellbeing. This could mean looking at what we eat or drink, how much we exercise, or how much sleep we're getting. The CCGs teamed up with the likes of Active Sefton, Talking Matters Sefton, Mersey Care and Living Well Sefton to promote some of the services that are there to help people self-care. You can find out more from the CCGs websites www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/latest-news/practice-self-care-for-life or www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/latest-news/practice-self-care-for-life

Update on Shaping Care Together

Shaping Care Together is run by NHS leaders across West Lancashire, Formby and Southport, which seeks to 'futureproof' the NHS by looking at new ways of working and new ways of delivering services. Over the past few months, the programme has been listening to the thoughts, opinions and ideas of local residents, patients, staff and stakeholders about how we prepare our NHS to meet the challenges of the future. Main themes emerging from the engagement so far include:

- Concerns around the accessibility of primary care services
- A need to focus more on preventative measures and use community services better to help patients before they present to hospital
- Some issues around public transport in certain areas
- Staffing levels and the recruitment and retention of key staff needs to be improved
- A need to improve patient journeys and support patients to better navigate their own care

All of the responses received so far are collected and analysed and have helped feed into the programme in a number of ways, most importantly the development of the future Models of Care. In the coming weeks, Shaping Care Together will publish 'Our Challenges and Opportunities', a discussion document that draws on the issues raised so far in the engagement programme, and the opportunities that exist to create a better future for local health and care. There is still time to contribute views by completing a survey from the dedicated website www.yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk where you will also find more information about the programme along with a short animated video.

New pilot to be launched at Liverpool Hospital's Emergency Departments

A new pilot that will help more patients to be seen at the right place at the right time for their care needs is being launched at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust's sites are the latest hospitals to introduce a pilot that will ensure patients arriving at their A&E departments get the right healthcare in the right place. The pilot further builds on the national NHS 111 First campaign, which was launched in December 2020 and encourages those with non-urgent health needs to contact the service first before attending A&E, to ensure patients can be seen in the right healthcare setting most appropriate to them. From 6th December at Aintree University Hospital and the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, a care navigator will triage patients on arrival to the Emergency Department and advise the most appropriate place of care for their needs - potentially enabling them to be treated faster and out of a hospital environment. The Emergency Department will always be available to patients who require emergency care and treatment. Those attending where their care is not an emergency, and where it is safe to do so, may be advised to attend an alternative service in the community more appropriate for their needs, such as a specialist service at the Trust, a Walk-In Centre, GP, or local pharmacy. If it is an emergency, you should always call 999. If you think you need urgent care or medical advice, but you're not sure where to go, contact NHS 111 in the first instance, who will direct you to the most appropriate service.

Sefton residents to be part of ground breaking cancer trial

South Sefton is amongst the latest areas in Cheshire and Merseyside to take part in the world's largest trial of a revolutionary new blood test that can detect more than 50 types of cancer before symptoms appear. People aged 50-77 are being asked to look out for a letter from the NHS over the next several weeks inviting them to volunteer for the trial. Participants, who must not have had a cancer diagnosis or treatment in the last three years, will have a small blood sample taken at a mobile clinic during January or February. They will be invited back after 12 months and again at 24 months to give further blood samples. The potentially lifesaving Galleri test checks for the earliest signs of cancer in the blood and the NHS-Galleri trial, the first of its kind, aims to recruit 140,000 volunteers nationally, including thousands across Cheshire & Merseyside, to see how well the test works in the NHS. The trial team is inviting people from a wide range of backgrounds and ethnicities to ensure results are relevant for as many different people as possible. Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance (CMCA) is helping to ensure that participants who test positive in this region get the necessary follow-up appointments. The test is a simple blood test that research has shown is particularly effective at finding cancers that are difficult to identify early – such as head and neck, bowel, lung, pancreatic, and throat cancers. It works by finding chemical changes in fragments of genetic code – cell-free DNA (cfDNA) – that leak from tumours into the bloodstream. Letters are going out now in for those eligible and registered with GP practices in south Sefton, Liverpool and Knowsley from the start of January. A mobile clinic will be at Sainsbury's in Rice Lane during January for the blood tests and will move to Knowsley at the start of February. The mobile clinics have already been to Runcorn, Warrington and St Helens and will move on to Southport and Chester after Knowsley. The NHS-Galleri trial is being run by The Cancer Research UK and King's College London Cancer Prevention Trials Unit in partnership with NHS England and healthcare company, GRAIL, which has developed the Galleri test. All participants will be advised to continue with their standard NHS screening appointments and to still contact their GP if they notice any new or unusual symptoms. Initial results of the study are expected by 2023 and, if successful, NHS England plans to extend the rollout to a further one million people in 2024 and 2025. The trial is the latest initiative launched by the NHS to meet its Long Term Plan commitment of finding three-quarters of cancers at an early stage by 2028. Patients whose condition is diagnosed at 'stage one' typically have between five and 10 times the chance of surviving compared with those found at 'stage four'. For more information on the study see: <https://www.nhs-galleri.org/>

'Lung MOTs' to find cancer cases sooner to be expanded in Merseyside

An NHS initiative that invites current and ex-smokers to get an MOT of their lungs is being expanded to include areas of Sefton. The NHS lung health check programme, which began again in Liverpool in July, will be extended to south Sefton and St Helens next year as part of a major drive to catch more cancers earlier. The NHS Targeted Lung Health Check programme involves past and current smokers in the target areas, aged 55 to 74, being invited by their GP to a lung health check. Mainly based in convenient community sites like supermarket car parks, the NHS has already introduced lung health checks in 23 locations across the country that have some of the highest death rates from lung cancer – including Liverpool, Knowsley and Halton. The expansion means another 20 sites nationwide will be launched, so up to 750,000 more people will be offered a check, including in south Sefton and St Helens from the middle of next year. Data from the programme so far shows that with these potentially life-saving checks, lung cancer early diagnosis rates can be as high as 80% – compared to less than 30% without this

type of intervention. People are invited to speak to a healthcare professional and, if they have a higher chance of developing lung cancer, will be offered a scan of their lungs. Since July, the programme in Liverpool has invited around 10,000 people to take part, with around 2,300 later having scans. The scans are now taking place in Knowsley and will be in Halton in December. Latest projections show a total of around 1.5 million people will have been invited for a lung health check across the 43 projects by 2024-25. It is expected 9,000 cases of lung cancer may be caught at an earlier stage than would have otherwise been found. Lung cancer can often be caught too late as there are rarely symptoms at earlier stages. Trial data shows two-thirds of cancers identified in the programme are likely to be earlier, enabling doctors to treat thousands of cancer cases sooner when curative treatment is more possible, saving more lives. This is a potentially transformational leap forward – across England on average only 28% of lung cancers are diagnosed at an earlier stage.

Sefton head pharmacist receives honour from the royal family

Susanne Lynch, head of medicines management for both CCGs, was awarded an MBE - a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire - at a ceremony held in Windsor Castle. Formby resident Susanne received the award from Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at the end of October, after being recognised in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year's honours list announced on 30 December last year. Susanne was honoured for her services to pharmacy, including her work responding to the coronavirus pandemic. This has seen Susanne and her team providing additional direct support to some of the borough's most vulnerable patients. An example is the extra support the team provided to local care homes. The team set up new policies and training to enable care home staff to best care for their residents, ensuring consistent supplies of medicines and providing dedicated support online for care homes.

Governing Body meetings

Recordings of November governing body meetings can be viewed on each CCG website. The first meetings of 2022 are scheduled for February following the Christmas break. The meetings take place as follows:

- NHS Southport and Formby CCG - Wednesday 2 February
- NHS South Sefton CCG - Thursday 3 February

You can find out more information about governing bodies and view meeting papers from each CCG website using the links at the end of this briefing.

Visit the CCGs' websites for more about their work www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk or www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk, follow them on Twitter [@NHSSSCCG](https://twitter.com/NHSSSCCG) or [@NHSSFCCG](https://twitter.com/NHSSFCCG) or see a range of short films on You Tube for [NHSSSCCG](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) or [NHS SFCCG](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)