

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care) – 4 January 2022		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Ian Moncur	Health and Wellbeing	October/November 21

COVID-19 Update

The verbal updates provided to me at the beginning of October and November noted that:

- Having peaked at around 175 cases per day towards the end of September, the weekly incidence of new cases in October stabilised and then gradually increased back up to a similar level by the start of November. The incidence rate of 430/100 000 was similar to the national average and equivalent to around 1200 new cases per week in Sefton.
- The incidence rate in the 60 years and over population continued to rise gradually, increasing by around one third to approximately 35 cases per day, as the high level of infection and mixing between younger and older generations continued
- Incidence rates remained highest in the 10-14 age group up to 1500/100 000 with incidence in the very high 300-600/100 000 range in most age groups up to the age of 70, and notably affecting people in their 40s.
- All areas of Sefton experienced high or very rates of Coronavirus infection in October, also reflecting widespread transmission, especially amongst school age children and their families.
- The number of patients with Coronavirus in local hospitals rose slowly from early October through to the start of November in bed, tracking the spread of infection in the population and the over 60 age group in particular. Bed occupancy has not reached levels in September 2021 and remain at around one quarter to one sixth of the demand seen in January 2021. However, this situation should be understood in the context of very high and rising pressures from other causes on health and care services.
- Registered deaths occurring in October, which mention Coronavirus on the death certificate, varied between 3 to 5 per week. This was lower than in September. Mortality trend lags incidence by about one month, so this reflects reducing new case rates in September, and a small increase in deaths is anticipated following higher rates in October.
- The Coronavirus death rate was 4 to 5 times higher last winter when incidence had reached a similar level, but vaccination had not yet started. Office of National Statistics analysis estimates that risk of dying from Coronavirus is 32 times greater in people who are unvaccinated, but older age groups still account for most deaths from Coronavirus, which remains a leading cause of deaths registered in England.

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- 100% of Sefton cases, which were genomically sequenced were the more transmissible Delta variant, and this is typical of other areas. On 20th October a sub-lineage of Delta, AY4.2 was declared a Variant Under Investigation (VUI-21-Oct-01) by the Government because it appeared to have an advantage over other types of Delta and the proportion of AY4.2 was slowly increasing. A small number of cases have been identified through routine genomic sequencing in Sefton in line with the national picture. UKHSA continues its research and surveillance and guidance for managing all types of Delta is the same.
- As expected, lateral flow testing remained stable through most of October (approximately 17 000 tests per week) influenced by the large amount of testing linked to schools and showed a brief drop over half-term. PCR testing also stayed high, reflecting rising demand for confirmatory tests and tests for symptoms (14 000 tests per week).
- The burden of infection remained high across Sefton with 8% of community PCR tests returning a positive result, and weekly incidence above 200/100 000 in most wards, with several areas in South Sefton and some in the Southport area in the 400-500/100 000 bracket
- At the start of November 80% of Sefton's population aged 12 and over had received one dose of vaccine and 74% had received two doses (vs 86% and 79% nationally). Vaccine uptake continues to be much higher in older age groups and in more affluent areas.
- Relevant policy developments included:
 - On 7th October the Government published an updated Contain Framework
 - On 13th October the Department for Education published an updated Contingency Framework describing principles of Outbreak Management in Educational settings

Pharmacy Needs Assessment

I received an update about plans to produce a revised Pharmacy Health Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA is a statutory document that assesses the pharmacy needs of the local population by identifying what services are currently available in the area and where the need for pharmaceutical services is likely to change in the future because of demographic shifts. Health and Wellbeing Boards are responsible for the development of PNAs and have related statutory duties concerning decisions made by NHS England about applications to enter the list of local pharmaceutical service providers or to amalgamate two or more pharmacies onto one site. The PNA is also used to inform commissioning of services from pharmacies.

The previous Sefton PNA was published in April 2018. By law, a new PNA is required every three years, unless the annual review has identified changes to need which are so significant that an earlier revised assessment is required. In May 2020, Department of Health and Social Care announced an extension to this timetable, requiring the revised PNA to be in place from October 2022. The entire process takes around one year to complete and includes collation and analysis of population health and

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demographic data, survey and engagement with service and public stakeholders, a 60-day consultation on the new draft document, and progress through governance and oversight channels. Local authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside work to a common timeline and process to support quality and consistency. The Sefton Pharmacy Needs Assessment Steering Group including Elected Members, representatives from NHS and Pharmacy organisations, relevant Council teams and Healthwatch meets quarterly to oversee the PNA development process.

Breastfeeding

Sefton 0-19 Service provided an update on the progress made around breastfeeding.

Sefton achieved full Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Accreditation in March 2021 which means there is a process in place to ensure families will receive evidence-based care to support them with infant feeding choices and relationship building; this is evidenced by policies, training and service provision within the 0-19 service meeting the standards required.

During the preparation for reaccreditation, a Specialist Infant Feeding service has been established in Sefton, designed in collaboration with parents and wider staff. The service now has highly trained staff who support women who experience difficulties whilst breastfeeding to continue. Breastfeeding maintenance rates are a key performance indicator and the target for Sefton borough is 30% prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks post birth. There has been good progression with improving breastfeeding maintenance rates, increasing from 30.6% in 2018/19 to 35.6% in 2020/21.

Whilst there have been improvements overall for Sefton, inequalities continue to exist and are a priority for the service and future planning. This includes the development of an integrated approach with family wellbeing centres becoming fully accredited in the next couple of years. Developing a culture within Sefton where breastfeeding is normalised and where women are fully supported is a priority for Public Health and its partners.

Seasonal Influenza

An update on the Sefton Flu Planning group was presented. The group is chaired by the Sefton Council Public Health team and has membership from the Sefton CCGs, provider organisations, adult social care, community infection prevention and control and from the Cheshire and Merseyside Screening and Immunisations team (NHS EI) the group works to ensure that any issues in relation to the vaccination programme or outbreaks can be identified and mitigated promptly. The group are meeting monthly.

An update was provided around the arrangements for the Sefton Council Staff Flu Vaccination Programme which will this year utilise a voucher that can be used at a number of community pharmacies across Sefton or at a workplace clinic.

Residential Rehabilitation

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The briefing outlined the current commissioning arrangements for Substance Misuse Residential Rehabilitation Programmes and the intention to seek Cabinet authorisation to commence a procurement process for Residential Rehabilitation Placements utilising a Dynamic Purchasing System

Residential Rehabilitation is an integral part of any drug treatment and recovery system and an option for some people requiring treatment for dependency to substances.

Eligibility for Residential Rehabilitation Programmes is determined by the Adult Social Care Substance Misuse Assessment Team who carry out full social care assessment of need compliant with Care Act requirements and equality to access legislation.

Residential placements are matched to individual need based on assessment and clinical review from the specialist substance misuse treatment provider. Once agreed, placements will be funded from a fixed annual public health budget.

The demand for Residential Rehabilitation remains high. In 19/20, there were 34 admissions, but this rose to 64 in 20/21 and this increase has been sustained with 33 placements in the first 6 months in 21/22.

For procurement, a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) has been successfully in place in Sefton since October 2017. A DPS as provided for within the 2015 Public Contracts Regulations, enables the Council to ensure that fair and transparent commissioning arrangements are in place while enabling an individually tailored programme appropriate to the individual's needs and requirements. The key advantage of a DPS over other mechanisms, is that the applicable legislation allows the Council to open the DPS to new applicants at key points during its lifespan. This therefore gives the Council the flexibility to take advantage of beneficial changes within the marketplace. Additional benefits of having a DPS are that it reduces placement negotiation time and enables Public Health and the Adult Social Care Assessment Team to benchmark provision leading to greater efficiencies and savings.

A paper will go to Cabinet in December with the intention to have the new arrangement in place from April 2020.

PH Service Plan

I received a summary report on the progress on delivery of the Public Health Service Plan 2021-22 over the last 6 months.

Staffing and Recruitment

A recruitment programme is underway to replace 2 Health Improvement posts and 2 fixed term Health Protection posts.

Obesity

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A task force is in place to support delivery of the Obesity Action Plan and that strategic direction of travel will be shared with the HWBB and Integrated Commissioning Group in Oct/ Nov 21.

Living Well Sefton

A 2-year contract extension will support service delivery across Sefton's 3 priority areas of mental health, obesity and communities.

Community Adult Substance Use

Re-procurement of the service is complete and will transfer from Mersey Care NHS Trust to CGL on 1/4/2022. Cabinet agreed to a further 1 year out of contract extension to the Young People and Families Substance Use Service provided by We Are With You for 2022-23. A review of Residential Rehab Placements has commenced to inform the procurement and the system for commissioning placements from April 2022.

Sefton's Integrated 0-19 Health (HCP)

Integrated 0-19 Health (HCP) service has novated to Mersey Care for the duration of its term. Includes an additional 1 year out of contract extension agreed by Cabinet, until March 2023.

Sefton Stop Smoking Service

Disruption to the supply of Varenicline, (Champix) is having an impact on the choice of pharmaceutical support being offered by the service. All new clients are being started on alternative products including Zyban or NRT. Expected that varenicline will be back in circulation by the end of this year.

Mental Health Support Teams

A further bid for a third Mental Health Support Team has been successful. From 2023 between 55-60% of Sefton schools/colleges will be supported.

Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit

The 2021 edition of the toolkit was launched October 2021.

Children and Young People Mental Health Survey

Repeating the mental wellbeing survey carried out with Liverpool John Moores' University (JMU) in 2019.

Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy.

Strategy developed and launched by health partners in conjunction with children and young people - provides strategic direction to link all partnership activity over the next 5 years.

COVID-19

Outbreak identification and rapid response continues with current focus on educational settings and workplaces.

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Review of asymptomatic testing offer in Sefton to ensure that there is a good offer of indoor sites across Sefton as we move into autumn and winter.

PH supporting sub-regional work on contact tracing including work on supporting self-isolation and development of the Cheshire and Merseyside Contact Tracing Hub.

Flu

Sefton Public Health are chairing the Sefton Seasonal Flu Group – noted interdependencies with COVID-19 vaccination programme and acute respiratory infection in Care Home pathway development which is still in development by UKSHA. Commissioning of the Staff Flu Programme is underway.

Commissioned Services Return to Business as Usual

I received an update on the business continuity progress on commissioned Public Health Services for 2021-22

Sefton Integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (Resuming Business as Usual)

Sefton Health Visitors have resumed face to face contacts with all children and families for all their mandated visits with risk assessments in place.

School nurses have resumed face to face contacts with children at school and are offering face to face drop-ins.

Delivery of the National 12-15yrs COVID-19 Vaccine Programme alongside an extended school aged Fluenz programme will continue for 9 weeks will see 49% of Sefton's school health workforce redeployed for this purpose. MerseyCare have proposed a delayed start to some areas of core service delivery, including NCMP, Hearing and Vision Screening, and Lancaster Class Surveys which will commence in January 2022.

Smoking Services

Blended approach to delivery, including face to face and telephone support for clients. In May 2021, the distribution of Varenicline (Champix) was halted due to safety concerns over a batch. Clients using this product were supported to take up other alternatives i.e., NRT or Zyban. Resumption of supply expected by year end. Full-service delivery has been reintroduced for pregnant women including face to face contact at booking, Co2 Monitoring and home visits available from specialist midwife. Pressure on the maternity unit at Liverpool Women's Hospital (LWH), means more women from South Sefton are giving birth at Southport and Ormskirk, which will have an impact on Smoking at Time of Delivery (SATOD) rates for this unit.

Living Well Sefton

BCP in place includes development of hybrid services, in person and online. Focused reporting on gaps and blockages in services around bereavement support, enabling further capacity around demand need in Sefton.

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Substance Use - Adult Community Substance Use Service (Ambition Sefton)

Service operational on both sites at Bootle & Southport, but within Mersey Care Health & Safety and estate restrictions around capacity have limited face to face delivery. Delivery via a mix of booked face to face appointments /virtual/telephone. Prioritisation of client groups for appointments in place with plans to increase numbers and reinstatement of supervised consumption. Some capacity issues in relation to sickness absence and vacancies, weekly meetings are in place across the service to manage any challenges. Business Continuity Plan is in place.

Inpatient Detox Service (Drugs & Alcohol)

All inpatient wards are operational but with adherence to guidance. The service must ensure patients self-isolate on admission for 3 days with COVID-19 testing.

Young People & Families Substance Use Service (WAwY)

Service is fully operational and can offer all services. Operating from both premises (both Landmark House, Bootle and YMCA, Southport).

Mental Health Services

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BCP in place. Internet based and less affected by issues relating to lockdown. Service recruited extra bank staff to aid delivery.

Health Checks NHS

Health Checks resumed delivery mid-Q1. Appointments are delivered in 2 parts with initial assessment phone based.

Health Protection

Community Infection Prevention and Control Services

Continues to support providers with COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, working on infection prevention and control audits and education with care providers.

Sexual Health

PREP Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Support and monitoring of PrEP was provided to individuals accessing PrEP medication online and funding was available through 'cross charging' arrangements to enable Sefton residents to access PrEP medication via neighbouring specialist sexual health service. In April 2021, service recruited a Clinical Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV Treatment providing full PrEP offer including access to medication, monitoring and support and has been available from both North and South Sefton Integrated Sexual Health Service Treatment Hubs.

Community Sexual Health Service

All Sexual Health services are available from the 2 Community Hubs in Bootle and Southport. Spoke clinics in Maghull and Netherton remain suspended as do Saturday sessions, due to staffing issues and vacancies. Anticipated spoke services can be restored by the end of 2021 with service review underway to consider more flexible offer.

Mental Health

We are continuing to work with schools and colleges to help them improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing offer. This work is being supported by the Anna Freud Centre and sessions are being held to help schools embed the new Mental Health Lead role. This work will continue until Christmas and the offer will then change to wider training and a comprehensive free training offer to be offered by the Council's Corporate Training Centre, Sefton Educational Psychologists and the local charity Venus.

We are repeating the mental health survey carried out in 2018 with Liverpool John Moores' University. The last survey - completed by over 2000 young people and 350 staff - provided the evidence base and supported our business case for almost £1 million of external funding to support mental health in Sefton schools. Repeating it will provide further evidence which we will use to apply for more funding as it becomes available. We are also using the questions that were agreed with schools back in 2018 but have also added some Covid related questions as well. The finding will be compared with 2018 and a report produced in early 2022.

Dunes SplashWorld

The contract to carry out remedial works to painting, concrete (flume tower) and tiling was awarded and began on 5th July 2021. The estimated length of the contract is around 48 weeks. Works are currently progressing in line with the agreed programme. The legal claim against the former contractor is progressing, albeit slowly.

Leisure Update

The 6 Leisure Centres are now fully reopened with their usual swim, gym and fitness classes. Memberships continue to grow but are still substantially below the level they were at pre-pandemic. Swimming in particular has been incredibly popular since reopening with waiting lists for swimming lessons. Work has been completed at Meadows to provide a vibrant new spin studio space. A new 3G pitch surface together with new LED floodlighting to the pitch and running track has been installed at Litherland Sports Park which was also the subject on a mini tornado on Friday 29 October which saw substantial damage to the athletics equipment and football pitch.

The wider Leisure development offer continues to support the wider work of the Council. In October Park Nights or Park Frights as they were marketed, supported the wider partnership's response to Operation Banger with diversionary activities to prevent ASB around mischief night and bonfire night. Other programmes supporting the wider Public Health agenda such as Weigh Forward, NHS Health Checks, Exercise Referral Programme and Active Ageing are all back up and running following the pandemic and the Be Active programme offered a variety of activities for children during October half term

The Active Workforce offer remains varied and important offer for our staff with a range of activities promoting physical and mental well-being. A men only, men and the

menopause session was delivered to staff and this was reported in the national press as being an innovative and bold approach in tackling a typically taboo subject

Summary of Leisure Summer Holiday Activity 2021

The report provided a summary of the 2021 summer holiday activity delivered by Leisure's Active Sports Team through the Be Active and Park Nights Programmes.

During the summer of 2021, Be Active operated a heavily reduced timetable due COVID-19 restrictions still being in place locally and the lack of indoor space available, which was being utilised as additional gym space or for exercise classes to allow for social distancing. Park Nights, funded through Police Crime Commission, included 7 weeks of sessions delivered in parks across the borough, with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour and creating a safe space for children and young people to take part in activities.

Be Active consisted of **23** sessions, **50** hours of delivery, **270** participants and **5** locations. The sessions included 'Ditch the Stabilisers' which gives children the confidence to ride their bikes independently, as well as dance, athletics, cricket and tennis taster sessions, and football camps run in partnership with LFC Foundation. LFC Foundation provided free activity at Netherton Activity Centre and Dunes Leisure Centre through funding received from the Steve Morgan Foundation. At Netherton Activity Centre this was expanded further by utilising Street Games funding received as part of the 'Fit and Fed' initiative, allowing for the offer of three days of activity targeted specifically at children known to Early Help or Social Services. An element of 'Fit and Fed' also included a half-day session at Crosby Lakeside where young people were able to experience water sports and team building activities.

The Park Nights Programme took place from 19th July – 3rd September, operating in one park north and one south each weekday evening, between 5pm-7pm, for the full 7 weeks. There were **73** sessions delivered, **150** hours, **1,200** participants and **11** locations. Sessions included multi-sports, zorb football, street golf, and inflatable games. The parks utilised were identified in partnership with colleagues in Community Safety, Youth Service, Area Coordinators and Merseyside Police and included; North Park Bootle, Kirkstone Park Litherland, Hapsford Park Seaforth, South Park Bootle, Crosby Coastal Park, King George V Maghull, Bedford Park Birkdale, Kings Gardens Southport, Devonshire Road Southport, and Deansgate Lane Formby. The youth bus also attended some of the locations to engage young people.

Plans for October half term for Be Active include expansion back to its original format (restrictions allowing), with all day camps and swimming sessions added back in, the introduction of fun activities such as 'Glow Sports' and continued work with LFC Foundation. Challenge still remains around capacity within the team to deliver activities to meet the £81,000 income target and operational issues such as the lack of a booking system to make the booking process easier for parents.

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Plans are already confirmed for Park Nights as part of Operation Banger, which will provide activities Monday – Thursday 5pm-7pm in parks from 25th October – 4th November, with parks once again identified in partnership with colleagues internally and Merseyside Police.

Adult Social Care & Health

Adult Social Care and Health continue to progress preparation for the implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill in April 2022 with a current focus on establishing the Governance infrastructure and aligned form and functions. This includes a development programme for the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board supported by the LGA

A key focus is the continued support to the Care Home Market and Domiciliary Care providers to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated and able to manage the impact of the mandatory vaccination requirement that comes into effect on the 11th November 2021.

A robust consultation and engagement process has been launched on the 11th October until the 9th January regarding the future delivery of Day Opportunities in Sefton colleagues are encouraged to review the information on this on the council's website