

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

Date of Meeting: 22 February 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) February 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.

System updates

In late December 2021, NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) formally confirmed a change to the go live date for new integrated care structures and the closedown of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). These system changes are set out in the Health and Care Bill, which is currently being considered by parliament. A new target date of 1 July 2022 will allow sufficient time for the remaining parliamentary stages for new arrangements to take effect – putting Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) on a statutory footing and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to be legally and operationally established. This replaces the previous target date of 1 April 2022. This new target date will provide some extra flexibility for systems preparing for the new statutory arrangements and managing the immediate priorities in the pandemic response, while maintaining momentum towards more effective system working. We continue to prepare for the closure of CCGs and the establishment of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, working towards the new target date. Recruitment to the majority of executive director roles for the ICB took place during January and the process to appoint all nine place directors begins in late February. Alongside this, NHSEI is leading on the recruitment of a permanent chair for the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Locally, the CCGs continue to work at pace with Sefton Council and other partners in developing place based partnership (PBP) arrangements through our Sefton Partnership. 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. Visit the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership website for latest progress on the ICB development <https://www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk/>

Planning and recovery

Formal confirmation of this date change for new integrated care structures was contained in NHSEI's operational planning guidance for 2022-23. The guidance sets out 10 overarching priority areas for systems to focus on including investing in workforce, responding ever more effectively to COVID-19, delivering more elective care to tackle backlogs and reduce long waits and improving timely access to primary care.

You can find the guidance on the NHSE/I website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/2022-23-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance/>

Building on this guidance, the NHS and government set out a blueprint in early February to address backlogs built up during the pandemic and tackle long waits for care with a massive expansion in capacity for tests, checks and treatments. As well as setting out more diagnostic capacity and surgical hubs, the plan will also give patients greater control over their own health and offer greater choice of where to get care if they are waiting too long for treatment. The plan, developed with Royal Colleges, patient groups and health charities sets out how NHS staff will make the best use of additional government funding to begin to address the Covid backlog. The plan will ensure that the innovations put in place by local areas can be expanded and comes as the NHS has already committed to continuing to increase investment in mental health services through the mental health investment standard as well as providing further funding for primary and community care services.

You can read the plan in full here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/delivery-plan-for-tackling-the-covid-19-backlog-of-elective-care/>

White paper on integrating health and social care published

Joining up care for people, places and populations was published on 9 February 2022 and it is part of the reforms of the Health and Care Bill and the adult social care white paper. It sets out plans to join up care for patients and service users, staff looking for ways to better support increasing numbers of people with care needs and organisations delivering these services to the local population.

You can read the white paper on the NHSEI website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-social-care-integration-joining-up-care-for-people-places-and-populations>

COVID-19 vaccination update

The NHS in Sefton continues to encourage people to come forward for their booster jab. Rollout of the booster was accelerated in the face of the Omicron variant. The UK Health Security Agency reported in December that there is a significant drop in effectiveness against the Omicron variant after two vaccines. However, analysis shows a third, 'booster' dose typically gives around 75% protection against COVID-19 symptoms. Whilst numbers have slowed during the period following the festive holidays, uptake rates in Sefton are good. The best way to get a booster is to book an appointment at a local site. This can be done two months on from a second dose – a month in advance of becoming eligible to receive the jab. If you are invited for your booster, book an appointment as soon as possible. Alongside this, work continues in Sefton to encourage anyone eligible who still hasn't had a first or second dose that it is not too late and to come forward as soon as possible. We continue to work with partners to promote uptake in areas with the lowest numbers of people vaccinated. This includes pop up vaccine clinics at Firwood Cricket Club on 21 and 28 February from 10am to 4pm when anyone aged over 18 can simply turn up for first, second or booster jabs with no appointment needed. The vaccination programme was recently extended to include 5 to 11 year olds in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed. Our GP practices are currently identifying these children from their patient lists and will be inviting them to book a vaccine shortly. Locally two of our primary care network (PCN) run sites in Southport Centre for Health and Wellbeing and Netherton Health Centre will be offering vaccinations to this age group.

The best way to book a vaccination is to go online www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/ or call 119.

More eligibility and booking information can be found on our websites, including booking details for all three of our PCN vaccination sites at:

- NHS South Sefton CCG <https://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/latest-news/walk-in-or-book-a-covid-19-vaccine/>
- NHS Southport and Formby CCG <https://www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/latest-news/walk-in-or-book-a-covid-19-vaccine/>

GP practice access

Healthcare professionals in Sefton are reminding patients how they can access healthcare at this busy time for all in the NHS. They are also letting you know about the different members of staff you might see at your GP practice who are there to help, not just your doctor. Four ways to seek healthcare advice:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. For urgent issues or out of hours, you can also call the NHS on 111 or go online to seek NHS advice nhs.uk.
4. Download the NHS App to order repeat prescriptions and get health advice, your pharmacy can also help with minor illnesses

To raise awareness of the range of different clinicians at practices that support patients, not just GPs – like advanced nurse practitioners, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists and pharmacists - we have produced some new videos to explain these roles to patients. These can be viewed from the links below, along with short films showing a day in the life of a GP:

- NHS South Sefton CCG – www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/gpaccess
- NHS Southport and Formby CCG - www.southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk/gpaccess

Infection prevention measures

The threat of infection from COVID-19 still exists within our communities, and although face coverings will no longer be mandatory in public places from Thursday it is still recommended that people continue to wear them to stop the spread. The UK Health Security Agency's infection prevention control (IPC) guidance remains in place for all healthcare settings and patients will be asked to wear a face covering and practice good hygiene when visiting their GP practice or hospitals etc. We ask that everyone please continues to follow this.

Last calls for GP COVID-19 access survey

The final phase of our survey to gain patients experiences of the changes introduced in all GP practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was rolled out at the end of January. The survey launched in most areas of Sefton by the end of 2021. Practices have been sending 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 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 so that patients registered at a small number of practices where there have been other changes, such as those at Roe Lane and Christiana Hartley, have been asked additional questions. This final phase of the survey asks patients at six PC24 run practices for some additional views about temporary site closures, made in response to the pandemic. Practices have been working in pairs to ensure they could continue to provide care for their patients. It has meant the following arrangements have been temporarily in place for face to face appointments:

- Seaforth Village Surgery patients are seen at Litherland Practice
- Netherton Practice patients are seen at Thornton Practice
- Crosby Village Surgery patients are seen at Crossways

Once all the surveys have closed and the information is collated, 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.

Consider an NHS career says chief officer as she reflects on 40 years of service

Chief officer for Sefton CCGs, Fiona Taylor is celebrating 40 years in the NHS and is encouraging others to consider a career in the service. Fiona joined the NHS on 1 February 1982 as a trainee nurse aged just 17. She was one of the youngest trainees in her group and has since spent her entire adult life working to improve healthcare for patients across the north of England. Fiona has enjoyed a varied NHS career. She began in Salford with a variety of clinical roles in nursing, midwifery and health visiting before stepping into management from 1992 onwards, showing that joining the NHS at a junior level can lead to such a senior position over time. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of Fiona's appointment as chief officer with the two CCGs, a role she holds alongside a position as trustee of St Ann's Hospice in Manchester and as board member at the Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA).

In 2014, Fiona was nominated by her team and went on to win the Inspirational Leader of the Year award from the NHS North West Leadership Academy. Additionally, her work for the CCGs during the pandemic was recognised in 2021 when she was shortlisted for a national Parliamentary Award for leadership in fostering innovative and patient-centred work around medicines management. Fiona hopes her story inspires others to join the NHS, whether in patient care or in one of the many other roles that can be found across the service. If you are considering a job in the NHS, visit the NHS Careers website to find out more about the positions available, hear from other NHS staff about their experiences, or take a 'Find Your Career' quiz to match you to your ideal role. Visit: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/findyourcareer

Integrating and improving blood cancer services in North Mersey

Plans to improve specialist blood cancer services for patients in Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley and West Lancashire came into effect on 1 February. Haemato-oncology (HO) is the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers including leukaemia, myeloma and lymphoma. This area of medicine has become increasingly specialist as researchers learn more about what causes blood cancers and the best ways of treating each patient. Last summer the local NHS asked patients, carers and others with experience of local blood cancer services for their views on whether the Aintree University Hospital team should join together and combine their expertise with colleagues in The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. People overwhelmingly agreed it was the right thing.

Bringing the haemato-oncology teams at Aintree and Clatterbridge together in this way means both hospitals can continue to offer the very best care as new, more complex treatments emerge. So, from 1 February 2022, blood cancer specialists in the haematology team at Aintree University Hospital will be part of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, not Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. They will deliver a new specialist haemato-oncology service for confirmed or suspected blood cancers such as leukaemia, lymphomas and myelomas. The service will also monitor a number of other conditions like monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) and myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN).

It also means that in time the service will be able to offer a wider range of treatments, clinical trials and support services that are usually only available in bigger hospitals with more blood cancer patients and staff.

You can find out more here: <http://www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk/patients/bloodcancer2021>

Groundbreaking cancer trial comes to Sefton

The NHS Galleri clinical trial takes place in Sefton during March, when participating residents will help to determine the effectiveness of a new test that uses a single blood sample to check for many different cancers. The test is designed to be used alongside other cancer screening tests and letters inviting people to participate in the study are going out during February in Sefton area to invite people who qualify to participate in the trial. The trial is led by Cancer Research UK and King's College London Cancer Prevention Trials Unit, in partnership with the NHS and healthcare company GRAIL, which has developed the Galleri test. The NHS is supporting the study to see if the test can help the NHS to find more cancers at an early stage. Participants who consent to take part will be asked to provide a blood sample at a local mobile clinic. They will be invited back for a second and third blood sample at yearly intervals.

