

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care) – 22 February 2022		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Ian Moncur	Health and Wellbeing	December 21 - January 22

COVID-19 Update

The verbal updates provided to me at the beginning of December and January noted that:

- On 8th December, the Government announced implementation of Plan B measures in response to the rapid rise in infections driven by the newly identified Omicron variant. Omicron quickly displaced Delta as the dominant variant circulating in the UK.
 - From Friday 10th December, it became a requirement to wear a face-coverings in indoor public venues where practical and excluding hospitality venues
 - From 13th December, people were advised to work from home if possible
 - From 15th December, entrance to large venues required the NHS Covid Pass
 - On 22nd December, the Government announced that self-isolation could end after 7 days if lateral flow test results on both day 6 and day 7 were negative
- On 12th December UK CMOs announced the UK Alert Level had been raised to level 4 (out of 5). This higher alert level reflected evidence of much higher transmissibility of Omicron, lower vaccine protection from two doses against symptomatic illness and rising number of hospital admissions due to Omicron infection.
- On 2nd January, DfE published updated guidance for schools, including advice for secondary school pupils to extend face covering use to classroom settings, and for adults in primary schools to wear face coverings in communal areas.
- Daily cases of Covid were fairly steady at around 200/day through early to mid-December. However, as the Omicron variant became dominant, daily numbers rose rapidly to a peak of 1531 positive tests on the 26th December. Weekly all age rates stood at 2471/100,000 at my briefing on the 10th January 2022.
- All areas of Sefton experienced extremely high rates of Coronavirus infection in December and into January, reflecting widespread transmission, especially amongst school age children and their families.
- The number of patients with Coronavirus in local hospitals rose sharply from the end of December through to the start of January. Covid bed occupancy in Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust, Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust increased to 16% (442 beds) week ending 4th January compared to 10% (251

beds) at the end of the previous week. Covid bed occupancy was just over two fifths of the level reached in January 2021 (1007 beds).

- Fortunately, early assessments suggested that vaccines provided protection against severe disease.

Seasonal Influenza

A verbal update was given on the Sefton Council Staff Flu Vaccination Programme. This year's programme consists of both work-place clinics and a voucher scheme which allows staff to book an appointment with a number of community pharmacies. The uptake of the work-place clinics has been lower than expected to date, though final data is not yet available. A full evaluation and report will be produced is expected in May 2022.

Public Health Annual Report

The Director of Public Health is required to produce an independent annual report on the health and wellbeing of their population highlighting key issues. I received an update of the 2021 annual report for Sefton, which will focus on the coronavirus pandemic, looking at its impact across a number of sectors, the key partnership working, and the lessons learned along the way.

Dunes SplashWorld

Work on site had been progressing in accordance with the agreed programme up to the Christmas break. A painting sub-contractor went in liquidation shortly after and this has delayed commencement of the painting works. The main contractor has managed to quickly find and appoint an alternative company to undertake works. The new contractor is due to start on site this week.

This unexpected event has resulted in the programme being delayed by 3 weeks. The main contractor is currently looking at the situation with a view to minimising the impact over the remaining programme. This could result in the planned completion date being pushed back by a number of weeks. The situation is being monitored through regular site progress meetings and further updates will be provided.

The main contractor is reporting some very positive outcomes to date relating to Social Value derived from this works contract.

The legal aspects of a latent defects claim against the original developer have been considered by an Adjudicator and his decision was published in early January. This decision came out in our favour on all aspects of claim, and we have been awarded approximately £2.2m in settlement. The payment, in accordance with the findings should have been made within 7 days of the decision. Unfortunately, this has not occurred, and we are currently working with our external legal team to move forward with enforcement through the courts.

Leisure Update

The report provided Cabinet Member with an update on delivery during November 2021. Leisure Services comprises six Leisure Centres, alongside over 20 sport, physical activity, health and community outreach interventions, operating under the banner of 'Active Sefton'.

Leisure Centre Updates

Due to a high number of staff vacancies, a theme that ran through all Leisure Centre updates was recruitment, with some Centres part way through the process and others (Bootle Leisure, Netherton Activity Centre and Crosby Lakeside) welcoming new members to the team.

In October the Be Active Programme was delivered within the Leisure Centres, making it a busy month for all sites, particularly with the addition of pool activities.

Meadows Leisure Centre and Library opened a new cycle studio in October, with a mixture of supervised and virtual spin classes for all abilities, which was met with incredible customer feedback. The fitness suite saw an additional 227 new members joining, taking the figure to 2901. The library extended its opening hours to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, with the Hornby Heritage exhibition falling in line and offering advanced booking outside of these hours.

Crosby Lakeside has gained over 400 new members since the gym re-opened in April, with a new fitness class timetable launched on 8th November, offering 81 classes per week. Following on from the termination of the contract with Crossfields Construction who were overseeing the hospitality development, Lakeside Leisure were working closely with the Project Team regarding next steps. The ground floor of the hospitality development is expected to be opened in May 2022 and a large open day in conjunction with the RNLI is being planned for the middle of May, which could prove to be a fitting launch. As a result of recommencing the procurement process for the bunk barn it was agreed that the team would seek business with schools or other residential from September 2022. The accommodation for Sea Cadet staff has now been handed over.

Crosby Lakeside received some incredible feedback from a St Helens based Pupil Referral Unit following some work carried out with their students.

The new 3G pitch at Litherland Sports Park is complete and already almost fully booked. The Team will shortly be completing publicity and arranging a press launch. The Centre received some positive news for local residents after Cycle Project made a decision to carry on offering disability cycling throughout the winter months.

Litherland Sports Park was hit by freak weather on Friday 29th October, with some damage being incurred to the high jump canopy, running track, football pitch and surrounding fencing, leading to short terms cancellation of activities.

The Centre was working with the insurance section to cover repairs. Until then risk assessments have been carried out allowing some activity to resume.

An incredible young person that uses Netherton Activity Centre has been raising money for Children in Need. Rainbow is 8-years old and a promising blind footballer who competes in international competitions and is trained at Netherton Activity Centre by Darren White. He took part in Children in Need "The Rickshaw" around the UK cycle ride and will be on the BBC One show during Children In Need. Through the work delivered in partnership with Liverpool Football Club, the NAC saw fully booked football camps during the school October half term break.

Active Aquatics Service

Although not impacting on lessons, the Aquatics Team faced staff shortages and are continuing to find ways to recruit by working with Swim England and sourcing sponsored media job advertisements to widen reach. There are also a number of staff working on a voluntary basis, covering lessons (supported) as part of their swimming qualifications. After carrying out assessments on children on waiting lists as lockdown lifted, the team were busy placing children on lessons as spaces become available.

Leisure Development Offer

Active Lifestyles

The Active Lifestyles Team have attended all Primary Care Network meetings to update on the services, how to access them and as such aim to increase referrals. During these meetings discussion took place on the following services: Exercise Referral (GP / Health Professional referral), Weigh Forward Weight Management Programme (Self-referral), Falls Prevention – Active Ageing (GP / Health Professional referral), MOVE IT (for overweight or obese children and their families) (GP / Health Professional referral / Self-referral) and NHS Health Checks (Self-referral). The team have also provided an update at the Integrated Care Partnership and met with MerseyCare to enhance linkages with the Intermediate Care Teams, in addition to partnership working with LWS and the wider VCS.

Active Sports

October half term saw delivery of the Be Active programme, with sessions including football camps with LFC Foundation, dance workshops, Ditch the Stabilisers sessions, and sports and games camps. There were **12** sessions, **61** hours of activity and **202** participants, as well as **300** attendances at swim and splash sessions.

As part of Operation Banger the team delivered **16** sessions in parks as part of the 'Park Frights' programme with **263** attendees, bringing the annual total to **89** sessions and **1464** participants.

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The 121 programme has recently expanded, with staff working in localities to offer secondary schools support for their young people suffering from poor mental or physical health.

Couch 2 5k has now been completed at Litherland Sports Park, with graduates joining in their first Parkrun on Saturday 20th November at Crosby beach. The programme will return in January. Back to Netball sessions in partnership with England Netball have continued, with 20+ women attending weekly, with ages ranging from 18-60.

The team supported Family Wellbeing Centres during October through the adult ACE's programme, providing gym passes and delivering football sessions with the group, in addition to supporting 'Ride the Rapids', which focuses on the wellbeing of parents of children with special educational needs who have behaviour issues. The Commit 2 Change programme, which works with perpetrators of domestic abuse, has finished at Litherland Sports Park. The team supported the programme by providing access to gym memberships and delivering activities.

As a result of Covid Recovery funding, physical activity passes are being provided to individuals / groups adversely effected by the pandemic. This includes access to gym memberships, free access activities (e.g. Couch 2 5K and Active Buggies) or providing space for groups.

The team has issued 120 Leisure passes to Looked After Children to date this year.

Leisure General

Leisure are now offering foster carers and their birth children free memberships to access their facilities as a thank you for their service and as part of an incentive package to encourage new foster carers. Existing foster carers are also able to call and transfer to a free membership.

Up to 31st October Leisure had 9,654 members of the 6 leisure Facilities, an increase of **1864** since reopening in April with an average of **338 additional members per month**.

Active Workforce

Active Workforce have continued their work around the menopause, which has been recognised nationally in the Daily Mail Good Health Section. The team continue to deliver seminars to target groups (including men only) to raise awareness of the menopause and its impact on women in the workplace. The link to the article is as follows:

[Could menopause classes help men understand what women suffer as the symptoms strike? | Daily Mail Online](#)

As a result of enhanced recognition over staff wellbeing during COVID, Active Workforce became more in demand by employer and employees. As a result of this,

New Directions and Sefton Carers joined the service, with several other local organisations currently considering plans to invest. After redesigning the service to be virtual and adding in new offers to focus on mental and emotional health, Active Workforce saw an **increase of 75% in participation**.

Active Workforce has also become a pivotal part of the new Workforce Wellbeing Group within Sefton Council (currently as chair). Due to the increased recognition of the impact of COVID on staff health, Active Workforce have been granted £50,000 from long COVID Recovery monies to work with small to medium size employers whose workforce has been affected by COVID.

Active Workforce continued to deliver the following to staff this month; Lets Walk & Talk, Online Sessions, Mindfulness & Meditation, signposting to Park Run and Couch 2 5K, Staff Book Club, Live Seminars in Stop Smoking and Alcohol, delivery of Exercise Referral, delivery of Weigh Forward Weight Management Programme, Menopause Group sessions, recorded health seminars and signposting to QWell.

Active Sefton GP Referral Based Services

The report provided an update on a range targeted health and wellbeing services delivered by Active Sefton's Active Lifestyles Team and commissioned by Public Health, which form part of the Living Well Sefton Service. Services included were:

- Exercise Referral (GP / Health Professional referral)
- Weigh Forward Weight Management Programme (Self-referral)
- Falls Prevention – Active Ageing (GP / Health Professional referral)
- MOVE IT (for overweight or obese children and their families) (GP / Health Professional referral / Self-referral)
- NHS Health Checks (Self-referral)

Prior to COVID, Active Sefton received approximately 4,000 referrals per year across all children and young people and adult based referral services, 2,000 of these specifically through Active Lifestyle Service and predominantly received through Primary Care settings. There had been discussions in previous meeting regarding the significant reduction in referrals to the service since it reopened following lockdown, which were 70% reduced as of September and 62% reduced as of October 2021. The report outlined the work that continued to progress around this, in addition to any developments or potential new ways of working.

Work that had been carried out to raise awareness of the services and resultantly increase referrals included:

Partnership work through Living Well Sefton and wider VCS – Workshops had been delivered to Living Well Sefton staff on all services and how to access in an effort to encourage residents to register, in addition to suggesting residents contact their GP Surgery for referral if necessary. This was repeated across the Social Prescribing workforce.

APPENDIX B

Attendance at Primary Care Networks – Over the course of October and November 2021 all Primary Care Network meetings were attended to update on the services, how to access them and as such aim to increase referrals. Discussion took place on how to improve referrals between Primary Care and Active Lifestyles due to changes that have occurred in Primary Care settings, in addition to what could make the process of referral easier (e.g. patients requesting via e-consult).

Individual Surgery Meetings – Every member of the Active Lifestyles Team was tasked with making contact with individual surgeries to discuss the services, how to access and any potential barriers at practice level.

MerseyCare – Meetings took place with MerseyCare to discuss closer partnership working with the Intermediate Care Teams and if there was potential for Active Lifestyles to be added to the managed referral process.

Integrated Care Partnership – An update was provided at the Integrated Care Partnership, which sparked discussion regarding connectivity of services. This was followed up through circulation of information on all services alongside referral forms.

Public Health / CCG – Discussion took place with Public Health and CCG colleagues regarding ideas or key contacts that will support with increasing referrals, in addition to support from CCG's Marketing leads.

Internal communications support – Work was carried out to raise awareness of the services through the community supported by Corporate Communications, included on all social media channels alongside My Sefton, in addition to the team designing slides for TV screens in GP Surgery waiting areas and redesigning all materials to be user friendly and current.

Access to EMIS and other ICT developments – discussion took place with ICT and IM Merseyside regarding the possibility of the team having restricted access to EMIS to streamline the referral process, alongside internal discussions with ICT regarding whether the Active Lifestyles referral form can be added to a digital referral platform accessed by all referrers.

Accessing referrals on behalf of patients – The Active Lifestyles Team have, with consent, part populated referral forms for patients and sent to Surgeries (GDPR compliant) to complete and returned.

Work with UK Active – As the issue in receiving referrals due to changes in Primary Care is likely to have impacted nationally, Active Lifestyles contacted UK Active to request feedback on developments made in other areas of the country, as well as ascertaining whether it is possible to work with residents without a referral. Discussions will also soon take place with legal around the same subject.