

## **Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

**30 November 2021**

### **One Gloucestershire ICS Lead Report**

## **1. Introduction**

Since March 2020, the Health and Care system in Gloucestershire has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as a major incident. Our incident response has seen some changes to the way health and social care is being delivered to our population. The following report provides an update on the work of key programme and projects across Gloucestershire's Integrated Care System (ICS) during this time.

Some of our programmes' focus inevitably changed during the pandemic and certain activities were accelerated or prioritised because of the COVID-19 response. The prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates has unfortunately increased in the county. This has put added pressure on the system as we continue to deliver our programme of recovery. This includes continuing to return to a new 'business as usual', restarting our programmes as appropriate, and reprioritising in light of the new environment we are operating in.

One of the roles of the ICS is to improve the quality of Health and Care by working in a more joined up way as a system. One 'silver lining' of the COVID-19 incident is that we continued to see new examples of excellent system working and delivery of best practice during the past 18 months, which the ICS have captured and continue to build on as we move forward.

### **COVID-19 Response**

Cases of COVID-19 in the community remain high. Our focus continues to be on recovery and the incident response has now been refined to reflect this with the silver and gold command structure being stood down. Some of the bronze cell work continues with the focus remaining on recovery.

### **COVID-19 Recovery**

In the seven days up to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 the number of COVID-19 cases stood at 654 cases per 100,000 of the population. The total number of cases during that time period stood at 4,193 and this was a reduction from the previous week. Up to 12<sup>th</sup> October Gloucestershire's infection rate will

have appeared lower than it really was due to the laboratory issues identified. Since samples were redirected to alternative labs, and a proportion of individuals have retested this led to an increase in COVID positive cases up to the end of October. This is expected to settle to a truer positive once people coming forward for retesting have received positive results. Local Authorities surrounding the country have also been affected by the lab issues. The Health Protection Board continues to monitor early warning indicators carefully and communicate across the system to adapt our response as necessary. As emphasised nationally everyone should continue to access planned and emergency health and care services as planned/required. We will continue to provide as much routine activity as possible during this recovery phase and this will continue to increase as capacity allows.

As highlighted previously, the COVID-19 mobile testing unit continues to be made available at various locations across the county and continue to be planned during November. More details can be found via the Gloucestershire County Council website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/covid-19-testing-in-gloucestershire/testing-unit-locations/>



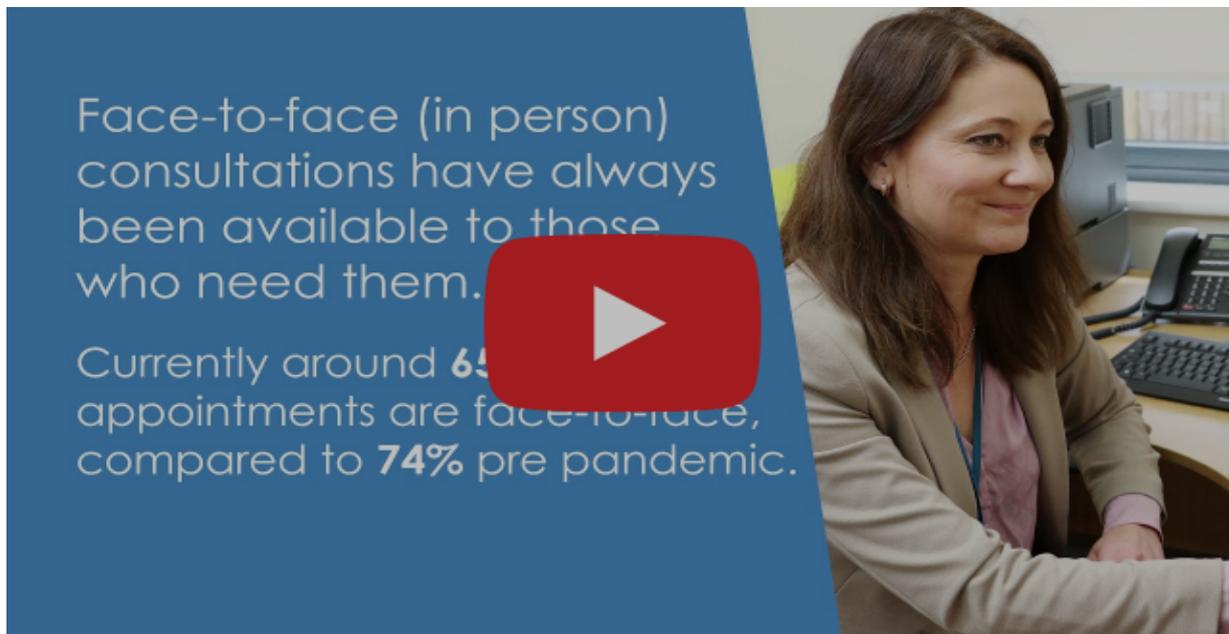
### **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

**By the end of October 2021 Gloucestershire had given one million vaccinations since the programme started in December 2020. 85% of the population had received a first dose and almost 80% of the population had received a second dose of the vaccine. The offer to schools (for children aged 12-15) in Gloucestershire is well underway and additional drop-in clinics were offered to eligible 12 to 15-year olds during October through several GP-led Primary Care Network (PCN sites). This has provided parents or guardians with a further option, extending the schools-based offer. Up to date information about the community vaccination programme in Gloucestershire can be found via the NHS COVID-19 portal: <https://covid19.glos.nhs.uk/vaccinations>**

### **Help your GP surgery to help you: new resources**

Given the significant pressure on general practice, the CCG has developed some resources to support practices at this time. Watch the video below, as Gloucestershire GP surgery teams ask for public support in 'unprecedented times' and provide clarity about consultations. The current number

of in-person, face-to-face appointments in Gloucestershire is increasing and now almost back to pre-pandemic levels whilst the number of all appointments has increased almost 10%.



### [Planning for Winter](#)

Although winter is already bringing challenges for the NHS and care sector services are working more closely than ever before to plan ahead and make best use of all available resources. To help, the public are also being urged to plan ahead, to prevent ill health wherever possible this winter. In support of this year's Winter Plan for Gloucestershire, additional national and local funds have been agreed.

Some examples of the measures being taken:

- GP surgeries offering additional face to face, telephone and video appointments where appropriate
- Using advice and guidance technology so that GPs can quickly access a specialist opinion from hospital consultants
- Recruiting additional staff across health and social care, including Nurses and Health Care Assistants
- Making best use of the two large hospital sites to ensure planned surgery can continue and reducing the backlog built up during the first phases of the COVID-19 response

- Introducing a raft of measures to reduce ambulance handover delays at times of peak pressure, including enhanced clinical triage (doctors and nurses using their clinical skills to provide additional advice and assessment over the phone)
- Increasing capacity in the A&E departments and ensuring people are seen by the most appropriate member of the team first time, by-passing waiting in A&E if appropriate and going straight to an assessment service
- Introducing the Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) for NHS 111/Out of Hours to increase clinical support and advice to people remaining at home or being directed and booked into local NHS services
- Ensuring services are in place to assess, treat and support older people to return home from hospital on the same day, with on-going support if needed
- Investing in additional NHS funded beds, including in the independent sector
- Making sure arrangements are in place for people to leave hospital safely:
  - additional staff working in the hospital to home teams
  - investing in more care home beds
  - increasing access to reablement and domiciliary (home) care staff – providing nursing care for patients and families at home where needed
- Increasing capacity in joined up community health and care teams/rapid response services
- Voluntary sector organisation partners providing a follow up service to ensure patients are being supported to remain at home after leaving hospital.

## 2. Enabling Active Communities

The Enabling Active Communities (EAC) Programme is working to develop a new sense of personal responsibility and self-care as well as supporting community capacity building through collaborative working with the voluntary and community sector.

The development of the Gloucestershire Prevention and Shared Care Plan, led by Public Health, aims to improve health and wellbeing. It recognises the importance of a more preventative approach to health and wellbeing for our population.



Healthwatch Gloucestershire have published a new report which presents the research and insight that have been gathered about loneliness and social isolation, including local people's experiences, and highlights a range of ideas for how to help support those who feel lonely and isolated in Gloucestershire. Healthwatch have shared findings with local health and care providers so that they can learn from local people about what it feels like to be lonely and isolated, how this affects people's physical and mental health, and what support people would like but may not be feel comfortable asking for.

Watch the video to see what people said about their loneliness and isolation

<https://vimeo.com/606397583>

Read the full report- Let's talk about social isolation and loneliness in Gloucestershire-

<https://www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/HWG-Social-Isolation-Full-Report-Final.r.pdf>

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### 3. Clinical Programme Approach

The Clinical Programme Groups (CPGs) have all highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on the transformation programmes and continue to work through the recovery phase. Recovery priority areas that continue to be of focus are:

- Respiratory – COVID and Non COVID pathways
- Cancer (including implementation of Faecal Immunochemical Test - FIT)
- Frailty pathway
- End of Life Care
- Muscular Skeletal (MSK) Pathways

Highlights of some of the work taking place in the Clinical Programmes include;

**MSK-** The MSK CPG is pleased to announce that it has been successful in applying for digital funding to NHSX to implement an app called getUBetter. This app delivers personalised prevention self-management support for common MSK conditions and injuries. We plan to run a 1-year pilot to support and encourage self-management across the MSK pathway. The pathway will be configured and integrated locally into the app providing a whole pathway approach that does not redirect

patients to use resource elsewhere unless absolutely needed. The technology will be offered to all Primary Care Practices within Gloucestershire, all Physiotherapy departments and the Community Wellbeing Sector as part of the phased implementation.

**Respiratory-** We have seen COVID cases in Gloucestershire increase recently. Positively, we have seen referrals to the COVID Virtual Ward increase, which shows the ongoing level of engagement with the pathway across Gloucestershire. We have had recent updated guidance of the management of pregnant patients with COVID which has been embedded into the standard operation procedures. Guidance is continually updated and shared across the country based on increased learning and understanding of this infection. The ward will stay in place over winter alongside the development of a new technology enabled virtual ward to support exacerbation management of patients in the community and supported discharge of patients from hospital with a wider range of conditions.

**Children and Young People-** Gloucestershire has been chosen to take part in an integration pilot with NHS England/Improvement and has successfully secured funding to support an end to end obesity pathway for our children and young people. Working with our local system partners and regional colleagues the work is seeking to develop one joined up and integrated holistic service that can offer support for children and families regardless of their level of need or complexity. As part of this we are working on increasing the capacity within more specialised obesity services to ensure that more local children requiring this level of support can benefit from their expertise. In addition, we want to ensure that all services can be offered locally without the need to travel to regional tertiary centres.



### **Focus on Live Better to Feel Better: online self-management programme with facilitated virtual sessions**

This self-management education and peer support programme has been relaunched as a digital offer by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHSFT (GHC). It is aimed at people with one or more long term conditions (including long COVID) who are finding it challenging to manage life with their conditions. This non-disease specific programme is a safe space for people to explore together how their conditions are affecting their lives and gain the confidence and skill to break the negative symptom cycle. Those who have completed the programme will be more self-reliant and better

equipped to work in partnership with health professionals.

The online programme consists of 13 topics interspersed with “live” virtual sessions for group discussion of progress and sharing of learning. It explores management approaches to common practical problems like pacing, sleep and mood with opportunities to practise underpinning skills like gaining insight, making plans and communicating more effectively. Participants have access to social prescribing support and are encouraged to maintain contact after the programme for peer to peer support. People can be referred via their GP or self-refer <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/self-management/>.

## 4. Campaigns and Awareness

The following campaigns and awareness raising have recently been run including –

### **Stoptober: stop smoking campaign**

Stoptober returned for its tenth year. It aimed to encourage smokers to make an attempt to quit during October and to sustain it for at least 28 days as if they do, they are five times more likely to quit for good. The national campaign is focussed on the good reasons to stop smoking; for health, to save money and for family. Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire (HLS Glos) ran a social media campaign (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to engage smokers. The campaign saw the Big Cig mascot in different locations in the local community.

### **Baby Loss Awareness Week**

As part of the Baby Loss Awareness Week, Footsteps Counselling Care, a Gloucester-based charity which provides counselling and support for anyone affected by pregnancy-related issues in the county, organised a non-religious baby remembrance ceremony on 14th October. Professional support was available at the event, which took place in person and online, with the opportunity for signposting as appropriate to Footsteps Counselling Care Services.

### **Care First – weekly webinars**

Care First organise a number of webinars each week which are of interest to patients, carers, public and staff. Sessions cover topics like mental health awareness, upcoming changes to COVID-19 guidance and preparing for winter. The link to the calendar is provided below.

<https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-COVID-19-Weekly->

### **Recognition for Gloucestershire**

Recent British Medical Journal (BMJ) awards saw Gloucestershire receiving awards for the MERIT project in the Anaesthesia and Perioperative category (Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Winner) and Respiratory High Care Team (Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) receiving Highly Commended in the Respiratory Care category. This is well deserved and reflects the hard work and innovation of teams within Gloucestershire.

Additionally, the Gloucestershire Community Diabetes Education Team was successful at the Diabetes 2021 Awards. The team was awarded a Quality in Care award for the Diabetes Education Programmes – People with Diabetes category. A Quality in Care award means an initiative has been recognised by the NHS, patients and industry as improving the quality of life for people living with diabetes. COVID-19 has changed the way care is delivered to people with long term conditions, including diabetes, now and into the future. The Community Diabetes Team has worked hard to ensure patient information sessions have been available and accessible, creating a new online programme for anyone diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Since the programme began in October 2020, it has successfully supported over 600 patients via structured education sessions, receiving excellent feedback from both attendees and colleagues. The team will continue offering an online programme but has also restarted face-to-face group sessions at COVID-safe venues across the county.

### **Gloucestershire Healthy Workplace Award**

The Healthy Workplaces Gloucestershire Award recognises local employers for the work they do to support their employees' health and well-being. The CCG has been awarded Foundation status and we are now working on obtaining Enhanced status. Further information is available here:

<https://www.hlsglos.org/about-us/healthy-workplaces/>

## **5. Integrated Care System Development**

Within Gloucestershire we are working towards further integration of services and support for residents in a way that improves the health and wellbeing of our local population. The System

Development workstream is coordinating work to put in place arrangements that (subject to the progression of the Health and Care Bill 2021-22) will enable the Integrated Care System to become a formal partnership by April 2022. As at 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Bill is in Report Stage at the House of Commons and is expected to shortly make its passage through the House of Lords.

As a system work is underway to support this transition. This work includes:

- Dame Gill Morgan has been confirmed as the Chair designate for the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- Mary Hutton has been confirmed as the Chief Executive Officer designate for the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- The process for recruiting to the Non-Executive Director and Executive Director roles for the Integrated Care Board will commence shortly
- Work is being undertaken to draft the Constitution for the Integrated Care Board, including work with partners to define the Committee structure for the Integrated Care Board
- Engagement has been undertaken with the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure close alignment with the new Integrated Care Partnership, once established
- Activity is underway to support establishment of the statutory Integrated Care System from April. This includes work on our strategy for engaging people and communities, development of our quality and safety framework, activity to develop the ICS financial framework as well as exploring opportunities to take on direct commissioning of primary-care based services (currently commissioned by NHSE/I) from April 2022.
- Work is also underway to ensure a safe closure of the Clinical Commissioning Group by the end of March and establishment of the Integrated Care Board from 1<sup>st</sup> April (subject to approval of the Health and Care Bill).

In addition to the above, work has been undertaken on the Transition to Launch Communications Plan for the Integrated Care System. This includes the launch of a partner bulletin that is designed to help guide partners through the next five months as we prepare to put One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) on a statutory footing. This bulletin aims to explain in simple terms what the ICS is as well as setting out some of our shared priorities for health and care. The bulletin can be accessed here: <https://mailchi.mp/b76f1b64a1a1/one-gloucestershire-health-and-care-update-issue-1?e=759584fcb2>

## 6. Recommendations

This report is provided for information and Members are invited to note the contents.

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