
To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 12th October 2020

From: Rachael Danter

Title: Preparation for Winter alongside possible Covid19 resurgence

1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to:

- Provide the Health & Wellbeing Board an update on the Health & Care System preparedness for winter alongside a possible Covid19 resurgence.
- Highlight how the system is working together to manage the current and ongoing situation.

2. Recommendations

Support the approach being identified

3. Information/Background

The NHS remains on a Level 4 incident and associated processes, protocols and levels of preparedness remain in place in all aspects of the system such as Infection Prevention & Control measures, virtual GP appointment capacity, green treatment pathways, independent sector collaboration, close support for the care sector and an effective local Test & Trace programme, including robust Outbreak Management and Local Lockdown Plans.

Locally this is being managed through the CCG Incident Control Centre (CICC) supported by a Primary Care Expert Advisory Group (EAG), C&W Care EAG (with a focus on care support) and the Testing Co-ordination Group.

A system wide review of the systems response to Covid19 has been carried out with all key stakeholders through the Coventry & Warwickshire A&E Delivery Board (CWAEDB) to identify good practice particularly in relation to system wide working, rapid discharge model supporting community services i.e. care homes & domiciliary care providers and mutual aid.

This learning is providing the basis of the C&W winter preparedness plan to enable patients to access services safely and protect staff whilst preparing for localised Covid19 outbreaks or resurgence.

The key areas of focus are:

- **Expansion of the seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme**

A C&W Flu Plan has been developed and agreed supplementing the NHSE/I Regional Flu Plan which outlines the scope and ambitions of the National Flu Programme for 2020/21. The primary purpose of the plan is to set out the C&W approach to deliver the National Flu Programme for 2020/21 and achieve the vaccination requirements and support the management of the general NHS response to flu outbreaks. Last year the system delivered 262,000 vaccinations. This year, with the proposed extended programme, the target for vaccinations is almost double at 482,000 with the national programme targeting the following cohorts. The black groups are Cohort 1 with the orange and red groups in Cohort 2.

Cohort	National ambition	
	2019/20	2020/21
Aged 65 years and over	75%	At least 75%
Under 65 In clinical at-risk group	55%	At least 75%
Pregnant women	55%	At least 75%
Children aged 2 and 3 year old	50%	At least 75%
All Primary school aged	65%	At least 75%
Front line Health workers	75%	Offer to 100%
Care home residents and Staff		Offer to 100%
Social Care Workers		Offer to 100%
Household contacts of Shielded Patients		At least 75%
School year 7 in secondary school		At least 75%
Hospice Staff		Offer to 100%
Age 50-64		At least 75%

The C&W Seasonal Flu Steering Group is in place and will meet biweekly throughout the planning phase and during the flu season. In addition, each of the 4 places have Primary Care Service Restoration groups with representatives from each PCN currently meeting weekly and these groups include flu delivery planning. These groups also report to a C&W Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group that meets bi-weekly and then onwards to the 3 CCGs Primary Care Committees as well as informing the Flu Steering Group.

Communications and engagement across Coventry and Warwickshire will be a coordinated system-wide collaborative approach that will support the delivery of the national strategic aim of providing public health information to prevent and protect against flu. It will offer assurance that partners are communicating the benefits of the vaccine among all recommended groups, as well support the operational effort of delivering the vaccine. It will be a proactive and timely campaign and the approach will not be a one size fits all.

- **Expanding the NHS 111 First Offer**

NHS 111 First is part of a national integrated programme to improve outcomes and experience of urgent and emergency care. To keep patients safe and allow them to maintain social distancing, patients will be asked to call NHS111 before they go to the emergency department. NHS 111 will then triage the patient and either book them into a time slot at the emergency department, or into the most appropriate alternative local service for their needs. All patients who need a blue light response will still receive one.

Work is in progress across Coventry & Warwickshire to implement the offer across the system and local sign off is scheduled for 2nd October with National Team sign off by 9th Oct 2020. Clinical & managerial leads have been agreed and project groups established to ensure delivery against the project plan. This will ensure a “Go Live” date from 12th -23rd Oct 2020. There will be close monitoring of the service and full launch with public facing message from 9th November 2020.

To ensure delivery of the project in preparation for winter four work streams have been established including Capacity & Demand, Clinical Pathways, Digital & IT and Communications & Engagement.

- **Timely and Appropriate Discharge**

To ensure there is continued timely and appropriate discharge throughout winter the following is in place:

- Regular multi-agency meetings have been established in all 3 acute trusts supported by relevant agencies to reduce the number of stranded patients and support timely discharge.
- C&W already has a strong Discharge to Assess (D2A) model in place which has further been strengthened with a culture shift to delivering care at home through enhanced care packages.
- The process whereby CHC team support all discharges to D2A Pathway 3, nursing care and EoL and local authority support discharge to D2A Pathway 2 will continue so preventing any delays in discharge.
- A C&W wide Care Home Surge Plan has been agreed should there be a Covid19 resurgence to support rapid discharge but also safeguard the wider care home population from Covid19.
- A discharge dashboard has been in place since April to monitor daily volumes via each discharge pathway so enabling a system response to any increases in demand.
- A system wide working group has been established to manage arrangements to reinstate CHC processes from 1st Sept to reduce any impact on capacity and hospital discharge.
- A system point prevalence review was carried out in August and analysis will be presented to CWAEDB to consider the findings and agree any further adjustments to the winter plan or Covid19 response.

- **Supporting Care Homes**

There has been significant support provided to Care Homes during the past few months which has been managed through the C&W Care EAG led by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Coventry & City Council (CCC). This group will continue to oversee the work programme and provide assurance to the system wide restoration group throughout the winter period responding to any issues relating to resilience and/or outbreaks.

Support to care homes across the system has been ongoing since the start of lockdown with a view to safeguarding care home residents, improving resilience and avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. This work will continue as part of the systems winter plan and the ongoing Covid19 response. It includes: -

- System wide response in progress through Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) audit and care home resilience checklist assurance process for all care homes and support to homes i.e. Infection prevention and control training and audit, to be able to effectively isolate COVID+ residents.
- Shielding of care homes from Covid19 through the commissioning of specific “Blue Beds”. The purpose of these blue beds is to accommodate COVID+ patients once they are deemed safe to leave hospital so that they can complete the 14 day isolation period. Once this period is over, they can transfer to their place of residence which includes a care home. 2 care homes across the system have been identified to provide these isolation beds and a surge plan has been agreed to increase capacity should it be required so ensuring continued shielding of all care home residents.
- A Primary Care Enhance Care Home Service in place for all Care Homes. This service includes a named GP per home, weekly check-in and virtual ward round via telephone and video consultations as required, medication reviews, GP access to telephone advise from acute trust i.e. Consultant Connect.
- An audit of the IT infrastructure and kit within all care homes is being carried out and dissemination of equipment to homes actioned as required.

- **Coventry & Warwickshire Winter Communications & Engagement Plan**

The winter communication and engagement plan highlights how the system’s partner organisations will collaborate to deliver an effective winter communications campaign between October 2020 and March 2021 to help meet the challenges of increased demand in service through winter alongside the added challenge of the continuing Covid19 pandemic and associated implications.

The communication plan includes:

- Coordinated and effective Covid-19-related communication activity across all partner organisations which is likely to remain in place throughout the defined winter period.
- An increase in flu vaccination take-up in target groups: i.e. Carers, Pregnant women and long term conditions.
- Commitment from all organisations to support any national campaigns and in particular promote flu vaccine uptake by their staff.

- Promotion of self-care, Walk In Centres, Urgent Treatment Centres, NHS 111 and Out Of Hospital services to reduce pressure on urgent care and A&E departments
- Regular targeted media reports i.e. seasonal flu, Covid19, Norovirus etc.

- **System Response & escalation**

As part of the Covid19 response there are Silver tactical calls with representation from all stakeholders across the system including Public Health. These calls review the current situation relating to Covid19 and agree the response and actions required or escalation if required. This will continue over the coming months with extended representation to include oversight for winter.

4. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

Members are asked to note the contents of the paper and support the approach identified.

Report Author(s):

Name and Job Title: Sue Davies, Director of Operations

Directorate: CRCCG/WNCCG

Telephone and E-mail Contact:

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

