

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership

Update Report

April/May 2020

Since the beginning of March, the scheduled Partnership Executive Group meetings have been replaced with a series of more frequent meetings, (virtually) bringing together key leaders from across the Partnership to support the system response to COVID-19. This involves the Core Leaders' Group, the Strategic Health Co-ordinating Group, the Partnership Executive Group and the Clinical and Professional Leadership Group all meeting weekly, in addition to the formal incident response meetings through the NHS Incident Control structures and Local Resilience Forums in North Yorkshire and Humber. This has been necessary to enable partners to respond to the fast-moving situation. Regular updates from these meetings have been provided through the usual channels. This report provides a brief overview of recent developments from across the Partnership and highlights some examples of the ways in which the HCV Partnership is supporting the response to COVID-19 across our region as well as thinking about and planning for the future.

A full list of our priorities and further information about the work of the Partnership can be found on our website at www.humbercoastandvale.org.uk.

News from the Partnership

Humber, Coast and Vale achieves ICS status

This month we learned that the Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership has become an Integrated Care System (ICS), following ratification of our application by NHS England and NHS Improvement. Achieving ICS accreditation was based upon our ability to demonstrate that our organisations share a common goal to improve health and wellbeing in our communities and that this vision is supported by robust operational and financial plans, and proposals for collective leadership and accountability.

The requirement for all Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) to become ICSs by April 2021 was set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). The stated aim of the Partnership has been to achieve ICS status in Spring 2020 and partners have put in significant effort toward achieving this goal, in particular through participation in the ICS Accelerator Programme through the latter part of 2019. The Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership was one of only four STPs to achieve ICS status in April 2020, joining 14 ICSs already operating across England. It is expected that the remaining STPs will develop into integrated care systems by April 2021.

This announcement is recognition of the hard work and dedication of colleagues across our Partnership over the last four years and the progress we have made in developing local health and care services that meet the needs of our population and the work we have undertaken to improve the lives of people living in our region.



New Locality Director

This month the Partnership welcomed Foluke Ajayi to the role of Locality Director for Humber, Coast and Vale. The Locality Director is the senior representative of NHSE/I within the Partnership, leading a small locality team which coordinates a range of functions across the Partnership. Foluke joins our Partnership from her previous role as Chief Operating Officer at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, having previously managed the Cancer Centre at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Mental Health Programme Update

The HCV Mental Health Programme has been continuing work on a number of key service transformations that directly support communities and individuals to stay well during the current COVID-19 situation. These include the suicide prevention programme and collaborative work to support children and young people with their mental health. On 1st April, a free online mental health and emotional wellbeing support service was launched to help children and young people living in Hull, East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, supported through the Mental Health Programme. This expansion of the service means that it is now available to young people aged between 11 and 25 in all areas across Humber, Coast and Vale.

It was important to the Partnership that this service launch was able to go ahead as scheduled to provide this vital resource for children and young people during this time of heightened stress and anxiety due to the ongoing coronavirus situation. Children and young people in our region can access [Kooth](#), which is accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, to receive one-on-one online sessions with qualified counsellors, receive and provide peer-to-peer support through moderated online forums, and read and contribute articles. Kooth can also be used to keep an online journal and track your wellbeing via an interactive goal tracker.

Cancer Alliance Update

The HCV Cancer Alliance has similarly been working to support organisations to collectively respond to the specific challenges for those affected by cancer as a result of Covid-19. This response has included accelerating the procurement of Radiology home working stations to enable the reporting workforce within our region to report from home during Covid-19. Thirty home working stations, which have been funded through transformational monies, will be placed in reporters' homes across the Humber, Coast and Vale region to help alleviate any pressures caused by staff needing to self-isolate and to reduce travel into acute hospital sites. There are further details about recent work undertaken through the Cancer Alliance [on the website](#).

Responding to Covid-19

In responding to Covid-19 within Humber, Coast and Vale, we have continued to use the strength of the Partnership to support organisations to work together for the good of our staff, patients and communities. This has included establishing a number of working groups to provide collective leadership on key issues such as PPE and procurement, testing and digital

transformation, as well as meeting regularly through forums such as the Strategic Health Coordination Group and the Clinical and Professional Leaders' Group to share good ideas and tackle problems and challenges together.

Testing

The HCV Testing Steering Group was established in April to provide strategic leadership and oversight across all aspects of our local testing strategy. The group is chaired by our Partnership Clinical Lead Dr Nigel Wells and sponsored by Phil Mettam who has taken on the role of Chief Executive Lead for testing for HCV. The ambition of this group is to provide a mechanism through which the different aspects (or pillars) of the [Government's Testing Strategy](#) can be coordinated in order to maximise the benefit of testing for the population of Humber, Coast and Vale. This will continue to be important to all partners throughout the next phases of Covid-19 response.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Throughout the initial phases of the response to Covid-19, the Partnership has been supporting the operation of mutual aid of PPE between different provider organisations, both within and beyond Humber, Coast and Vale, to ensure all partner organisations have access to the equipment they need. This work has been undertaken through the locality team and will continue as required. In addition, a small working group has been established, led by Dr Peter Reading who has taken on the role of Chief Executive Lead for PPE and procurement. This working group will support the Partnership to coordinate and maximise the benefit from new local supply chains that have been opening up in response to the current situation.

Next Steps Planning

The initial phase of responding to Covid-19 involved partner organisations taking action in a number of areas to ensure the immediate support our communities needed was available, whether that be critical care capacity within our acute hospitals or community support for those isolating at home. This work was undertaken rapidly and by working together across organisations and across sectors.

Now we are entering the next phase of our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Partnership is working on a rapid review of service transformations that have taken place across our health and care system in response to Covid-19. This work will help to inform the system-wide planning exercise, which is looking at short, medium and longer term changes that will be required in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on our communities.

Our Next Steps planning exercise is being undertaken collectively across the whole Partnership and will involve a wide range of inter-related actions, including:

- Review, evaluation and embedding of recent service changes and improvements (including undertaking relevant engagement and approval process);
- Benchmarking of service improvements across Humber, Coast and Vale;
- Undertaking appropriate needs assessments, activity modelling and scenario planning – across all sectors;

- Focusing on Population Health Management, improving and sustaining health and wellbeing and developing wider partnerships;
- Review of cultures, behaviours and attitudes to change;
- Review of service improvement methods and approach to service change;
- Continuing to support the development of the Partnership as an Integrated Care System (ICS) and re-alignment of resources.

Engagement with local populations and their representatives, those who use health and care services and those who work in them will be critically important to the ongoing planning and delivery of services as organisations and communities continue to respond in real time to the Covid-19 situation.

Further Information

All of the latest information about COVID-19 is hosted on the following websites, which are updated regularly:

- Information for the public (health advice): www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- Information for healthcare professionals: www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- Broader information and guidance for everyone including information for businesses and employers: www.gov.uk/coronavirus