

**“It’s a big challenge; we’re in it together, so let’s do the right thing at the right time.”**

*Message from Dr Nigel Wells, Clinical Lead for the Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership on behalf of the Humber, Coast and Vale Clinical and Professional Group\*\**

Responding to Covid-19 has required an incredible amount of us as health and care professionals, both individually and collectively and, as you all know, there is still a long road ahead of us. On behalf of the Humber, Coast and Vale Clinical and Professional Group I would like to begin my message with a heartfelt thank you to each and every frontline health and social care professional for the dedication, care and professionalism you have shown in the face of this tremendous challenge. The experience of the pandemic has provided more evidence, should anyone have needed it, that collaboration and partnership working is essential for delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century health and care services for a population.

The Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership attained Integrated Care System (ICS) status in April, in recognition of the significant progress we have made together as individuals and organisations in creating deeper and more meaningful collaboration across health and care. It is more important than ever that we lean on those partnerships and relationships as we enter this next phase of our system’s response to Covid-19.

Through the Partnership (ICS) we have been working together to develop our plans for the delivery of health and care services for the remainder of this financial year. As we undertake this work, the scale of the challenge facing us as a system is becoming clearer. Covid-19 has widened health inequalities that existed in our communities and there are people in our communities who have avoided health and care services due to fear of Covid-19 who may have needs that have gone unmet. It is a big challenge, but not one we face alone either as individual clinicians or individual organisations. Our message as a leadership group to you is that we’re in it together, so let’s do the right thing at the right time.

Over the coming weeks, the Humber, Coast and Vale Clinical and Professional Group will be working on a framework and some collective principles about how we will work across all our organisations to best meet the health and care needs of our population given the challenges and constraints that face us over the coming weeks and months. We will communicate with you about this work regularly, through your existing organisational channels. If you would like to get in touch or have any queries about the group and its role, you can direct these through [the Partnership Office](#) or speak to any member of the group.

\*\*The Humber, Coast and Vale Clinical and Professional Group came together in its new form in the wake of the pandemic. The group includes representation from primary care, secondary care, mental health services and local authority from a range of backgrounds including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and public health consultants.

