

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership

Update Report

December 2020 to January 2021

The following report provides an overview of the issues and topics discussed at the Partnership Board meeting held on December. The Board meeting that was scheduled to take place in January was cancelled to enable system partners to respond to operational pressures due to the recent surge in cases of Covid-19 which is impacting across the health and care economy. This update report also 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 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.

Partnership Board Overview – December

Next Steps for Integrating Care

Discussions at the December Board meeting focused on developing and agreeing the Partnership's collective response to the NHS England and Improvement publication: [Integrating Care - next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems](#). This document sets out the guiding principles for the future of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in England and outlines two proposed options for how ICSs could be embedded in legislation by April 2022, subject to parliamentary decision.

The document proposes the future of ICSs being designed to serve a number of purposes:

- Improving population health
- Improving outcomes and addressing health inequalities
- Driving better quality and value
- Directly engaging the NHS with wider social and economic development
- Enabling the NHS to operate as an equal partner with local government and the voluntary and community sectors
- Co-producing strategies, plans and outcomes with patients, citizens and their representatives.

It also includes a number of practical policy changes which it suggests will be in place by April 2022, most notably:

- Place-based partnerships with focus on decisions taken closer to communities
- Provider collaboration (between partners usually at place) and provider collaboratives (usually providers from the same sector coming together)
- A change in emphasis for commissioning with a clearer focus on population health



outcomes and strategic planning

- Putting ICSs on a statutory footing (two options proposed).

Much of the approach set out in the document is already being developed or is in place in partnerships across England including in Humber, Coast and Vale. We have also already made commitments both in our Partnership Long Term Plan and in our more recent recovery plans to working together to improve the health of our population, address the health inequalities and provide better quality and value of care.

Discussions amongst Partnership Board members focused on identifying the steps needed to embed collaborative working within our Partnership and ensure future operating arrangements maximise the benefits for our distinct communities and are responsive to local priorities and challenges. In addition, there was a recognition amongst Board members that these proposals have arrived at what is already an extremely challenging time for colleagues across all partner organisations and have been mindful of this in developing the next steps.

Across the Partnership the leaders agreed to continue at pace, to define what the proposals in the document mean for all parts of our health and care system, so all colleagues, partners and other stakeholders can have greater clarity. Partners have committed to managing any transition together as the changes will have implications for all parts of the system.

In developing the Partnership's response, the Partnership Board reinforced a shared commitment to **place**, which will remain at the heart of the Partnership's future design, with a focus on strengthening local leadership, increasing integration and developing primary care in its broadest sense. This will also build on the established **partnerships** across the Humber and in North Yorkshire and York, recognising that there will be aspects of our health and care system where it makes sense for us to collaborate at a larger scale. In addition, there are established **provider collaboratives** between our acute, mental health and community service providers, which seek to improve services for patients by working together to plan, design and deliver specialist and other services that meet the needs of our population. Partnership leaders also emphasised the importance of maintaining equal partnership with Local Government and with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector that has been established and strengthened over recent years in Humber, Coast and Vale.

Building on what has been described above, we are proposing that our future operating arrangements will continue to be developed around a single body across Humber, Coast and Vale that will function through the two partnerships of Humber and North Yorkshire and York, supporting provider collaboration and delivery at place and the development of the Provider Collaboratives.

The [Partnership's response](#) to the Next Steps document and further details of the Partnership's current [operating arrangements](#) and [leadership arrangements](#) are available on the [Partnership website](#).

Responding to Covid-19

The Partnership continues to support the response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, which is impacting every aspect of our health and care system.

Vaccination programme

Throughout December and January, our collective Covid response included working together to establish the Covid vaccination programme, bringing together partners from across HCV to rapidly deploy vaccinations across the region.

The Humber, Coast and Vale vaccination programme commenced delivery on 9th December, when Sheila Page, 84, became the first person to receive her first dose of vaccine in our first Hospital Hub run by Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. As at 28th January, five hospital hubs, one large vaccination centre and 32 local (Primary Care Network, PCN) delivery sites were up and running across Humber, Coast and Vale, which had delivered 221,497 doses of the vaccine to date. More information on the [locations of vaccination sites](#) and the [numbers of vaccinations delivered](#) are published online.

People are being vaccinated according to priority order set by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation and partners are continuing to work together to deliver as many vaccinations as possible as quickly as possible.

Elective recovery programme

Partner organisations continue to work together and provide mutual aid to ensure we can continue to provide care for those patients needing care and treatment for a range of conditions, alongside the growing numbers of Covid-positive patients within our hospitals.

With the continuing pressures on our hospitals, caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the existing HCV Partnership Elective Care Programme has been refocused to concentrate on 'Recovery'. Initially focussing on specialties with the most significant waiting lists where comprehensive recovery plans can be developed; the elective programme has agreed with provider Trusts to focus initial efforts on the following specialties:

- Ophthalmology;
- Urology; and,
- Ear, nose and throat (ENT).

The elective recovery programme is working in accordance with the [system-wide principles and shared approach to clinical priorities](#) developed by the Partnership's Clinical and Professionals Group. These principles have been set out to support organisations and individual clinicians to effectively deliver and prioritise non-Covid services over the coming months. Partner organisations are committed to working together to ensure that we get the most out of all the skills, expertise, buildings and equipment across the health and care system so that as many patients can receive the treatment they need as quickly as possible within the current constraints.

With a streamlined meeting structure and reviewed membership of working groups to ensure effort is focused on delivering the aims and objectives of the programme, the main focus is:

- Improving care pathways to make the most effective use of capacity across all parts of the Partnership;
- Continuing to support patients waiting a long time for their treatment or care to start;
- Working together to create additional capacity to treat patients, focussing on patients with the most urgent clinical needs and those waiting the longest;
- Developing diagnostic capacity across the Partnership to improve the timeliness and accessibility of services.

Partners are also working with the voluntary and community sector and other wider partners to ensure a wide range of support is in place to meet the mental and physical health needs of our communities who are dealing with the direct and indirect impact of Covid-19.

Other news from the Partnership

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Collaborative Programme Update

The mental health and learning disabilities collaborative programme continues to work on a number of priority workstreams, which are contributing to the Partnership's overall response to the Covid pandemic, some of these are highlighted below.

Humber, Coast and Vale Staff Resilience Hub

A priority programme of work has been the development of a Resilience Hub for health and care staff across the Humber, Coast and Vale area struggling with the impact of Covid-19. The pandemic has been particularly challenging for health and care workers, who are experiencing unprecedented strain from the impact of the virus. Recognising this, an interim offer was put in place in December ahead of the full service being up and running. The Resilience Hub provides confidential and easy to access support for all health and care staff across Humber, Coast and Vale. It's important that, like the general public they also look after themselves during this time and seek support if needed. For more information [visit the Resilience Hub online](#).

Qwell

A key area of focus for the suicide prevention workstream is encouraging and enabling men to access support for their mental and emotional wellbeing. To support this, a free online mental health and emotional wellbeing support service has been launched for men living across the Humber, Coast and Vale area. All men aged 18 and over living within Humber, Coast and Vale can now register to use Qwell for Men – a free, anonymous online counselling and emotional wellbeing service which can be accessed anywhere by visiting qwell.io/hcv. Targeted marketing of the service will be undertaken in the coming months to encourage take up of the service now that it is in place across all areas. Further information about local support is available at talksuicide.co.uk/get-help and more details about the service can be found [on the Partnership website](#).

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Update

The role of the VCSE Leadership Group is to influence and facilitate greater collaboration between statutory sector partners and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector across Humber, Coast and Vale, enhancing and embedding the role of the VCSE sector in the delivery of the transformation of health and wellbeing. The programme will be supported by a new programme director, Gary Sainty, who will start in post on 1st February 2021.

Green Social Prescribing

The Partnership was successful in securing £500,000 to support the development of green social prescribing across Humber, Coast and Vale. Our partnership is one of just seven health and care partnerships in the country to secure a place on the two-year national scheme to 'test and learn' how to embed green social prescribing into local areas. Green social prescribing is about connecting people with nature and their local environments to promote better mental health and wellbeing. A steering group with representation from key sectors (social prescribing teams, nature partners, mental health providers etc.) is being established to oversee the project, which is set to launch in April 2021.