

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

February 2022

Covid-19 vaccinations

As at 9 February 2022, more than 2.1 million Covid-19 vaccinations have been given out at sites across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Since the beginning of 2022, more than 3,000 adults have come forward for their first vaccination. This is partly due to the innovative ways in which the vaccination offer has been taken to the heart of people's communities. Pop-up vaccine clinics have taken place in sports clubs, community centres, places of worship and even pubs thus removing previous barriers to uptake including inconvenience and proximity to a site.

Children aged between five and 11-years-old, who are deemed to be clinically extremely vulnerable, can now get a single dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from more than a dozen venues across the region. Efforts to make settings as comfortable as possible for this audience are being offered including 'Superhero' themed child environments at Salisbury City Hall, that also have therapy dogs for the children to cuddle and play with.

More than 30,000 secondary school children have received a first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and more than 10,000 have had a second. This means the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire area is leading the way in vaccinating 12 to 15-year-olds, with current uptake being the highest in the south west. Children in this age group are being offered the vaccine in school but can also get the jab at evenings and weekends from venues such as Salisbury City Hall.

Walk-in vaccination appointments are still available at a number of sites. Pre-booking at many venues is no longer a requirement. It is hoped that by removing the booking process, people who may have been putting off getting vaccinated, perhaps due to work, home or other commitments, will find it easier to get protected.

All vaccination centres, including those that offering walk-ins, are listed on NHS England's national Find My Nearest Walk-in Vaccination service.

Those using the online tool will be able to see a list of the vaccination centres closest to them by entering their postcode in the search box.

Current pressures on local health and care system

The health and care system in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire continues to face enormous pressure. A main contributing cause is Care Home capacity issues as a result of Covid-19 which directly impacts on discharge flow for Wiltshire patients out of hospitals.

A number of initiatives have been implemented to alleviate pressure and help with flow through Salisbury hospital by discharging patients who are well enough to go home. These include:

- The commissioning of 7 beds at South Newton Hospital for admissions until the end of March 2022.
- Supporting the wider CCG system to open and effectively use additional capacity in Bath, including a Care Hotel and opening additional capacity on a community ward at St Martin's Hospital in Bath.
- Working with the provider, Abicare, to maximise the use of additional Live In Carers.
- Collaboration with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Health and Care on several initiatives including the provision of two CCG colleagues to the Wiltshire Flow Hub and an area-wide call-to-arms to support additional domiciliary care provision as part of the Council's Support at Home service.

Appeals to the public to support services during this difficult time are ongoing. The main messages being for people to use our health services appropriately, support hospitals by collecting loved ones as soon as they are ready to go home, using our pharmacies for help and support wherever possible and using the online 111 service in the first instance.

Wiltshire Link Schemes

Wiltshire Link Schemes are community-based, volunteer run charities which aim to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged, elderly or infirm people by providing transport and 'good neighbour' services.

Link schemes help to keep local communities connected to vital services, by connecting volunteer drivers (using their own cars), with passengers who have limited access to transport. Depending on volunteer availability, this can involve taking someone to a medical appointment, taking them shopping or providing 'good neighbour' services like prescription collection.

There are currently 42 schemes in Wiltshire supported by 1,567 volunteers. Together in 2021 alone, they completed over 23,136 everyday tasks and offered over 81,000 hours of support. The economic value of the schemes in 2021 was over £1million pounds.

Further information on the scheme can be found at www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/link/

Our Shaping a Healthier Future – Health and Care Model Consultation

Our Shaping a Healthier Future public engagement programme to seek local people's views on our developing health and care model concluded in mid-December. The model sets out what health and care services will be like for people in the next ten years and will provide a framework to ensure we take a coordinated approach to how we design and plan services across our partner organisations.

People across BSW have shared their thoughts and opinions by taking part in a short survey online and by attending in-person engagement events. Around 750 people completed our survey and almost than 1,200 people attended workshops and interviews.

The completed findings and recommendations will be presented at a forthcoming BSW Partnership Board on 25 February 2022 that will be held in Public, with supporting papers being available on the CCG website on the 18 February. A further dissemination plan will then follow. Please visit the CCG website for further information: www.bswpartnership.nhs.uk/about-us/shaping-a-healthier-future

Oximetry

The oximetry service in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG is going from strength to strength. The service enables clinically vulnerable patients with Covid-19 who are isolating at home to measure their own oxygen levels and send data into local hospitals for monitoring.

If clinicians spot any early warning signs in terms of low blood oxygen levels – which can lead to complications and poor outcomes – the patient can then be admitted to hospital where they can receive treatment.

The remote home oximetry service is supported through collaboration between a number of health and care partners including hospitals, Medvivo and the West of England Academic Health Science Network.

Annual Health Checks for people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and learning disability

The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG are launching new initiatives to encourage people to come forward for their Annual Health Check (AHC). The AHC is offered to people with learning disabilities and also those living with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) as a recognised, evidenced method of improving their health. They are vital to ensure that these patients remain safe and clinically well, and also to inform the review and update of the patients' health action plan.

People living with severe mental illness (SMI)¹ face one of the greatest health inequality gaps in England. The life expectancy for people with SMI is 15–20 years lower than the general population. This disparity in health outcomes is partly due to physical health needs being overlooked. Smoking is the largest avoidable cause of premature death, with more than 40% of adults with SMI smoking. Individuals with SMI also have double the risk of obesity and diabetes, three times the risk of hypertension and metabolic syndrome, and five times the risk of dyslipidaemia (imbalance of lipids in the bloodstream) than the general population.

Poor uptake for health checks is proven to lead to earlier diagnoses of life limiting conditions and leave individuals with poorer health outcomes should they succumb to COVID-19.

In response, First Option Healthcare have been commissioned to support local GP surgeries with AHCs and have already completed over 1300 health checks since they started in February 2021. The BSW team are leading a focused effort in reaching children and young people, working with Special Schools across Wiltshire to be able to extend the offer and offer AHCs in school settings. The initiatives form part of the operational plan for 45% of eligible individuals to have completed their AHC by March 2022 and further work to drive awareness of the importance of having and access to AHCs is being planned.

Devizes Health Centre

The construction of the Devizes Health Centre has now passed the half way point and is on track to open later this summer. Devizes Health Centre will be one of the region's first integrated care centres with several organisations coming together to provide a range of health services from one building. Healthwatch Wiltshire are currently conducting a survey to collect thoughts on service provision covering aspects such as opening times and what services would be desired at the centre. The survey is open until 20 March 22 and can be accessed at: <https://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/news/2022-02-03/devizes-residents-asked-their-views-town's-new-health-centre>

Integrated Care Board

As we move towards the establishment of the Integrated Care System (ICS) on a statutory footing on 1 July 2022, we welcomed Sue Harriman to the CCG in February 2022 as Chief Executive Designate of the BSW Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) and are making good progress with the recruitment to other roles on the Integrated Care Board.

Sue brings a wealth of NHS experience. She joins from the Solent NHS Trust where she was Chief Executive for eight years. Whilst at Solent she took up a six-month

secondment at Chief Operating Officer for the national Covid-19 vaccination deployment programme.

Following more than 16 years of clinical experience gained from working as a nurse in the Royal Navy, Sue joined the NHS in 2002 as a nurse consultant in infection prevention. Since that time, Sue has held various executive roles within the NHS, including as a Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director before becoming Chief Executive at Solent NHS Trust. Under her leadership, Solent NHS Trust achieved an improved Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating, from 'requires improvement' to good overall with outstanding in the caring domain.

Sue was appointed to the Chief Executive Designate position last November and has now officially started her new job which will see her work with health and care partner organisations and VCSE groups across BSW to improve outcomes in population health and healthcare; tackle health inequalities in patient outcomes, experience and access; enhance productivity and value for money and support broader social and economic in the local area.

As regards other roles for the ICS, recruitment for four of the five the Non-Executive roles has also completed. Appointments are in the process of being finalised for the Non-Executive Director roles covering Audit, Public & Community Engagement, Quality and Remuneration & People. Further information on the appointments will be made available shortly. An appointment was not made for the role covering Finance and this will be re-advertised.

Recruitment for the Integrated Care Board Director positions for Medical, Planning & Performance, Strategy & Transformation and Chief Nurse is also underway with the closing date for applications being the 28 February. Recruitment for the Director of Place roles will commence at the start of March.

BSW Partnership Board

The BSW Partnership Board will hold its next meeting in public on 25th February 2022. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers to find out more about the BSW Partnership, our progress, and our plans for the future.

The meeting will be from 9am to 12pm and will be held virtually via Zoom.

You can request to attend and observe the meeting in public and submit a question to the BSW Partnership Board by emailing bswccg.partnership@nhs.net.