

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

January 2023

Adult social care discharge funding

Throughout December and early January, the system has seen a significant increase in demand. During this time the Wiltshire system has managed to maintain flow, the additional national funding through Adult Social Care (BCF) has been allocated to various schemes targeted at reducing hospital delays (physical and mental health).

Our planning has included all partners, including third sector organisations (who are supporting by offering meals etc) so people can go home. The first national reporting date is January 6, 2023.

Schemes include:

- Dorothy House end of life care beds x 2 opening on 23 January
- Incentives for domiciliary care providers in areas which securing provision is challenging
- Staff incentives for extra hours
- Expedited placement process live as of 4 January
- Recruitment plans for additional staffing and working with agencies to secure resources where possible
- Additional in-reach resources for Social Care and Wiltshire Health and Care
- Additional mental health support
- Discharge grant across BSW

Pressures on services

During the past few weeks and especially over the Christmas period, health and care services in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire have been under unprecedented pressure.

Health and care partners from across the BSW ICB have continued to demonstrate strong collaborative working. Winter plans have enhanced the preparedness of the system as well as supporting service change to find new solutions.

A number of initiatives are underway across BSW to help support pressures including increasing capacity through the provision of extra beds at St Martins Hospital in Bath and South Newton Hospital in Salisbury, the provision of a virtual ward initiative providing a safe and efficient alternative to going into hospital for people who are unwell.

Members of the public have been asked to support services by only visiting Accident and Emergency departments or calling 999 in the case of a life-threatening emergency, being available to support relatives being discharged from hospitals, and practicing good self-care such as collecting prescriptions in advance and using services such as 111 online and local pharmacies.

Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

Our winter vaccination programme for Covid and Flu has continued over the past few weeks and has been supported by ongoing communications activity to encourage those who have not yet come forwards for either Covid or Flu vaccinations to do so as soon as possible.

As of January 12, 2,673,260 covid vaccinations have been delivered across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Access to Covid-19 vaccines continues to be available across the region, with teams setting up base in a wide range of community venues and ready to return to full capacity, should further vaccinations be required.

Those not yet vaccinated against Covid-19, as well as any person due a booster jab, can still find their nearest vaccination venue by visiting www.nhs.uk or by calling 119.

Some sites continue to accept people who have not pre-booked an appointment, with details of venues offering a walk-in service available to find via the NHS Grab a Jab portal.

Flu vaccines are free for many people, including the over-50s, and can be arranged through GP practices and community pharmacies.

Industrial action

BSW Integrated Care Board continues to work hard to keep local people safe during planned strikes, while delivering the best care possible.

System partners are working together to ensure operational oversight and sharing of intelligence. BSW-wide co-ordination has been established both through a Strategic Co-ordination Group and Tactical Co-ordination Group.

No-one should put off seeking urgent or emergency care during the strikes and people with serious, life-threatening conditions will continue to be seen at our Emergency Departments.

On days when there is strike action, people should only call 999 if it is a medical or mental health emergency. Ambulances will still respond in these situations, but this may only be where there is an immediate risk to life.