

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

October 2021

Devizes Health Centre build reaches highest point

Local healthcare leaders and construction officials attended a topping out ceremony on the Devizes Health Centre site on Marshall Road on Monday 11 October 2021 marking the building reaching its highest point.

The new Devizes Health Centre will be one of the region's first integrated care centres and with services being delivered on the site by the Devizes Primary Care Network made up of the four local GP practices, the Royal United Hospitals Bath, Wiltshire Health and Care and the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership.

The project remains on track with the building scheduled to open next summer.

You can find out more about the Devizes Health Centre and watch a time lapse stream of the building work on the [CCG website](#).

GPs address current pressure in open letter to patients

On Friday 8 October, leading GPs from across our region, including Dr Edd Rendell, Locality Clinical Lead for Wiltshire, issued an open letter to local people explaining the pressures currently affecting primary care services and saying what people can do to help.

Available to read in full on [the CCG website](#), the open letter explained how staff absences, rising coronavirus cases and an increase in demand for urgent and emergency care had generated pressure not usually seen outside of winter.

The letter was also accompanied by a [factsheet that explained how GP practices are working differently](#).

Covid-19 vaccinations

Covid-19 vaccinations for children aged between 12 and 15-years-old

Since the end of September, coronavirus vaccinations for children aged between 12 and 15-years-old have been taking place in schools across Wiltshire, as well as in other areas of Bath and North East Somerset and Swindon.

More than 45,000 local children are eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine, which is being delivered in school-based clinics by Virgin Care's immunisation service team.

Home-schooled children, as well as those in private education, are also included in the vaccine rollout.

Due to the complex logistics associated with a vaccination programme of this size, there may be times when planned clinics have to be rearranged due to factors outside any organisation's control, such as staff sickness and classroom isolations following a positive covid test result. In these cases, sessions will be rearranged as quickly as possible.

In October, and ahead of the half-term break, parents are now able to also use the online national booking system to arrange their child's vaccination appointment at a local vaccination centre, such as Salisbury City Hall.

This supplementary offer will be available alongside the school-based programme, and parents now have the option to book their child's appointment using the online system or wait for their child's school to be visited by Virgin Care.

The vaccination programme for 12 to 15-year-olds is expected to be completed by the end of November 2021.

Covid-19 booster vaccinations

GP practices started inviting people for their third, top-up dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the end of September.

Those eligible for the booster vaccine, which can only be given six months after a person's previous dose, include all those aged over 50, health and social care workers and people with weakened immune systems.

All people eligible for a booster vaccine should receive their third dose before the end of December, and those who have yet to be invited to book their appointment are encouraged to wait to be contacted.

A dedicated vaccination programme for people who cannot travel to a vaccination clinic, such as care home residents, homeless people, travellers and those who belong to a boating community, is also currently underway.

Information about the vaccination programme, including frequently asked questions, can be found by visiting the [CCG's website](#).

Integrated Care System

Recruitment process for BSW Integrated Care Board chief executive role

The Health and Care Bill currently going through Parliament sets out plans to put Integrated Care Systems on a statutory footing, empowering them to better join up health and care, improve population health and reduce health inequalities.

The current proposals mean that each ICS would be led by an NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), an organisation with responsibility NHS functions and budgets, and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), a statutory committee bringing together all system partners to produce a health and care strategy.

As the current Integrated Care System executive lead roles are different to the future ICB CEO roles, all 42 systems across England have had to carry out a recruitment process for the position of ICB CEO.

In BSW, shortlisted candidates took part in a rigorous interview process for the role in mid-October. The successful applicant is expected to be announced in November.

The recruitment of a designate CEO follows the appointment of Stephanie Elsy as Chair-designate in July 2021.

Shaping a Healthier Future

From November onwards, the CCG will be asking local people for their feedback on its new health and care model.

Originally published just before the start of the pandemic, the CCG is now revisiting these plans 18 months on and asking whether the original design of the health and care model is still appropriate in a post Covid-19 environment.

By engaging with local people, and listening to their thoughts, feelings and opinions, the CCG intends to review and refresh the guiding principles for the health and care model to ensure it meets the current and future needs of the population, while also supporting health and care organisations to recover from the pandemic.

The health and care model itself, which is available to view on [the BSW Partnership website](#), will set out what health and care within BSW will look like for people over the next ten years, as well as provide a framework for organisations to use when designing and planning new and existing services.