

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

April 2024

Covid spring booster programme

The Covid-19 booster vaccination programme for those most at risk of serious illness from the virus will begin in April.

The advice for this Spring is to offer the vaccine to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from vaccination.

The JCVI advises the following groups should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine this Spring:

- Adults aged 75 years and over.
- Residents in a care home for older adults.
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

Trailblazing health centre

Devizes' state-of-the-art health centre has recently celebrated its first anniversary, with staff at the site proud to have cared for more than 59,000 people during its inaugural 12 months.

The centre, which takes pride of place as the Wiltshire town's flagship location for health and care, had its official opening on 22 February 2023, just a few weeks after the doors first opened to patients.

Since then, the team at Devizes Health Centre, which holds the title of being one of the country's first fully integrated healthcare centres, meaning GP appointments take place alongside many other health and care services, such as outpatient clinics and community care, have carried out a total of 16,834 face-to-face appointments.

When combined with appointments carried out over the phone, the Devizes team cared for 59,457 people during their first year, which equates to approximately 238 patient interactions each day.

Along with being 100 per cent energy efficient – the site uses heat pumps and solar panels to generate its own power – Devizes Health Centre is also a hub for same and next-day care.

Patients of four nearby GP practices are able to be referred directly to the new urgent care service, meaning local people need not travel further afield for quick help and treatment.

Further information about Devizes Health Centre, as well as all other local health and care services, can be found online at www.bsw.icb.nhs.uk.

BSW Care Coordination initiative wins prestigious HSJ award

Medvivo and BSW ICB have won a prestigious Health Service Journal Award for a project to coordinate health and care services so that patients receive the best possible care to meet their needs, at the right, in the right place and avoids emergency admission.

The project, which has been running across BSW since December 2022, received a Gold Award in the category 'most effective contribution to integrated health and care'.

The Care Coordination Hub see Specialist Paramedics working alongside Advanced Clinical Practitioners and other Health and Care Professionals (in the hub and virtually) to optimise the flow of patients across the region. Working this way reduces the risk of harm and makes the best use of the resources to provide high-quality care.

New Partnership announced to support unpaid carers in Wiltshire

Wiltshire has thousands of people who provide help as unpaid carers to those needing additional support. Wiltshire Council and the BSW ICB have a role to ensure those people are provided with respite, support and opportunities to network with other unpaid carers.

The council has announced that Age UK Wiltshire is working in a consortium with Community First, Alzheimer's Support, Wiltshire Service Users Network, Citizens Advice Wiltshire and Wessex Community Action (and many more charities). As a group they are called 'Carers Together Wiltshire' and will provide respite, and a range of support to adult unpaid carers from the age of 18. This will include training, carer cafes and awareness raising in the community for unpaid carers. They will also work closely with Wiltshire Council to continue conducting carer's assessments.

Community First has been awarded the contract for younger adult and young carers from ages 5 – 25, focusing on support in primary schools and supporting Wiltshire Council with their work with secondary schools and colleges, understanding their rights and what support is available to them and giving them opportunities to carry on doing the things they enjoy – whilst also teaching them key life skills as they grow up.

Both providers will work together to support carers aged 18 – 25 and family support including parent carers. There is also investment in online support so carers can access training, chats, helpful guides and support at any time.

There will continue to be a Wiltshire Carer Card which will provide unpaid carers with ID as a carer and record emergency contact details. This will be available as a physical card and a digital app for people's smartphone, if preferred. Unpaid carers can continue to use the emergency card they already have while they wait for the new card. The new providers will also continue to work closely with hospitals to ensure unpaid carers are supported. Assessments for unpaid carers will continue as normal.

From 1 April Carer Support Wiltshire will continue to run its services independently of the council including carer cafés, the Hear to Talk service, family support and activities, carer wellbeing workshops, young carer activities, carer grants and their Bereavement Help Points.

The unpaid carers contract is jointly funded by Wiltshire Council and BSW ICB.