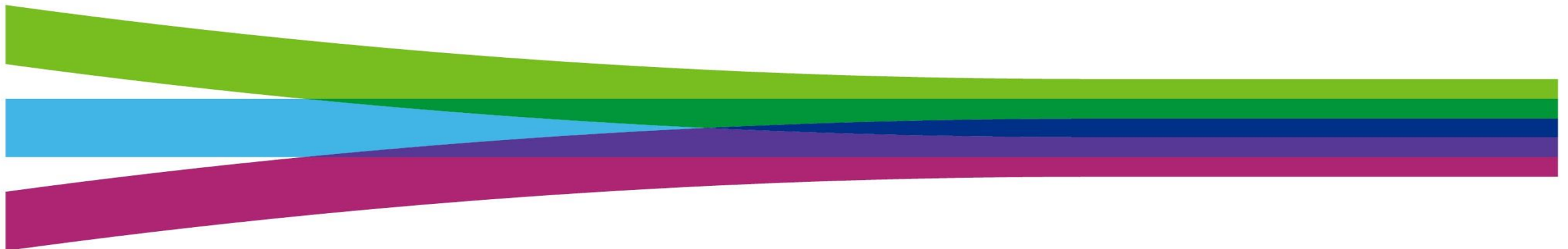


# Health & Wellbeing Board

## Covid 19 - impact on children

### Presenters



# Content:

## 1. Context

## 2. Current situation

- **Parent carer feedback**
- **Community healthcare**
- **CAMHS**
- **Education**
- **Social care**

## 3. System challenges & response

# Context- children's services

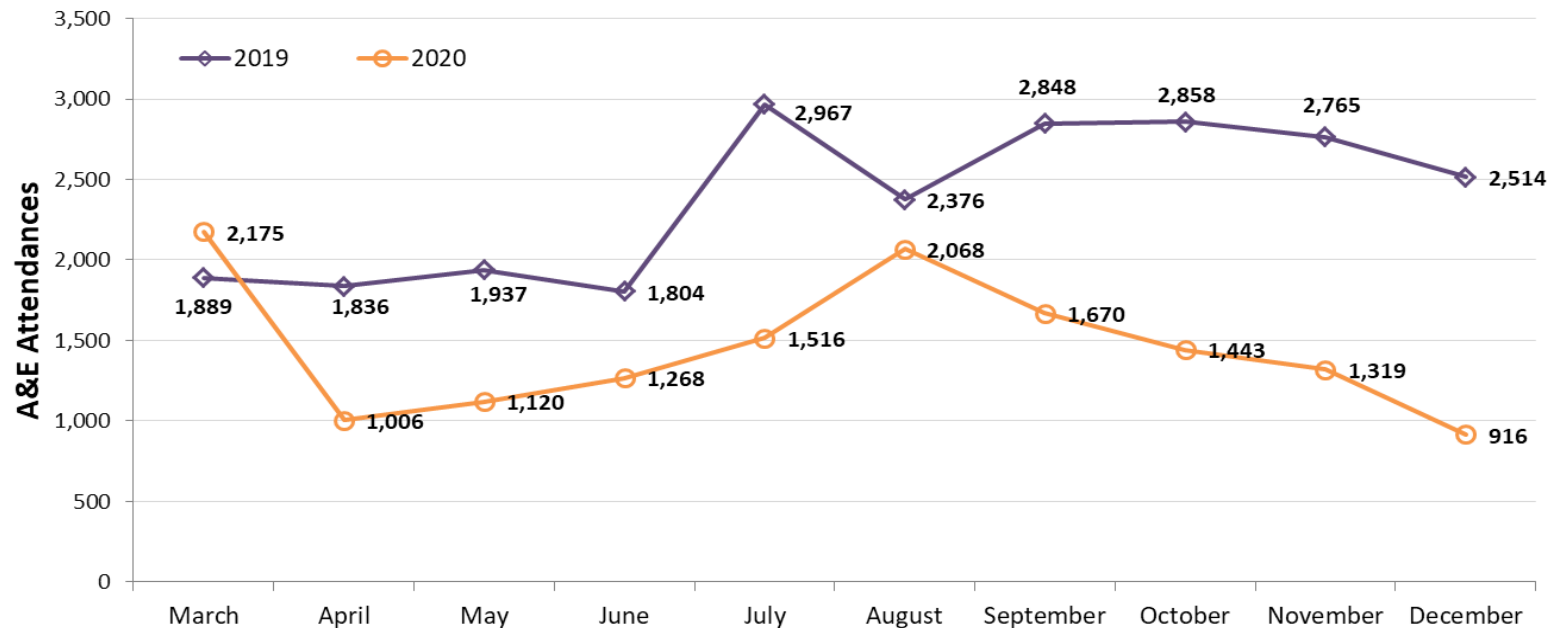
- The focus of Covid response for children & young people has related, in the main, to minimising the impact of the restrictions as a result of Covid on CYP, rather than managing the outbreak of Covid itself
- Health services have not seen significant numbers of CYP requiring medical treatment for Covid related symptoms, but instead have needed to work alongside colleagues in education and social care to mitigate the risks of:
  - Delays in parent carers seeking medical advice for non-Covid but potentially urgent conditions or symptoms
  - Reduced visibility of potentially vulnerable CYP to services as a result of lockdown. Safeguarding professionals in providers are working closely with designated professionals and within multi-agency meetings to discuss areas of concern
  - Family or placement breakdown due to the pressures of caring for CYP with complex needs at home with significantly reduced respite, or escalating behaviours that challenge as a result of changes to routines and increased anxiety
  - Inability to access education due to being clinically extremely vulnerable
  - Increased anxiety and deteriorating mental health of CYP

# Current Situation- Acute hospitals

Acute hospital Covid admissions for under 18's:

Time period	GWH	RUH	SFT
Mar-Nov 20	0	10	10

A&E attendances for under 18's:



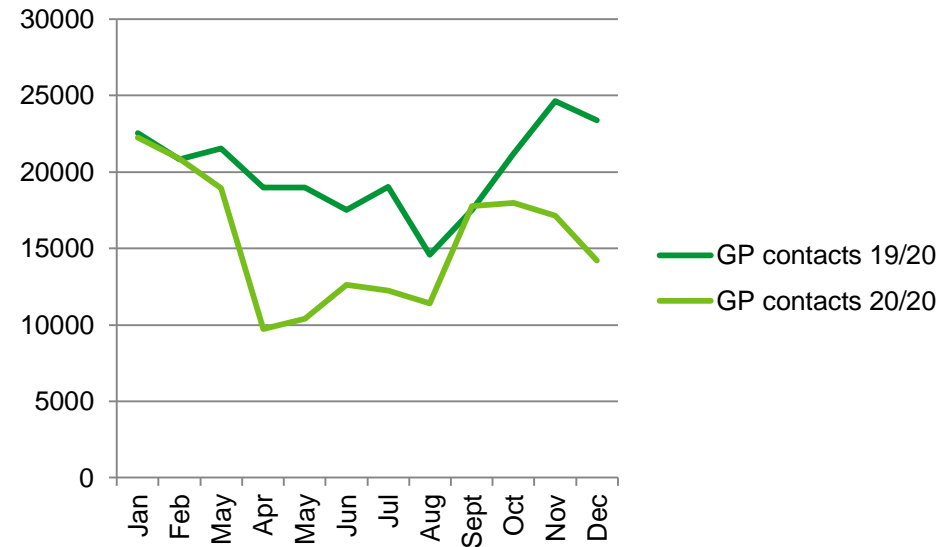
There has been a significant decrease in the number of A&E attendances in acute trusts, and often later presentation. This has been a national trend and is of significant concern for paediatricians- local and national communication efforts are being made to encourage concerned parents to seek medical advice

# Current Situation- Acute hospitals

- Significant pressure on children's inpatient beds due to mental health, escalations in behaviours or social care needs (approx. 75% of the paediatric bed base currently in Salisbury). Commissioners are working with community providers and social care to identify ways in which we can support the ward with these cases going forwards
- Paediatric junior doctors and consultants are supporting adult colleagues in some areas with the management of patients on other wards
- Majority of elective surgery has been cancelled, leading to long waiting lists. There is potential longer term impact on development for some children (i.e. speech & language for children awaiting cleft palate repair) and repeated courses of antibiotics or prolonged pain for some. We are working with our acute commissioning colleagues to ensure that children are appropriately prioritised in theatre and waiting list recovery plans
- Currently outpatient clinics are running as normal, although an increase in inappropriate referrals has been noted, possibly as a result of fewer face to face examinations in primary care
- High rates of staff absence in some areas due to Covid or the need to self isolate

# Current Situation- Primary care

Overall appointments for CYP in primary care are down on last year:



There has been a significant increase in the use of virtual consultations for CYP, however face to face appointments do continue to be provided:

	Face to face	Virtual
Months 1-10 2019/20	74%	26%
Months 1-10 2020/21	56%	44%

# Current Situation- Community health

- Children's community health services currently operating as Business as Usual, with a default virtual provision unless clinically indicated
- Some provision of face to face as standard, such as:
  - New birth visits from health visitor and 6 week universal contacts
  - Children and families with safeguarding concerns
  - Any child requiring a physical examination
  - Looked after children's Initial Health Assessments
- All services operating within waiting time targets excepting Paediatric Audiology and the Autism Assessment Service
- Business continuity plans are in place, but have not yet been called upon, to maintain provision of priority services such as Children's Continuing Care
- Staff for priority areas are being included within the BSW vaccination programme priority roll out
- Children's Immunisation programme (non Covid) continuing to be delivered with the support of schools
- Clear message that services continue to run as normal and referrers or parent carers should continue to contact the service if they have concerns about a child
- Virtual school drop ins and groups being offered.

# Current Situation- CAMHS

- Referrals returning to or above pre-Covid levels. Overall, referrals to CAMHS fell by 30% between Mar and Jun 2020. Since July, referrals began to increase and are now returning to expected levels. Since Jul 2020 there was a sharp increase in eating disorder referrals and crisis presentations to A&E departments across BSW. Increase in acuity and complexity – hot spots include LD/ASD, CYP ED and psychosis presentations.
- National shortage of CYP Inpatient Mental Health beds – NHSE and national work to explore alternatives. Regional Task Group established by NHSE.
- Increased anxiety amongst CYPF and impact of wider determinants of mental health such as housing, employment and family breakdown.
- Service provision has continued as 'normal' and workforce has remained stable, with digital appointments being offered where suitable and face to face where this is clinically indicated.
- Focus on self-help tools, resources and hints & tips coproduced with CYP on our refreshed website [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/CAMHS](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/CAMHS)
- Continued offer of help to pupils working alongside school staff via our Mental Health Teams in Schools
- Establishment of CAMHS helpline in and out of hours
- Progressing successful bids in line with NHS Long Term Plan, including Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment and enhanced CYP ED.



# Current Situation- Emotional wellbeing

- Young people are less happy, not sleeping as well, exercising less, feeling more anxious and isolated. Exacerbated by communication difficulties, insecure housing, pre-existing mental health issues, asylum seeking status, other structural barriers
- Increased demand for Care, Education & Treatment Reviews for CYP with learning disability/autism who are at risk of psychiatric hospital admission. Process for CETRs and Dynamic Support Register under review to improve early intervention and prevention
- Barnardo's service, focusing on early intervention and prevention, mobilised in July 2020. It supports CYP aged 5-18 with mild to moderate MH problems, providing counselling, group activities (online during COVID) based on 5 Ways to Wellbeing framework. Relate are also providing online counselling to primary-aged children during lockdown
- Wiltshire CYP mental health network set up in November – brings together stakeholders to share best practice, training and opportunities and innovation
- Mental health support teams in schools – two new MHSTs started in Wiltshire, with a third starting in 2021. MHSTs support to primary and secondary schools to take a whole school approach to EWMH, providing training and support to staff, group work and 1:1 sessions
- For more information on services, please visit the On Your Mind website (<http://www.onyourmind.org.uk>), which provides directory of EWMH support for young people aged 0-19.