

Report for the Children, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday 9 March 2021

1. Covid mass vaccination programme

Our Covid-19 vaccination programme has been making solid progress since we started offering the vaccine to the first priority groups at the end of last year.

As of 25 February, almost 265,000 vaccines have been given across bath and North east Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, which is the equivalent of vaccinating the entire population of Swindon and the surrounding areas.

We are currently around halfway through the process of vaccinating people in priority groups five and six (people aged over 65 and anyone aged between 16 and 64 with an underlying health condition) and this puts us on track to meet recent government targets.

People who were among some of the first to have the vaccine will begin receiving their second dose from the beginning of March

Health and social care workers will also begin to receive their second dose, and we are working closely with all provider organisation to ensure this happens as smoothly as possible

Unpaid carers who are in receipt of a carers allowance, or who are registered as a carer with their GP, can now beginning to book their vaccine appointments using the online or telephone national booking system

We know that the number of people being vaccinated will increase in the coming weeks as the invitation list is widened. In response, we have carried out an audit of our 27 existing vaccination sites and are confident that we will be able to safely manage this rise in demand, however we will continually review this and will add other sites and models of delivery when necessary

In light of the government's announcement regarding the reopening of different parts of the economy, work is under way to explore how long our current venues can be used for vaccination purposes.

2. Reopening of Paulton Minor Injuries Unit

Our Minor Injuries Unit based at Paulton Memorial Hospital has now reopened.

The unit, along with the MIU in Trowbridge, was closed in mid-January as staff were redeployed to provide vital additional capacity elsewhere in the local area.

Paulton MIU currently provides an appointment only service. This is accessed via telephone triage between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm everyday including weekends, or via the 24 hour 111 service.

3. Roving flu vaccine for boating community investigated

An initiative to increase the uptake of flu vaccinations for the boating community across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire has seen an innovative pilot tested with a roving vaccine programme being offered to the boating community.

Currently, homeless men and women are offered flu vaccinations through Homeless Healthcare delivered by Heart of Bath Medical Partnership but little is known about the need or uptake of flu vaccinations in the boater and traveller communities.

A working group consisting of Julian House, Virgin Care and Public Health B&NES was set up in order to scope the issue and work together to find a solution. As this group evolved, Heart of Bath Medical Partnership, BSW CCG and Public Health teams across BSW became involved.

During December, outreach and engagement was undertaken at Dundas Basin during which first aid packs were distributed. In total 16 packs were given out during the engagement work. There was a very positive response to the concept of flu clinics at Dundas Basin.

Following the success of these clinics, a number of recommendations have been made including advocating for access within the existing systems including working with GP practices to ensure the rights of seldom heard from groups are maintained.

4. Online event targeting BAME communities to encourage uptake of Covid vaccine

Members of black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in BSW were given the chance to ask questions about Covid-19 vaccinations at a virtual event held on Thursday 4th March.

The online event - *Opening Doors: a conversation about Covid-19 vaccination* – was hosted by an expert panel answering questions and giving an overview of the progress of the vaccine roll out programme.

Dr Nima Satish, Clinical Lead for Diabetes at BSW CCG, Gill May, Executive Director of Nursing & Quality at BSW CCG and Steve Maddern, Director of Public Health for Swindon helped to answer questions.

The online session is part of ongoing work on behalf of BSW CCG to ensure people in all our communities are able to get the vaccine when their time to do so arrives.

5. BSW Partnership Integrated Care System development

In February the government set out new proposals covering the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) which will have implications for the BSW Partnership Integrated Care System (ICS).

The proposals have been outlined in a new white paper entitled *Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*.

An ICS is a way of working across health and care organisations that allows them to work closer together to take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering care and improving the health and wellbeing of the population they serve.

Proposals including in the white paper include:

- The creation of an ICS NHS statutory body and an ICS Health and Care Partnership which will place a duty to collaborate on organisations which are part of the Partnership
- Proposed reform to the procurement of NHS services in order to give commissioners greater flexibility in how they arrange services
- Place-based arrangements between local authorities, the NHS and between providers of health and care services will be at the core of integration. Legislation will not prescribe how these arrangements are put in place or what they need to involve – that will be left to local organisations to arrange.
- Legislation introduced to help address inequalities in public health outcomes and the need for government to act to help level up health across the country.

The BSW Partnership board is now looking at the implications of the proposals on how partners will work together over the coming months.

The BSW Partnership has continued to work together to join up health and care services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Over recent weeks BSW Partnership has worked together to deliver the mass Covid vaccination programme, which has involved multiple partners including hospitals, BSW CCG, local authorities and private providers

There has also been a concerted partnership approach to caring for a spike in the number of people receiving treatment in hospitals in Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire for Covid-19 during January and February. Partners did this by pooling resources and re-allocating staff so they could provide help where it was needed most.

6. Long Covid service update

Over 128 patients across BSW have now been referred to a new service for people suffering from the effects of Long Covid.

The innovative new pilot service is available thanks to joint working by a number of health and care teams across BSW including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and respiratory nurses.

The service is designed to help people who still have symptoms related to a Covid infection after 12 weeks.

The aim of the clinic is to identify what symptoms a person is experiencing and how this is affecting them on a day to day basis.

The service helps them find resources and treatments to manage these symptoms effectively.

This new service has involved support from multiple partners and health and care teams from across BSW and will provide much needed help and support to a number of people.

This approach to partnership working has been demonstrated in the efficient use of a weekly Virtual Multi-disciplinary panel of experts from all three BSW localities lead by allied health professionals including GPs, respiratory and cardiac consultants, clinical psychologist, commissioners, specialist fatigue therapists and occupational health physicians.