

Report for the Children, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday 15 June 2021

1. Covid mass vaccination programme

Our Covid vaccination programme is progressing well and we have now passed the significant milestone of delivering our one millionth vaccine.

As of Tuesday 8 June, our vaccine teams have carried out a total of 1,020,056 vaccinations, made up of 585,920 first doses and 434,136 second doses, helping to further protect the people of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

We have continued to target vulnerable and hard to reach communities through an outreach programme which has seen BSW CCG work with GP surgeries, Primary Care Networks, local authorities and local charities to deliver Covid vaccines to boating communities through a floating clinic on a canal boat.

At the same time, people living in areas that have seen low uptake in vaccinations are being offered Covid jabs on board a specially adapted bus which has been used on a number of occasions in the BaNES area. Plans are being drawn up for how this vaccination bus can be used to bring the vaccine to people at their place of work, such as food factories

More community pharmacies are also set to join the vaccination programme in the days and weeks ahead, as some GP-led sites withdraw to allow clinicians to focus on providing care and treatment for conditions separate to Covid-19

On Wednesday 2 June, the CCG held a live Q&A on Instagram with local social media influencer Amy Cousins, who helped provide important vaccine information to people in the younger age groups of the vaccination eligibility criteria and to encourage take up of vaccinations among a younger demographic.

Bath Racecourse – one of our region's two large vaccination centres – is now a mixed vaccine sites providing patients with both the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines.

2. Shaping a Healthier Future programme

In 2019 BSW CCG worked with partners, staff and members of the public to set out the priorities for the delivery of health and care services – these plans were published in early 2020, and took into account the community review work, *Your Care, Your Way*, which was undertaken in 2017-2019.

We want to review these plans in light of the learnings from the Covid-19 pandemic of the last year, testing whether our health and care model is still the right one or whether we need to make any changes.

Covid has sped up the collaboration between services and we have adopted a number of new ways of working in order to continue caring for local people and keeping them and our workforce safe.

Alongside the refresh of our system-wide health and care model, the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) has the opportunity later this year to bid for government funding to transform the way it delivers care.

Some of this funding has already been confirmed with the Dyson Cancer Centre now formally approved to proceed. Further funding will be needed to support the future BSW model of care which will focus on greater integration, a person-centred approach and care closer to home.

As a result, fourteen patient champions have been recruited to a series of workshops that are being held this month to review and discuss our health and care model and explore ways we can start to realise our ambition to provide care closer to home.

3. RUH acquisition of Circle Bath hospital

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust has bought Circle Bath in Peasedown St John. Circle Bath is an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients.

The acquisition of Circle Bath – which has been renamed the Sulis Hospital Bath – will secure capacity for NHS patients at a critical time of recovery for NHS waiting lists nationally as well as seeking to increase capacity at the facility for the benefit of all patients – both NHS and private.

The Trust is planning to increase diagnostic capacity using the facilities at Sulis Hospital Bath, providing quicker and easier access to a range of tests on the same day and supporting earlier diagnosis.

Patients will not be affected as a result of this acquisition and can be assured that they will receive the same excellent care in a wellbeing-focussed environment in the knowledge that their care is backed by experts at the RUH

4. Paulton Hospital update

Sulis Ward at St Martin's Hospital in Bath is now fully operational after closing temporarily in March due to staff sickness. This was caused by higher than normal levels of short and long term illness due to Covid-19 and meant the unit was unable to maintain safe staffing levels required to run the ward.

As an interim measure, patients were transferred from Sulis Ward to the John Stacey Ward at Paulton Hospital. New staff for Sulis ward have now been recruited.

John Stacey Ward was also temporarily closed last month due to the need to carry out fire safety remedial actions work. As these works were carried out, patients were transferred to Sulis Ward at St Martin's hospital.

Both Sulis Ward and John Stacey ward are now open again.

5. BSW ICS Partnership Integrated Care System update

As part of BSW Partnership's commitment to transparency and openness, the BSW Partnership Sponsoring Board held its first meeting in public recently.

The BSW Partnership Board provides the formal leadership for the BSW Partnership and is responsible for setting strategic direction and providing oversight for the achievement of the Partnership's strategy. The meeting was well attended and minutes will shortly be available on the BSW Partnership website

The major development of the past month has been the approval by the BSW Partnership Executive of a business case for a BSW Academy. The Academy is set to launch later this year and will offer a number of benefits for our workforce including enhanced career development opportunities and launch of a dedicated learning and development portal. The services provided by the BSW Academy will ultimately result in improved outcomes for local people.

Earlier this month, partner organisations agreed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the joint working arrangements of the Partnership and to support the next stage of development of our Integrated Care System. The MoU sets out the vision and key design principles that inform how we work together as one system and describes the governance arrangements that are currently in place. This MoU is now being shared with partner boards for final sign off.

Every year NHS organisations are required to develop an annual operational plan. During May the BSW Partnership submitted a single draft operating plan to NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI). This is an integrated plan with providers and commissioners working together to align activity and financial plans and set out locally identified priorities for the coming year. We are now refining our plan to re-submit to NHSEI in early June.

In BSW Partnership localities of B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire, our Integrated Care Alliances (ICAs) continued to work with local partners to explore the options for local or 'place-based' collaboration.

6. Virtual ward rounds at RUH

Doctors at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are using new technology to trial virtual ward rounds, reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 by minimising footfall on the hospital's wards.

Patients continue to receive the same level of care and support, but doctors can speak to patients while they are in their hospital bed by using one of a number of iPads that have been donated to the hospital from the Dyson Foundation, via the Forever Friends Appeal – the hospital’s charity.

While a small clinical team needs to be on the wards in person during ward rounds, these new ways of working are proving successful in reducing disruption as well as the number of people on the ward at any one time.

Using technology means doctors and consultants can speak to patients without being on the ward and so can safely remove their masks. This means patients are able to see their consultant’s face, which they wouldn’t normally be able to do if they were in full PPE by their bedside.