

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

1. GPs address current pressure on services in open letter to patients

Leading GPs from across our region, including Dr Bryn Bird, Locality Clinical Lead for B&NES, issued an open letter to local people recently explaining the pressures currently affecting primary care services and offering advice about 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 GPs have also shared how practices are now working differently, with more consultations happening remotely, either by phone or video call.

These virtual appointments, which are happening alongside those carried out in person, allow clinicians to be more efficient with their time, while also helping to prevent overcrowding in practice waiting rooms.

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

The letter was printed in a number of local media outlets and a number of our GPs also recently took part in briefing sessions with local media representatives to further explain the pressures facing our winter health and care system.

2. Shaping a Healthier Future – launch of public engagement

From November onwards, the BSW Partnership 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.

From Tuesday 2 November, people can share their thoughts and opinions by taking part in a short online survey or by registering to attend one of a number of in-person

engagement events happening across the region between now and Tuesday 14 December.

The feedback gathered from the online survey, as well as from the in-person events, will support health and care leaders in reviewing and refreshing the guiding principles that make up the new health and care model.

Detailed within the model are plans for improving personalised care, supporting healthier communities, establishing more integrated local teams, prioritising local specialist services and introducing new specialist centres.

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.

3. Covid vaccination programme update

Our Covid vaccination programme has been progressing well in B&NES.

In B&NES, 161,175 people have received a first dose and 152,062 people have received their second doses.

Out-of-school vaccinations for children aged between 12 and 15-years have been taking place as well as in-school vaccination sessions provided by Virgin Care.

Parents wishing to have their child vaccinated have been able to use the National Booking Service to arrange vaccination at Bath Racecourse.

Vaccinations will be available for children at the Racecourse at weekends and on evenings throughout November and will be carried out alongside Virgin Care's schools-based vaccine programme.

Students, staff and members of the public are also now able to be vaccinated without an appointment at a new weekly walk-in clinic at the University of Bath. Vaccines here will be available between 11am and 4pm in the Sports Training Village and, if popular, the clinic will open on every Thursday during November.

4. BSW ICS Partnership Integrated Care System update

The BSW Partnership has continued to evolve as we move towards April 2022 when the Health and Care Bill is anticipated to become law and create 42 statutory Integrated Care Systems.

In recent weeks the BSW Partnership team has been working with representatives from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) across BSW to discuss their involvement in developing ICS working arrangements. While there is already good engagement with VCSE organisations in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, ICSs are being encouraged to ensure that their governance and decision-making processes support close working with the sector as key strategic partners at all levels.

The Partnership has been successful in accessing £25,000 worth of development funding from a national support programme to help establish closer working relationships with VCSE sector organisations and closer involvement for them in ICS decision making processes.

Working with 3SG in B&NES, Voluntary Action Swindon and Wessex Community Action the Partnership has co-produced an Expression of Interest to set out how these working arrangements will develop. This will provide some much-needed infrastructure and capacity to help the VCSE sector across BSW further engage in the work of the ICS.

Our Integrated Care Alliance in B&NES also continues to evolve as part of the ICS transition. An awayday meeting in October brought together leaders from the local health and care system, local authority and third sector organisations to consider the future place-based arrangements including joint ways of working and governance arrangements.