

East Sussex HOSC

Health response to the Covid-19 pandemic

June 2021

- Sussex health and care partners in East Sussex continue to work together to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, both in terms of the active support for an operational response (including the Covid-19 vaccination programme) and the restoration of health and care services;
- These slides set out:
 - The current impact of Covid-19 on our population
 - Our operational response
 - The current position of the vaccination programme in East Sussex
 - An update on restoration

Summary of COVID-19 impact in East Sussex

- As at 24 May 2021 there have been **30,663 confirmed cases of Covid-19** amongst East Sussex residents.
- For the seven-day period to 18 May 2021; England has 21 cases per 100,000 population, East Sussex county 4, Eastbourne 2, Hastings 1, Lewes 7, Rother 9 and Wealden 4.
- As at 24 May 2021, **East Sussex has the 3rd lowest rate of all 149 Upper Tier Local Authorities in England** and **Hastings is the lowest of all 315 Lower Tier Local Authorities.**
- As at 7 May 2021, there have been **1,763 deaths for East Sussex residents where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate** (based on death registrations to 15 May 2021).
- 55% of these deaths have occurred in a hospital setting and 38% in a care home setting.

Current operational response

- The operational response from our acute Trusts to care for those needing hospitalisation for Covid-19 has decreased since the winter;
- As of 28 May there were no patients in critical care (HDU/ICU) beds for Covid-19;
- Over the course of the week up to 28 May, there was only one patient in a Sussex hospital for acute level care for Covid-19;
- All system partners are supporting the continued roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Sussex and more detail is provided in these slides;
- In addition to treating any patient who is unwell with the virus, and vaccinating our communities, the NHS is also taking action to support those suffering ongoing health issues;
- The NHS in Sussex has established Post-Covid Assessment Services to give patients access to multi-professional advice, and ensure they are on the right clinical pathway to treat their symptoms, including breathlessness, chronic fatigue, “brain fog”, anxiety and stress;
- In Sussex, the two community providers within Sussex Health and Care Partnership (SHCP), Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) and East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT), were identified as the lead providers for this service, along with their partners.

Update on Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

- **To date, the Sussex system has achieved the national target** to deliver >90% vaccinations for all those in cohorts 1-9 as at 21st May 2021.
- We have offered the vaccination to everyone within **cohorts 1-9** and remain committed to ensuring as many people as possible in these groups are vaccinated if they have not received it to date.
- As at 23 May 2021, **1,028,925 people** had had their first vaccination, and of those 677,497 have also had their second.
- There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out across East Sussex:
 - **GP led vaccination services:** including community vaccination services, and pharmacy services in some areas.
 - **Large vaccination centres:** each county has one large vaccination centre which is able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people as more supplies become available.
 - **Roving service:** the vaccine is being taken into care homes and into people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site.
 - **Hospital hubs:** hospitals across the country have been used to offer vaccines to health and care staff.

Update on Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

- A summary of activity to date in East Sussex is:
 - **Priority 1:** Vaccinations for residents and staff in a care home for older adults is at 99.2%. 84.5% of care homes staff have received a first dose, 83.8% of residents in all care home types have received a second dose.
 - **Priority 2:** 94.7% of people aged 80+ and frontline health and social care workers and aged 80+ have received a first dose vaccination. Front line NHS staff have received first dose vaccination and we are working to ensure that remaining care staff vaccinations are completed.
 - **Priority 3:** People aged 75-79. 95.9% of those aged 75-79 have received the first dose vaccination.
 - **Priority 4:** People aged 70-74 and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals. 94.1% of those aged 70-74 and 87.8% of those who are clinically extremely vulnerable have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 5:** 92.4% of people aged 65-69 have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 6:** 84.0% of people who are at risk and are between 16-65 years old have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 7:** 89.3% of those aged 60-64 have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 8:** 87.4% of those aged 55-59 have been vaccinated
 - **Priority 9:** 85.4% of those aged 50-45 have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 10:** 73.8% of those aged 40-49 have been vaccinated.
 - **Priority 11:** This cohort is partially open vaccinating those aged 34-39. Currently 31.1% have been vaccinated.

Update on Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Latest updates from the programme in East Sussex are:

- A **Rye** pharmacy led service has gone live, offering vaccinations to eligible residents in the local community;
- A vaccination bus has been active in **Peacehaven**, reaching out to local areas and making it as easy as possible for people to receive their vaccination;
- Drop in clinics and pop up sessions have been taking place in **Hastings**, as well as focused activity to offer the vaccine to people who are homeless and rough sleepers;
- The vaccination centre at the Welcome Building in **Eastbourne** has moved on 01 June 2021 to the former Mothercare site. Communications activity is supporting the move, and transport is available for anyone who cannot get to the new location.

Restoration and priorities for this year

In the [2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance](#) NHS England sets out the main priorities for the year ahead as:

- A. Supporting the health and wellbeing of staff and taking action on recruitment and retention
- B. Delivering the NHS COVID vaccination programme and continuing to meet the needs of patients with COVID-19
- C. Building on what we have learned during the pandemic to transform the delivery of services, accelerate the restoration of elective and cancer care and manage the increasing demand on mental health services
- D. Expanding primary care capacity to improve access, local health outcomes and address health inequalities
- E. Transforming community and urgent and emergency care to prevent inappropriate attendance at emergency departments (ED), improve timely admission to hospital for ED patients and reduce length of stay
- F. Working collaboratively across systems to deliver on these priorities.

Restoration – urgent and elective care

- All health system partners are seeing increased in demand, especially on the day, walk in activity for A&E and Urgent Treatment Centre services;
- Work is underway to map and understand the data behind these rises in activity, to develop operational and strategic solutions;
- Work to support urgent care services continues, including
 - the Sussex wide Service Finder rolled out providing access to the Directory of Services to ambulance crews allowing them to identify appropriate services for referral.
 - GP oversight role established in NHS111, supported by video consultation technology, to increase ‘consult and complete’ outcomes.
 - Accelerated programme to improve ambulance handovers in place between ESHT and SECAMB.
 - Sussex wide communications and engagement campaign to promote NHS111 and online as first point of contact.
- In terms of elective care, patients continue to be seen and treated based on clinical priority and then how long they have been waiting according to the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations guidelines. The number of patients waiting over 52 weeks continues to fall.
- In terms of cancer care, all providers expect to reduce the number of people on cancer 62 day pathways. They are planning average treatment levels higher than the pre-populated Jan-21 baseline in order to achieve this.

Restoration – mental health

- Modelling shows that Covid-19 generated demand is likely to continue to increase over forthcoming years. The planning for 2021/22 has therefore taken account of the need to recover performance, manage the predicted rise in demand and respond to the new and more stringent Long Term Plan deliverables;
- The total investment available to deliver the MH Plan for 2021/22 is £34m. Overarching priority for this financial year is to invest, expand and fast-track the transformation of mental health services to ensure that people are able to access the care they need over the short, medium and longer term
- One area of focus across the system is the rise in the number of urgent and routine referrals of children and young people with eating disorders. CCG has identified significant additional resource to increase capacity in 2021/22;
- The **Sussex Mental Healthline** telephone service offering listening support, advice, information and signposting to anyone experiencing difficulties with their mental health is now for people of all ages and available 24/7.
- We have put in place a **single point of access / advice for children and young people** which has been commended by the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Three **Mental Health Support teams** have been established in schools in East Sussex.

Restoration – mental health (cont.)

- We have expanded the **i-Rock** drop-in model to three locations across East Sussex.
- We have targeted funding to **improve access to community-based perinatal mental health treatment**.
- **Improved Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services** have been expanded, with plans for additional recruitment into 2021/22.
- Our **crisis service offer** has been strengthened, as part of our transformation programme and in response to Covid-19. including the provision of a new urgent care lounge and an additional staying well café in Eastbourne
- We have put in place **significant digital support** specifically for children and young people for example 'Instagram live' provided three times a week.
- Targeted funding to support **suicide prevention** and to enhance **rough sleeping** and **asylum seeker services** continues.

Restoration – primary care

- The restoration of GP services continues. Data suggests that the number of available GP appointments has risen to within 1% of pre pandemic levels, and the proportion of face to face as opposed to virtual appointments at 53% is in line with the national average.
- The challenge for 2021/2022 will be to ensure the increase in virtual appointments which has been welcomed by a significant number of patients is maintained, but not at the expense of those patients who require a face to face appointment.
- **Engagement** with patient representative groups including Healthwatch will be key to ensure patients needs are represented in this process.
- **Additional funding** has been made available to support the resilience and wellbeing of general practice staff, and to ensure practices can deliver their business as usual while meeting the demands of the mass vaccination programme.
- During the pandemic the recruitment for a number of additional PCN staff was suspended, but the funding for this has been accrued and these staff are now beginning to be appointed.
- The CCG is currently recruiting a **Health Facilitation (HF) team** and recruitment is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. The HF Team will support general practice to ensure people living with a learning disability receive their annual health checks, improving uptake and to bring the CCG in line with achieving the 72% target set nationally for 2021/22.
- A new **Locally Commissioned Service** (LCS) has been launched to support people with learning disabilities, autism and Serious mental illness to receive their Covid-19 vaccine.

Summer plan

- The **East Sussex Local A&E Delivery Board (LAEDB) Winter Plan for 20/21** covered the period December 2020 to April 2021 and hence the system has now exited this period and is managing through Spring/Summer whilst preparing for Winter 21/22;
- There was **excellent partnership working between health and local authority partners during winter** and the system managed exceptionally well throughout the period despite significant increased pressure from the substantial Covid-19 peak in East Sussex;
- The learning from winter has supported the planning for summer. A **lessons learned exercise has been undertaken with partners** from across the health and social care system, alongside early-stage development of system demand and capacity modelling;
- Summer planning is expected to be of higher importance this year with an increase in staycations expected across the whole South East this year;
- Winter schemes being developed throughout Summer for **an expected submission date to NHS England of October 21**;
- The East Sussex Operational Executive (OPEX) will support development of the local plan, **with overall assurance undertaken by the East Sussex Local A&E Delivery Board**.