

Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –

15th September 2020

The meeting was held virtually – As usual, the agenda and various reports can be viewed on the Gloucestershire County Council website. Reading the ones of particular interest is recommended, as this is a brief overview.

Winter Planning

Gloucestershire Winter Sustainability and Surge Management Plan 2020/21

This Plan is different from other years. A resilient system that has to cope with winter pressures in addition to the COVID -19 pandemic, has been discussed at length. It also has to be able to respond as required to unknown figures. Previous learning throughout the pandemic has been applied. Four scenarios have been used to address the planning.

- Baseline – Demand and situation as per previous years
- COVID-19 (maintenance levels) – Baseline plus low levels of COVID-19 (similar to levels in August and early September)
- COVID-19 (second or subsequent peak) – Baseline plus high levels of COVID-19 infection
- COVID-19 (subsequent peak and communicable diseases e.g. Flu/Norovirus) – Baseline plus high levels of COVID-19 as above plus outbreaks of Flu or other communicable diseases

Temporary changes within Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust implemented as part of COVID-19 response, will continue for a further six months, until the end of March 2021, to enable the winter planning. The extension will be temporary, to enable the return of non-COVID-19 health services, making full use of capacity available and recover the maximum elective activity possible between now and winter. It is also important to sustain current staffing levels, beds and capacity.

Challenges include loss of productivity due to increased COVID-19 protection measures, flow of Personal Protective Equipment, increased staff levels of sickness, isolating and fatigue. Increased winter pressures, predicting the unpredictable is a challenge to all.

COVID-19 Temporary Service Changes

These changes are proposed to support system delivery of health and care services in light of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the additional challenges presented by winter 2020/21. Six months is proposed instead of three to avoid having to reverse any service changes in December when the services will be at the height of winter pressures. Subject to pandemic conditions permitting, it is expected that the majority of these changes will be reversed at the end of this period. At present it is

felt that the temporary reconfiguration is the best way to address clinical needs and patient and staff safety.

Services changes to date are temporary and are to help the system manage the impact of COVID-19 safely here and now. They are based on different levels of demand, the need to reduce the number of routes into hospital and the desire to increase the level of planned and cancer care during the next phase of the pandemic and through the winter period.

Fit for the Future remains the mechanism for agreeing permanent service change. It is modelled based on normal demand rather than COVID-19 demand, so is focussed on the medium to long term and not the short term response to a crisis.

There is now some overlap between the emergency service changes enacted as part of our COVID-19 response and the emerging proposals in fit for the future, but the proposals are not the same.

Fit for the Future remains the mechanism for agreeing permanent service change. The temporary service change proposals are not the same and are designed to support operational delivery in the on-going context of the operational challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is stressed that the Trusts Commitment to the retention of a Type 1 A & E 8am – 8pm in Cheltenham is not affected by the short-term emergency changes.

Fit for the Future

This service review is continuing slowly, and is independent of any temporary service reconfiguration. The Citizens Jury is now going to be configured on line instead of in person as a group.

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Report

There has been widespread impact of COVID-19 on activity and performance across the system, affecting nearly every service and target.

Patient behaviours have changed dramatically resulting in new demand patterns during the lockdown period. This has been variable across different settings, and challenges remain due to configuration, infection control and staffing issues. People have been returning to services and confidence in providing safe services has increased.

Performance dashboard is showing good results, particularly for cancer diagnosis and treatment. Two week wait target achieved on majority of referrals, 97.8%. The 62 day National target to start treatment within 2 months, is 79.3%, this is above the National average.

One Gloucestershire ICS Lead Report

This was shared for information

NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group Clinical

Clinical Chair's and Accountable Office's Report

Report provided for information and HOSC members were invited to note the contents.

Cllr Jill Smith 28/9/2020