

Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –

24th November 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.

Meeting Held on 17th November 2020

Public representation and Feedback on the Phlebotomy Service

Public representation and the first agenda item were about the service, so notes were taken on the issue and response.

Representation was made with regards to the Phlebotomy service in Cirencester. A new service was commenced earlier this year where all Primary Care Settings, GP practices were to offer this service. This took a while to implement as staff had to be recruited to the positions, allocate time and space in GP practices. Some services for phlebotomy were still provided from Cirencester hospital. As this coincided with COVID the transition was not as smooth as hoped.

Virtual appointments resulted in people being asked to go to the General Hospitals for blood tests, which had problems in people being able to get there by public transport. Even bigger problems were experienced from outlying areas like Fairford, where transport was even more difficult.

All other areas of the county have had and shared positive experiences of a system that aims to provide this service, locally, without the need to go to the main hospitals for blood tests.

Cirencester will be looked at in detail to ensure their issues have been dealt with. The PALS service has had very few complaints lately on this issue.

COVID Update 2-8th November

Figures are collated the week after they are gathered.

Wave 1 and 2 cannot be compared directly as there is better testing in Wave 2. They have seen fewer care home patients and an increase in the number of younger age groups. The numbers in GRH are near to the numbers at peak in Wave 1 but not so many in Intensive care, more needing Respiratory care.

A and E departments have only seen a 10% drop in attendance compared to the 1st wave that saw at least 50% drop off in attendance. Normal hospital care is continuing alongside the COVID work so GRH is very stretched but coping.

Government web site shows maps of infection rates by area, so we can see where Gloucestershire stands in relations to its neighbouring areas. This is updated daily.

Dursley and Cirencester have the highest rates within the county at present. The R rate is 1.2-1.4 in the county, which means for everyone affected, they have the potential to pass it onto 13 more.

Testing has increased in availability, 13,822 carried out in one week.

High risk venues are looked at on a daily basis. Clusters of outbreaks are examined, e.g. in care homes and schools.

Contact Tracing is being effective in 75-90% of cases. A pilot to look at enhanced contact tracing to be carried out for a fortnight in Gloucester city area.

Mass testing, like the pilot undertaken in Liverpool, to be tried in Gloucestershire University.

Care homes have shown less cases of infection in residents but increased in staff. Revised guidance and training to be given to care homes, on use of PPE and visiting guidelines.

Hoping the effects of the lockdown will start to kick in this weekend. All are encouraged to reinforce the government's key message, to keep safe.

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Report

Key points: Increase in workload at present due to normal work and increase in COVID cases. It is good that people still feel able to access services. Looking at ways to increase discharge at the earliest opportunity, using 'Home First' services, run by the community Trust. It is nearly One into hospital and one out at present.

Cancer treatment targets – the two week consultation target is still very good, but the 52 week to treatment has slipped slightly.

Intensive Access to Psychological Therapies IAPT access rates have improved with the use of Virtual consultations.

Delayed operations due to the first wave have been picking up and they are now at 90% capacity, but backlog not being cleared as quickly as they would like due to constant new cases/demands.

One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) Lead Report.

Ongoing work continuing with Carers, with on line events and training to provide support.

A Virtual COVID Ward has been set up. Where people tested positive, with symptoms, they are having their oxygen levels monitored daily. If things deteriorate they can then be admitted and if the levels improve, this indicates they may be past the worst.

Mental Health Services are adapting to cope with an increase in the need for their services. For example 25% increase in eating disorder referrals.

Fit for the Future work is on-going.

New Forest of Dean Hospital work is on-going.

GCCG Clinical Chair/Accountable Officer Report

Good information provided in a detailed report. No particular highlights to bring to members attention.

Cllr JK Smith 17/11/2020