

Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –

12th January 2021

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.

South West Ambulance Service Performance Update

Points of note:- The Hospitals Trust have taken on an Ambulance Liaison Officer to co-ordinate ambulances arriving and leaving the hospitals. In the performance report, handover of Patients to the hospital has been slower during the pandemic and this is hoped to help this situation.

The report showed a slight decrease in response time of Category 1 and 2 call outs, particularly in the Cotswolds. This is being looked into.

Fit for the Future Interim Report

This report is published on 'One Gloucestershire website' and can be viewed following the link <https://www.onegloucestershire.net/yoursay/>

In the Appendices you can read the full survey report or an easy read version.

New Forest of Dean Community Hospital Consultation

Output of the consultation can be found at www.fodhealth.nhs.uk

Drivers for change were that two much loved elderly hospital buildings have been proving very costly to maintain, and bring up to current Covid compliant standards. Although local opinions were not strongly in support of a new hospital, this needs to happen. New facilities and diagnostics within the forest were supported, not so much support for beds and emergency care being at one site in Cinderford. Lydney is to have a new community based facility to serve that part of the forest, so emphasis is getting the services needed correct in that area. Conversations are to continue with the people of Lydney.

Beds in both the current hospitals in Lydney and Cinderford cannot be guaranteed as Covid safe.

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Update

Covid Update

Information given on the 12th January. Infections still increasing as are Covid positive admissions. Enormous pressures reported. Felt the worse is yet to come.

Support required discharging patients ASAP, with support packages or to community hospitals. Adult Care working well with the Hospitals Trust to enable this. The Home First service has doubled its staffing and staffs have been redeployed from other areas. The NHS care family as a whole is said to be working outstandingly at the present.

Primary Care – Business as usual, but increased pressures with staff sicknesses. Some staff deployed to help with Community Vaccination programme.

There are 200 plus patients in the community in a virtual Covid Ward, being monitored daily, to hopefully reduce admissions. Patients admitted if deteriorate and Oxygen levels drop.

Long Covid clinics are being piloted, following a National Directive and in conjunction with some GP practices.

Staff on community visits can't see as many people as they used to due to the Covid secure arrangements slowing things down. Staff are being vaccinated this week.

One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) Lead Report

There are 10 Vaccination hubs being run by Primary Care. Staff vaccination hub is at Redwood centre Gloucester Royal Hospital, for all care staff and NHS staff.

Gloucestershire is on target to achieve vaccinating the top 4 groups by mid February. The first injection can give 89% cover and the second injection is for longevity so not such a priority. Trying to get the first vaccination to all initially.

There is a National booking system for the vaccination programme so that no one can fall through the net.

GCCG Clinical Chair/Accountable Officer Report

Some key points:-

Gloucestershire has worked well to ensure the continued provision of urgent cancer treatment and essential patient support. Key priorities are:- 1. Restoring the numbers of people coming forward and being appropriately referred on an urgent cancer pathway. 2. Managing the intermediate growth in people requiring cancer diagnosis and /or treatment. The performance report is positive on all aspects of Cancer care.

Flu vaccination uptake this year has been good, and the South West has seen low levels of flu in the population.

Integrated Care Systems Legislation sets out future legislation to provide stronger partnership working between the NHS, local Government and others in Primary Care

Cllr JK Smith 21/01/2021