

Joint Meeting between Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –

26th 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.

Response to Covid 19 - Adult Social Care and Public Health

Numbers of cases are dropping slowly in the community. Reduction in hospital admissions tends to be 2 weeks behind that of the community. There has been a slight upturn in the number of cases in the Cotswolds, but all other local areas are dropping.

Gloucestershire has seen 910 deaths, but numbers are reducing. The County is lower than its neighbouring Counties for infection rates.

There are high cases in working age adults. The highest affected employment group is the NHS and Social Care workers. The R rate is still too high and aims are to get down to 0.7 -0.8. When this happens depends on the public complying with all the rules.

Transmission was discussed. The best way to reduce transmission is good ventilation, keep 2m apart, wash your hands regularly, particularly if you have taken in shopping or a package or been outside your own home, and wear a mask. 1 in 3 people are asymptomatic. Most areas of work are adhering to the guidelines and extra Environmental Health staff and Covid Marshalls have been employed to monitor premises. More problems are noted at break times, or if people go for a cigarette or car share to work, where the 2m is not adhered to.

A lot of lateral flow testing is being used for many key workers, universities and schools to reduce spread of any infection and to get people back to work asap.

Colleagues in the Hospitals Trust and Social Care sector are working well together, in fact probably the best they have ever done. Lessons learned and models of practice can be learned for future service provision.

Response to Covid 19 - Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

(GCCG)

The vaccination rollout programme is a system wide approach for both Trusts and the Primary Care Network (PCN). Gloucestershire has various sites in differing locations and this is felt to be more effective than the mass vaccination site. Approx. 3,000 are housebound and will need to receive theirs at home. Different PCNs are moving at different rates, and there has been some slowing of receiving the

vaccination so that the rest of the country can catch up, so that all will achieve the top 4 groups, by mid-February. Some people are not registered with a GP so reaching these people is more difficult. A thank you must go to all the volunteers helping in the rollout.

Virtual Covid wards in the community are monitoring approx. 350 patients at present. These have been issued with oximeters measuring oxygen flow at home and daily phone calls to record levels.

Some operations/diagnostics have now had to be cancelled due to the pressures. There will be a lot of catching up to do in the future. The staff welfare has been majorly impacted by the work hours and constant pressures for nearly a year now.

Response to Covid 19 – Gloucestershire Health Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHCFT)

Covid has had major effects on the working practices in Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Services, but all essential services have been maintained up until recently. Non urgent work has stopped due to staff sickness, redeployment to help other areas and help with the vaccine rollout.

Reports to Note:-

Public Health Report – available to read

Adult Social Care Report – available to read

Chief Fire Officer Report

A lot of Covid work has been undertaken by the Fire Service within the communities. In some areas Fire staff have been redeployed to work in hospitals and with the vaccinations, the local service is prepared to do this if asked.

A couple of blue light drivers have helped the ambulance service in a shortage. There has been a lot of community engagement required e.g. co-responding to cardiac care, respirator fitting and setting up, delivery of food parcels and laptops etc. They have gone over what is expected of a fire service.

Lateral flow testing now being used in the fire service to get people back to work quicker. Cheltenham East Fire Station being used as a vaccination hub.

It was noted that in the first lockdown there was a decrease in both Road Traffic Accidents (RTA's) and domestic fires. In the second lockdown they have only seen a decrease in household fires, not RTA's.

Road Safety Cabinet Panel

A detailed report with recommendations was shared. A more co-ordinated approach is needed to ensure road safety, including local knowledge of the areas that should be considered. Shared funding for this is needed.

Some costs for road accidents were shared. A major fatality can cost £2.26 million per accident and a serious accident from £262,000. Costs of unreported accidents are not known. A senate is suggested involving Councillors, Police, Fire Service, local residents, interested parties with an interest in road safety etc. to co-ordinate road safety and help prevent accidents. The full report available online will be going to cabinet in March. Any comments can be fed into this.

The Panel is aiming for zero accidents by 2040 and a 50% reduction by 2030.

Cllr JK Smith 27/01/2021