

Managing winter pressures

Briefing

October 2020

At the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 15 October 2020 we will be presenting our plans to manage winter pressures for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Health and Care System. This briefing provides an overview of those plans.

The following sections provide a summary of the plans we will present to the committee for discussion.

Coordination of winter planning

Our Emergency Preparedness Resilience & Response arrangements provide system wide coordination of our management of winter pressures through:

- Local Resilience Forum
- Local Health resilience Partnership
- Organisational level planning.

These arrangements provide structured and coordinated oversight of pressures arising through the winter period and enable us to respond as a system.

Main areas of risk

As we move into winter 2020/21 there are a number of interrelated challenges that require a system response:

- Covid 19 “second spike”
- Winter pressures including Flu
- End of the EU Exit Transition Period (31/12/20)
- Restoration and Recovery
- Delivery of a large scale vaccination programme for Covid 19.

Focus of the 2020/21 winter plan

The 2020/21 system winter plan has a wide ranging focus and includes the following key areas.

Urgent care coordination

Arrangements to manage the impact of winter pressures on urgent care services are overseen by the A&E Delivery Board. They include daily system monitoring and escalation and daily monitoring of delays in discharges. These arrangements enable the system to react to and reduce the impact of winter pressures on services.

Key drivers for pressure on our acute hospitals relate to:

- Higher acuity of patients
- High prevalence of influenza
- Increase in admissions in respiratory and HCOP
- Increase in beds closed due to infection (norovirus, D&V, CRE etc)
- Increased bed occupancy
- A&E attendance, exacerbated by Covid-19 social distancing requirements
- Staffing pressures exacerbated by Covid-19.

These are likely to be exacerbated this winter by the impact of Covid-19.

Flu and Covid vaccination programme

We are targeting areas we know have low uptake for vaccinations. Data is collected at practice level to inform targeted interventions.

The national Covid vaccination programme is under development for local implementation from November 2020.

Focus in primary care

General Practice continues to offer telephone triage; phone, video and online consultations and face-to-face consultations. Increasingly we are making use of digitation through online booking and 111.

Planning for Covid-19 post wave 1

Plans for managing a second wave of Covid-19 continue to be coordinated within individual NHS organisations, between health organisations and at a multi-agency level.

The Covid-19 Pandemic is classified as a National Level 3 incident (an incident that requires the response of a number of health organisations across geographical areas within a NHS England region).