



# ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S UPDATE

## January 2021

Welcome to the first Accountable Officer's Update for 2021. This year has not started in the way we would have wished, with another national lockdown, but I want to begin with a huge thank you to all our health and care colleagues for their continued hard work and determination in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing winter pressures, it has been outstanding.

NHS Engand has set out the operational priorities for the NHS for the remainder of 2020-21, identifying five key tasks: responding to Covid-19 demand, pulling out all the stops to implement the Covid-19 vaccination programme, maximising capacity in all settings to treat non-Covid19 patients, responding to emergency demand and winter pressures, and supporting the health and wellbeing of our workforce. We will continue to work with our partners on these.

### **Vaccination programme under way**

The news of the vaccines being approved for use is very welcome but the logistical challenge of delivering the programme across the UK is immense.



Hull's Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have had a leading role in the delivery of the local vaccination programme, which began before Christmas at the

KCOM stadium. This has been an incredibly complex process and one which has relied on brilliant collaboration between the PCNs, and the rest of the health and care system, to get us to the place we are today.

Although we do not have a large-scale vaccination centre in the Humber, Coast and Vale at the time of going to press, it was good to see that the NHS North East and Yorkshire region has delivered the highest number of vaccines. We are lucky to have such great GPs and practice teams to keep up this relentless focus until February where we hope to have vaccinated the people in the first four priority groups. I know that there are a number of people across Hull CCG, most notably Toni Yel and Dr James Crick, who are heavily supporting the programme and I am very grateful for their contribution. Check [www.hullccg.nhs.uk](http://www.hullccg.nhs.uk) for up to date information.

### **Humber system response**

We have seen some extremely good collaborative working as part of Humber Health Cell (Gold Command), which I chair for the Humber system. All system partners leaders meet twice weekly at the moment to ensure we are keep ahead of the curve in terms of the pressures on our surge plans. This has resulted in some very positive mutual aid between services as we manage the impact across the system of the rise in hospital admissions for Covid-19.

I featured in the first in the series of Humber Covid-19 filmed briefings in late November, with colleagues from the Humber Clinical and Professional Leadership Group presenting different Covid-19 related public messages leading up to the end of December 2020.

## Next Steps for Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

The Humber, Coast and Vale Partnership submitted its response earlier this month to the national engagement exercise around the Next Steps for the ICS. Some of our local partners produced their own individual responses and sent them through the HCV Partnership. People were invited to express their views on possible options for the future with the consensus in favour of option two which would see:

- ICSs established as NHS bodies taking on the commissioning functions of CCGs; and
- CCG governing body and GP membership model replaced by a board of representatives from system partners (NHS providers, primary care and local government) alongside a chair, a chief executive and a chief financial officer.

We know these proposals will lead to significant change for commissioning and we will need to ensure the functions are appropriately deployed to place, providers and the system.

I am mindful that it is an unsettling time for all CCG colleagues who have been, and continue to work exceptionally hard, in response to COVID-19. As leaders we have asked for further national guidance with some urgency to give staff the certainty they are looking for.

Although this is not legislation yet, the Next Steps proposal document suggests 2021-22 will be a transitional year as we move to the new roles and ways of working. Our joint CCG executive team is working well across the four Humber CCGs, where it continues to be business as usual, working on the immediate priorities of the Covid-19 response, alongside trying to plan for the future architecture of the NHS.

## International award for the Integrated Care Centre

It is great to know that even in times like this, the work of our local health and care staff and development partners in the Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre continues to be recognised. The ICC has won Best



Social Infrastructure Project (including healthcare) recently in the prestigious Partnership Awards 2020, which recognise elite partnership projects across the world. The ICC has had such an important role in the response to Covid-19 and to win an international award is very special, particularly as it was the only UK entry shortlisted for the award. A massive well done to all involved.

## Looking ahead

Despite ongoing service pressures and transitional change in 2021-22, our strategic focus on addressing the health inequalities and improving health across the city has not changed.

New developments this coming year include the introduction of new Mental Health Support Teams in schools and scheduled completion of the West Hull Primary Care Hub at the end of the year. The Hull Homeless Health Project is again to be featured nationally as an example of best practice and our ambition to be the first CCG of Sanctuary is moving ahead positively.

CCG Board members and public health have continued to provide fantastic leadership throughout the pandemic. Thank you again to our CCG staff and other frontline and key workers. I

know that we have had a very difficult year, but



we must Dr Amy Oehring—Recovering well from Covid—all continue keep vigilant and obey the rules to stop transmission of Covid-19 and protect NHS services.

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