

South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System



Chief Executive Report

Health Executive Group

12th January 2021

Author(s)	Andrew Cash, System Lead														
Sponsor															
Is your report for Approval / Consideration / Noting															
For noting and discussion															
Links to the STP (please tick)															
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Are there any resource implications (including Financial, Staffing etc)?															
N/A															
Summary of key issues															
<p>This monthly paper from the System Lead of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SYB ICS) provides a summary update on the work of the SYB ICS for the month of December 2020.</p>															
Recommendations															
<p>The SYB ICS Health Executive Group (HEG) partners are asked to note the update and Chief Executives and Accountable Officers are asked to share the paper with their individual Boards, Governing Bodies and Committees.</p>															

Chief Executive Report

SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND BASSETLAW INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

Health Executive Group - 12th January 2021

1. Purpose

This paper from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System System Lead provides an update on the work of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System for the month of December 2020.

2. Summary update for activity during December 2020

2.1 Coronavirus (COVID-19): The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw position

On 4th January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown in England and once again instructed people to stay at home to control the virus, protect the NHS and save lives. The decision was made following a rapid rise in infections, hospital admissions and case rates across the country, with many hospitals under more pressure than they have been at any other point throughout the pandemic.

Rates have been rising rapidly in London and the South East, as well as the North West and the North East. In South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, the current position is stable though rates are slowly and gradually rising. Hospital admissions in SYB are generally level, with slight variation on a daily basis.

The new (Kent) variant of the virus has caused dramatic increases in other regions, but as yet has not been as virulent in SYB. The combination of this and the stable SYB rates before lockdown means that we are in a good position and will likely see a lower rise in cases over the coming weeks as a result. That said, the new variant is stronger and causes greater impact in outbreaks and it will evolve as the main strain which means we cannot be complacent and must continue with all the preventative measures in place.

In the coming weeks, the vaccination programme will be our top priority. Our ambition and hope is that the vaccination roll out, alongside the national lockdown restrictions, continued social distancing, handwashing and other preventative measures, we will see a sufficiently low enough rate of cases to support us out of lockdown.

2.2 Regional update

The North East and Humber Regional ICS Leaders have been meeting weekly with the NHS England and Improvement Regional Director to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 incident, planning that is taking place to manage the pandemic and where support should be focused. Discussions during December and in the first week of January focused on the EU Exit current position, Wave 3 surge plans, the COVID-19 response and vaccination programme

2.3 National update

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHS E/I) issued their Phase Four letter on 23 December in which the operational priorities for winter and 2021/22 were set out.

Key elements from the Letter include managing the ongoing demand from COVID-19, rapid implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, maximising capacity to provide

treatment to non-COVID-19 patients, preparedness to respond to the seasonal winter pressures and supporting the wellbeing of our workforce.

The Letter also sets out clear ambitions around how systems should address pandemic-related population health concerns as a direct result of COVID-19 in the areas of reducing health inequalities, expanding mental health provision and prioritising investment in primary and community care services. There is also a clear framework for how systems should follow the new financial framework around funding (consistent with the NHS' Long Term Plan).

2.4 COVID-19 and Flu vaccination programmes

The launch of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme within SYB took place in early December when Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was one of 50 hospital hubs in the country to start vaccinating the over-80s. The following week, the community roll-out phase began as designated sites in communities began vaccinating over-80s.

Despite the logistical challenges, many thousands of people are now vaccinated with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in SYB. The approval of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine means greater numbers of our population will now start to be vaccinated in GP-led centres and it is the 'game changer' and puts us in a much stronger position to roll out community vaccination among our most vulnerable groups.

Communications planning continues to take place in which the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) - and Nottinghamshire LRF – are coordinating activity to ensure national messaging targets vaccine hesitant groups. There will be increased focus on dispelling COVID-19 vaccine myths, utilising the national toolkits and assets, and starting reassurance campaigns early.

I would like to recognise the fantastic work that has taken place – in rapid time and at scale – by our Primary Care Networks and CCGs in SYB, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the COVID-19 Vaccine Steering Group for their phenomenal work over the last few weeks.

Meanwhile, the SYB Flu Board has reported seeing big improvements on last year's performance with workforce vaccinations and the targeted community programmes are also performing very well. The flu vaccination programme was extended to cover more vulnerable groups than in previous years in a bid to reduce the threats of COVID-19 affecting the most vulnerable groups. Additionally, this also helps to relieve pressure on acute trusts which are seeing far fewer seasonal flu cases as a result.

2.5 SYB ICS response to *Integrating care: Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England*

Further to my update in December on the NHS England and Improvement publication of '*Integrating care: Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England*', I signed off and submitted a high level response to the document as the SYB ICS Lead and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership Board. The response was discussed by the Collaborative Partnership Board but due to the tight timelines and ongoing pressures, it did not go to partner statutory bodies for approval which would be our normal way of working. Partners and others have made their own submissions to the engagement document.

2.5 Rapid Insights Report

A new research-led report by South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System and Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network was published in December. It details how our health and care partners across the region were able to continue delivering non-essential patient services during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through digital innovation, reconfiguring services and enhanced partnership collaboration, outcomes from the co-produced

Rapid Insights report include the continued use of digital communication platforms and upholding the enhanced workforce mobility that has supported the NHS during the pandemic. The full report can be found using this link:

https://www.healthandcaretogethersyb.co.uk/application/files/2816/0735/7565/94462_AHSN_South_Yorkshire_and_Bassetlaw_Rapid_Insights_Report.pdf

2.6 SYB ICS Year in Review

At the end of December the ICS issued a review of 2020, highlighting some of the successes of partnership working throughout the year. This has now also been published on the ICS website and you can view or link to it from this link: <https://www.healthandcaretogethersyb.co.uk/about-us/how-are-we-doing/2020-syb-ics-annual-review>

2.7 Partner appointments

Jo McDonough, who was the interim Director of Strategy at Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) has been appointed permanently to the post.

Jo has worked in the NHS for 11 years, at RDaSH for 9 years and previously at the Audit Commission for 11 years, covering a vast range of roles across the public sector. Her previous role was the Care Group Director for Doncaster's adult mental and physical health services in RDaSH.

2.8 New Year Honours

I would like to congratulate colleagues across SYB who were recently named in the New Year Honours 2021. There are incredible examples of individual acts of kindness during the pandemic, servitude to our local communities and benefits arising from increased collaborative enterprise between partner organisations. From the NHS, I would like to give a special mention to Damian Staples, Communications Officer at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and Dr Judith Graham at Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation for their services to the NHS during Covid-19 and to Professor Adewale Adebajo at Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for services to inclusive patient and public involvement in research.

2.9 Finance Update

At Month 8 the system is £10.8m ahead of plan. This is mainly due to a reduction in cost associated with lower than planned levels of elective activity due to COVID-19. The forecast for the year has improved in month 8 to a surplus of £4.2m which is £10.6m better than the month 7 forecast deficit of £6.4m. This reflects improved forecast in all four of the providers that submitted deficit plans with two now reported break even or better and £3m of additional funding provided by NHS England and Improvement.

Forecast capital slippage is £11.2m although this could increase further once all sources of funding are finalised. Work is ongoing to reduce the level of capital slippage as the ability to spend the capital slippage in future years will be lost to the system for good operating within an annual system financial envelope.

A letter was issued on 23 December by NHS England and Improvement which gave a high level indication of the financial framework for 21/22. Further guidance is awaited and a planning process and timetable will need to be agreed.

**Andrew Cash
System Lead, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System**

Date: 7th January 2021