

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 3 FEBRUARY 2021

CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE

Vaccinations

We have commenced weekly Aberdeenshire briefings regarding progress on Covid Vaccinations. We have made significant progress with both the initial roll out and the plans for the mass vaccination centres. This has been achieved by the hard work and determination of our teams across HSCP, Primary Care, Aberdeenshire Council, and NHS Grampian. We also receive a weekly NHSG briefing which is also circulated to IJB members, along with public comms messages in support of the programme. We hope to have a FAQ available which we will update regularly and provide responses to commonly asked questions relating to the vaccination programme.

We are seeing a high level of uptake from those offered the vaccination, but we will continue to work with those who are anxious or concerned to help understand and resolve any concerns.

Our progress is in line with the timetable agreed with Scottish Government and we are confident that we have the resources in place to deliver the vaccine supply as we receive this. I would also like to thank our residents and staff who have been tolerant of the teething issues we have experienced in these first early weeks.

Care Homes

We continue to support all of our Care Homes and other residential facilities. Our oversight group meets daily, responding to issues as a partnership between HSCP team, Public Health and Care Inspectorate. The Grampian oversight group meets weekly to monitor the situation across the wider area. Sadly with the continued high level of community transmission across Aberdeenshire, we are likely to continue to see outbreaks within residential facilities.

Our level of completed vaccinations for care home residents and staff is very high and we hope as the level of protection post vaccine increases, we will start to see a reduced level of risk to this, the most vulnerable of people.

Winter Pressures

As predicted, we are experiencing our usual levels of increased activity associated with winter alongside the recent surge in Covid. Our teams are very busy with a recent national study estimating that although Primary Care is delivering its services very differently, activity is thought to be significantly increased. We are seeing an increase in demand around mental health services, and often in response to additional pressures both covid and non covid related within many of our lives at this time. Our Virtual Community Wards continue to work hard to keep our residents as home where

possible and to support on discharge where needed. Our teams work closely with acute colleagues, again to ensure we have flow across our system.

Staff wellbeing

We continue to offer and encourage our teams to make use of a variety of resources to support their wellbeing. It is clear that this sustained response to Covid-19 is probably the greatest professional and personal challenge many of us have faced. Janine Howie is leading on this workstream and would be keen to bring further detail to IJB as this progresses. It is clear to us all however that this work is essential now but also will be required as we rebuild and look towards recovery. I would again like to use this opportunity to thank every member of the Health and Social Care team across Aberdeenshire for their continued efforts during this response.

Angie Wood
Interim Chief Officer
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership