

Portsmouth HOSP – Solent NHS Trust update for March 2022

1. Covid-19 – Response to Omicron Variant

1.1 In November 2021 the first case of the Omicron variant was detected in South Africa and as infections rapidly increased globally throughout December, NHS organisations were instructed to enter a state of preparedness. Early modelling suggested that infections could reach 2.5 times that of the January 2021 peak and that organisations could expect staff sickness level of up to 30%.

1.2 As a Community Trust, our response was focussed through our Adults Portsmouth and Adults Southampton service lines, predominantly supporting the urgent and emergency care pathways and our acute partners, Portsmouth University Hospital and University Hospital Southampton.

2. Inpatient Bedded Capacity

2.1 Additional capacity across Solent inpatient units was stood up in early December 2021 to meet expected winter pressures, higher acuity patients and provide surge capacity to the PSEH and SSW systems to support timely hospital discharges. This increased our total community bedstock by 18%.

2.2 Throughout January, occupancy rates for our community beds have largely exceeded the optimum range of 92% - 95% which is considered a critical metric to system flow.

2.3 In early January, Solent opened 5 additional beds at Jubilee House in response to the flood at QA Hospital.

3. Medically Optimised for Discharge (MOFD)

3.1 MOFD is an important measure for us to focus on and as a system we continue to discuss the correlation between the number of MOFD patients, acute hospital occupancy and any resulting performance challenges such as ambulance handovers. The longstanding joint working between Solent and Portsmouth City Council has resulted in good performance against our collective discharge targets since the new year.

4. Urgent Community Response

4.1 Clinical capacity has been expanded within PRRT in Portsmouth to provide fast, responsive Urgent Community Response Services (including virtual wards) and senior staff have been redeployed to work within the SCAS call centre to direct appropriate patients to these services avoiding conveyance to hospital.

5. Planning for Super Surge Response

5.1 Solent's community services in Portsmouth have been preparing for a move to the next stage of response, providing super surge capacity for the PSEH system. Whilst

the national and local modelling to date does not indicate that super surge capacity is currently required, the service remains on standby.

6. Mass Vaccination Centres

6.1 In response to the Omicron variant and a push to get local communities' urgent access to COVID-19 vaccination ahead of the national target date of 31 December 2021, surge capacity was stood up in the Mass Vaccination Centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW) on the National Booking System (NBS).

6.2 Additional workforce was sourced from a number of areas; redeployees, bank staff, voluntary organisations, Hampshire Fire & Rescue and the military, alongside additional support from the workforce bureau.

6.3 In addition to the capacity on NBS being increased, sites offered walk-in appointments for anyone aged 12 and above, for 1st, 2nd and booster vaccinations.

6.4 The additional surge capacity was stood down in January 2022 and sites reverted to previous capacity levels whilst the service expanded the community outreach service, bringing vaccination to the heart of our communities and under-served populations across HIOW.

7. COVID-19 infusion service

7.1 A COVID-19 infusion service has been introduced at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth, to run initially for six months.

7.2 The service is for at-risk patients who have a positive COVID-19 result, are symptomatic and have certain medical conditions that may result in a higher risk of hospitalization.

7.3 Solent NHS Trust's involvement is supporting community patients to receive their infusions in hospitals closer to (and eventually at home) rather than acute hospital settings.

8. The Harbour

8.1 The Harbour – a remote, out of hours mental health crisis service – launched mid-September for people living in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, Havant and East Hampshire is now expanding.

8.2 The service, which is being piloted for 12 months, has now entered its second rollout phase, expanding from [3 to 7 evenings a week](#) with the aim to reduce the number of people who use the emergency and acute mental health services by preventing people reaching crisis point.

9. Family Assist Solent

9.1 Solent NHS Trust's Child and Family Services has launched an online portal to help parents and families access inform and support during pregnancy, birth and beyond, all written and approved by local health professionals.

9.2 The digital portal – Family Assist Solent – can be accessed at any time, from a phone, tablet or PC, and will deliver key pieces of information by e-mail to registered

users at the relevant stages throughout pregnancy and the different stages of a child's life. [Read more](#).

Suzannah Rosenberg
Chief Operating Officer, Solent NHS Trust
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