

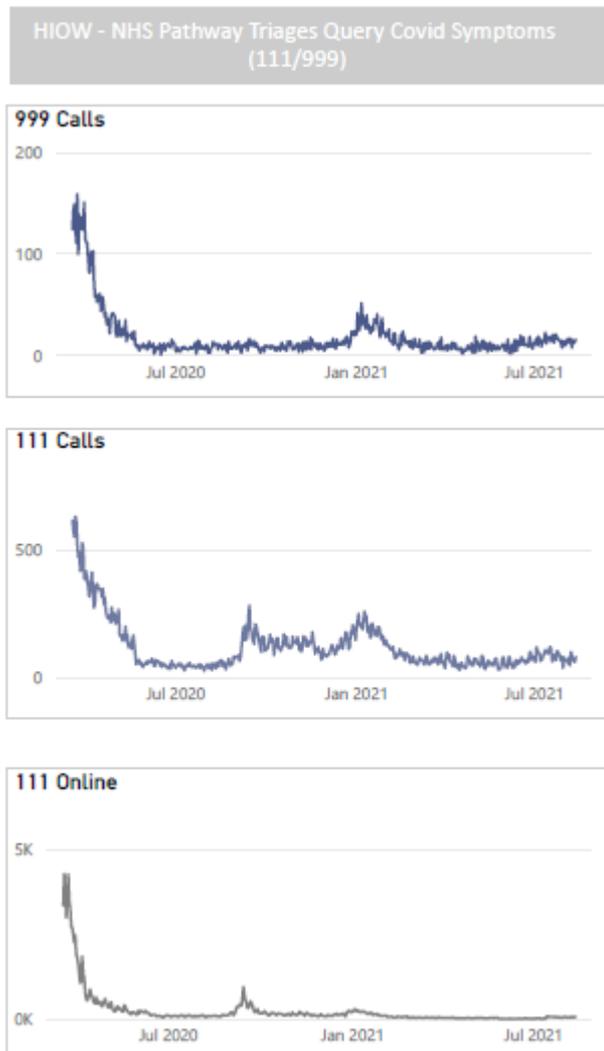
Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS response to COVID-19 Update Briefing for HIOW Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Panels September 2021

1. Introduction

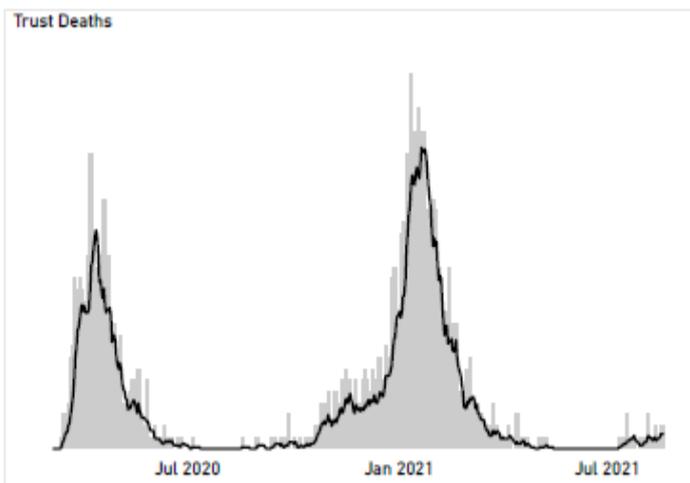
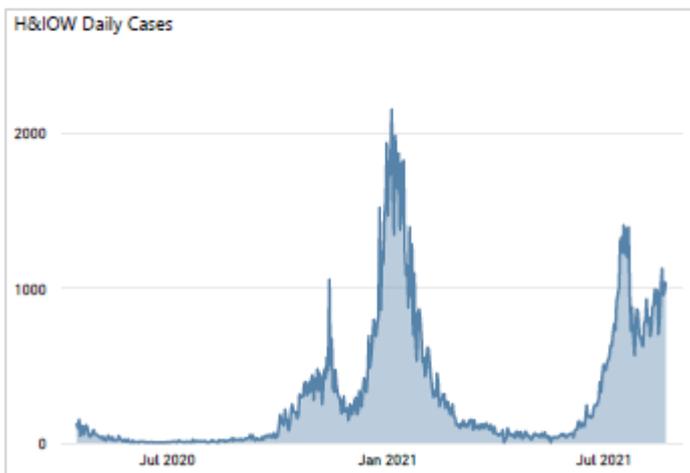
This paper provides an update on the impact to date of the pandemic on Hampshire and Isle of Wight and planning, the COVID-19 vaccination programme and recovery of services, including increases in planned activity.

2. Impact of COVID-19 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

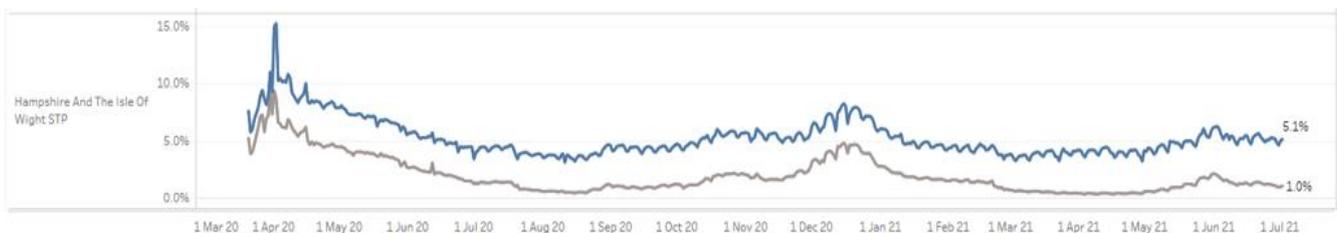
The following graphs show the number of NHS 111 calls, NHS 111 online contacts and 999 calls with potential COVID-19 symptoms.



The following graphs show the number of daily COVID cases and the number of deaths in H&IOW Acute Trusts due to COVID.



The following graph shows the daily staff sickness rate across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



As at 25 August, the staff absence rate is 5.1% for all staff absences, which is an improvement on previous highs of 8.8%. Sickness related to Covid-19 sickness or self-isolation is currently at 1%.

We continue to do all we can to ensure that we are supporting our staff. A wide range of support continues to be available, including mental health and wellbeing programmes and bespoke support for all staff groups.

Our primary care colleagues continue to do incredible work to respond to patient need, both COVID-19 and non-COVID related. This is against the backdrop of increasing demand, and while continuing to play a significant role in the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme across Hampshire and the Isle

of Wight. Face-to face appointments are available for those who need them, and primary care continues to provide access via telephone and online via eConsult where appropriate.

Our community mental health teams continue to work closely together to supported discharge services, early intervention services and keep our patients safe in the community under incredibly challenging circumstances.

The number of patients with COVID-19 being cared for in hospital reduced to very low levels by the end of May (46). Since Covid lockdown restrictions were lifted on 12 July, we have seen numbers rise steadily over the last few weeks. As of 23 August, there were 139 patients with COVID-19 being cared for across all four hospital sites in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The largest increase in Covid cases identified in the last 30 days is predominantly in the 15-24 year old age groups.

We continue to work closely with our health and care partners to respond to COVID-19 while also focusing on the continued recovery of services and local delivery of the vaccination programme. We are monitoring the situation closely and ensuring we are as prepared as possible for any potential future impact of the pandemic in our communities, including new variants.

Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight we have seen a marked increase in non-COVID-19 related demand for care. At present:

- NHS 111 and 999 calls with query COVID-19 symptoms remain comparatively low compared to peak activity during waves 1 and 2 of the pandemic, but 111 calls and 999 calls for non-COVID-19 activity have returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Emergency Department activity volumes have risen to peaks above “normal” levels in June and July – with some days in July being as busy as a normal January period
- Primary care is also exceptionally busy, with ongoing high patient demand and GP practices continue to GP practices continue to work hard to safely deliver care to the population

3. Recovery of services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Elective recovery plans have been finalised by all Trusts, and include additional activity in order to deliver the accelerator bid targets we agreed with NHS England – HIOW ICS going further, faster for our patients, and aiming for a peak of 110% activity compared to 19/20 levels

We are currently delivering a higher level of activity than the national standard (95% of 2019/20 activity levels), and current data shows HIOW ICS meeting all accelerator standards, with the exception of Day Case activity.

The accelerator programme has been extended until November and the system will need to continue to meet its target of 110% of activity.

Cancer activity remains strong, with Wessex Cancer Alliance (WCA) 2nd highest nationally and HIOW 4th highest ICS. HIOW continue to exceed the 28 days faster diagnosis standard, however we have seen more challenged performance in June as a result of the expected marked increase in two week wait referrals, which has impacted on 2 week wait and 62 day standards.

A significant programme of investment is underway to sustainably transform mental health services over the next three years for the benefit of our communities, with a particular focus on children and young people.

We continue to work with partners to support implementation of innovative ways to reduce waiting lists wherever possible, while continuing to support on the health, wellbeing and recovery of individuals working across the system.

In response to the challenges presented by the pandemic to the elective care programme in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the health and care system continues to work in partnership to:

- innovate, share learning and work with patients to make best use of our existing planned care capacity. This work has included:
 - drawing on insight from national productivity and efficiency tools (such as Get It Right First Time) to maximise patient throughput of, for example, theatres
 - using digital approaches to benefit patient experience and reduce non-value adding activity for example virtual consultations, patient-initiated follow-up and digital pre-operative assessment
 - rolling out best practice pathways of care including the use of 'advice and guidance' to ensure patients are able to access the optimal outcome as rapidly as possible
- create additional capacity - in a co-ordinated and sustainable way that maximises the return on investment. This work has included:
 - accessing capacity in the Independent Sector, creating multi-organisational treatment hubs, and jointly negotiating with providers of capacity to get best value
 - accelerating the creation of a flexible workforce that will be able to support the hub development, administrative support to enhance take-up of independent sector capacity. The workforce element will enable us to build greater resilience into our delivery programme and build a more secure workforce for the future.

4. COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

We continue to work in partnership to roll-out the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme locally. We are doing all we can to encourage uptake to ensure as many eligible people in our communities as possible are protected from the virus.

Latest figures published by NHS England and NHS Improvement show that as of 26 August, more than 2.54m vaccines have been delivered across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System (ICS) footprint.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our partners, colleagues and volunteers who continue to do all they can to support local delivery of the programme.

Vaccinating children and young people

At the time of submitting this report, the vaccination programme has been extended to 16 and 17 year olds. At-risk children aged between 12 and 15 years old, who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 or live with adults who are at increased risk of serious illness from the virus are also being invited to get vaccinated. This follows changes to guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

On 5 August a letter summarising the guidance and operational next steps was published. All remaining 16 year olds and 17 year olds who are not within three months of their 18th birthday were

then contacted through letters and text messages to be offered one dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine and we continue to promote uptake to these groups and everyone eligible. We await a national update on the plans to offer the vaccine to all 12 to 15 year olds.

Targeted work to encourage uptake

Working with our partners we continue to tackle inequalities, addressing individual concerns and circumstances and focusing in specific areas to increase uptake, taking into account demographics such as age, ethnicity and deprivation.

Our outreach work to reduce barriers for people who may be less likely to take up the offer of a vaccine is ongoing, and ranges from walk-ins to pop-up clinics, support for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and work with community leaders.

We continue to ensure support is in place to support clients of sexual health and HIV clinics to be vaccinated, with appropriate confidentiality arrangements. Clinics have been set up for people receiving support for substance misuse to be vaccinated across the ICS footprint and work is ongoing with local authorities and PCNs to support homeless people to get vaccinated.

Examples of community activity also include the pop-up vaccination clinic held by Solent NHS Trust at Victorious Festival in Southsea for anyone aged 16 and over and a two-day partnership walk-in vaccination clinic at Southampton Guildhall at which approximately 1,700 people were vaccinated on 10 and 11 July. Other recent activities have included walk-in clinics at fire stations across the area and walk-in clinics led by Primary Care Networks, all of which are widely promoted via social and regional media and partners. We are also working with organisers of the Isle of Wight Festival to provide a pop-up vaccination clinic on-site at the event later this month.

We are working closely with our local authority partners to target schools, colleges and universities to encourage more young people to take up the offer of a vaccine as soon as possible.

Preparing for phase three

Once we have the vaccinations for all 12-15 year olds underway, our focus is shifting towards the COVID-19 booster doses alongside the flu vaccination programme, while continuing to promote the “evergreen” offer of a COVID-19 vaccination for anyone in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who is yet to receive their first dose for any reason. We are also continuing to encourage uptake and provide second doses of the vaccine for all those recommended by the JCVI to receive them.

Anyone who receives an invitation for a COVID-19 jab, whether for their first or second dose, is urged to act on this as soon as possible. People do not need to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated, but it is not yet possible to book an appointment via the NBS without one.

For those not registered with a GP or without an NHS number, walk-in and pop-up sites continue to be available and are promoted both via NHS England and Improvement’s website and the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG website [here](#). Walk-ins and pop-ups also continue to be promoted via our partners, local and social media.

Vaccine effectiveness

A study published by the University of Oxford highlights that obtaining two vaccine doses remains the most effective way to ensure protection against the COVID-19 Delta variant. Conducted in partnership with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the study found that with Delta, Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines still offer good protection against new infections, but effectiveness is reduced compared with Alpha.

5. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note this update briefing.

ENDS