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Update

ICS update - 13 August 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. This Integrated Care System is led by Alan Foster, executive lead. If you have any questions or would like us to send vital information to partners through this bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

Message from Alan



South Tyneside and Sunderland unveil plans for new integrated diagnostic centre

Exciting news from our colleagues at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust as they unveiled plans for a new state-of-the-art £10 million Integrated Diagnostic Centre at South Tyneside District Hospital.

This represents fantastic news for patients across Sunderland, South Tyneside and North Durham and is yet another sign of our region being at the forefront of

As we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and begin to tackle the backlog of patients waiting for care, this new integrated diagnostic centre will help play a pivotal role in reducing waiting lists.

Latest picture in the region

Cases of Covid-19 are continuing to fall across the region this week and we are also still seeing a reduction in hospital cases too. I'm sure you'll all be reassured to hear this, but as I've said before, we must not become complacent. Not least because we know that demand for services remains very high across health and care and we know just how busy things remain for everyone right now. We are continuing to remind the public to #DoYourBit and use services sensibly as well as continuing to follow hands, face, space when visiting any healthcare setting.

As ever, our priority is to ensure the safety of our patients and support our staff through these challenging times. I'd like to thank all of our frontline teams for their continued hard work and remind everyone that our [staff wellbeing hub](#) is on hand to support health and care staff across our region.

Covid vaccine update

Good news on the vaccine front as from today, 17-year olds who are within three months of their 18th birthday are invited to book their Covid-19 vaccine through the national booking service. This is an important step in ensuring that as much of our communities are protected against the virus as possible and I know work is underway to encourage as much sign up as possible in this age group, with text messages being sent to this age group and letters following to those for who there is no recorded number.

We will also continue to promote the importance of getting the vaccine on our social media pages and we encourage you all do to the same to ensure the message is reaching as many people as possible.

As a region we have also been encouraging expecting mums to ensure they are vaccinated against Covid-19 following the [guidance](#) shared with you last week showing the overwhelming majority of pregnant women hospitalised with the virus have not had a jab.

It was great to see head of midwifery at Northumbria Healthcare, Jenna Wall and public health midwife, Carla Anderson, share this important message on [ITV Tyne Tees](#) earlier this week.

more in the coming weeks about plans for any covid-19 booster vaccines. As ever there are lots of logistics to think through and we are all committed to getting the vaccine programme started as early as we can. Thank you to everyone – I know teams are pulling out all the stops to deliver this.

Integrated care system

Over the coming months we are expecting more guidance to be published to support the development of Integrated Care Systems as statutory organisations (subject to parliamentary approvals) from April 2022.

NHS England has recently issued new [guidance](#) for provider collaboratives which sets out the minimum expectations for how providers should work together in provider collaboratives and provides some guiding principles to support local decision-making.

As you know, our [provider collaborative](#) is already established and there are many ways in which we are already working together as part of our recovery and to improve access to services. We will be looking at what this guidance means for us and the best approach for our region.

New ICS website

We have this week launched a new website for our ICS, which you can view [here](#). Please check links from your own site if they point to the ICS website, as the URL will have changed.

Thank you to everyone for all you are doing.

Best wishes,

Alan

Alan Foster is the executive lead for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System

Other news and updates

The R number in the UK: The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK can be found here on GOV.UK.

Public Health England dashboard: The Public Health England (PHE)

including hospitals, care homes and the wider community. The report also includes case rates per 100,000 resident population at lower-tier local authority level.

COVID-19 surveillance reports: A link to the weekly COVID-19 report, monitoring COVID-19 activity, and other seasonal respiratory illnesses can be found [here](#).



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