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Update

ICS update - 30 July 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System (ICS) in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. The 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 Foster



Enhanced Response Area

Last week it was announced that from this Monday the whole of the North East would receive additional government support as an Enhanced Response Area following a steep rise in Covid-19 cases in the area. You can read more [here](#) on the government website and [here](#) in a statement from councils across the North East.

While we are currently seeing a decline in cases of Covid-19 in the community we can't be complacent particularly as we know many front-line services remain very busy and cases in our hospitals continue to rise – although covid-19 admissions to hospital are

not at the levels they were earlier in the pandemic.

Our best defence against virus remains the vaccine. Across the region we have worked tirelessly to ensure as many people as possible are protected and the vaccine is accessible to all. I know this hard work continues and we are also planning for the Covid-19 booster and flu vaccination programmes.

Public support

Together – across all partners – we are sharing important messages with the public and continue to ask for their support - as well as thanking them for all they have done already. Whether that's getting the vaccine, self-isolating and getting a test if they have covid-19 symptoms or remembering to wash their hands, wear a mask and social distancing when visiting any healthcare settings. Please do help share these messages. I would also like to share this [recent film](#) produced by health and care partners across Gateshead asking for support from their communities at this busy time.

Please do share information about our regional staff and wellbeing hub – it's there to support all staff working in health and care - no matter their grade or where they work. The past year has been tough and tiring for everyone. The support line is 0191 223 2030 and there is more information [here](#).

Chair designate of the ICS

I am delighted to share with you that this week NHS England/Improvement have confirmed that Professor Sir Liam Donaldson will be chair-designate for the Integrated Care Board for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS).

As you will be aware, Sir Liam is [currently chair of the ICS and was appointed in December 2020](#). He will take up the post for the Board from April 2022, should Parliament confirm the current plans for ICSs to become statutory organisations. You find out more [here](#) and [here](#).

I am sure like me you will welcome this decision and the certainty that this also brings as we continue on our journey to deliver our shared ambition to improve health and care for our communities

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Liam for his commitment and leadership to date. Liam has a wealth of experience and knowledge, from his time as Regional Director of the former Northern Regional Health Authority, his role as the country's Chief Medical Officer and his advisory role to the World Health Organisation. He is passionate about working with local authority colleagues to reduce the burden of premature death and preventable disease and the longstanding health inequalities that

affect many parts of the region. He also shares the commitment of all staff working in these vital public services to do everything possible to deliver safe high quality care appropriate and accessible to everyone who needs it.

The next stage of the recruitment process will be the appointment of the ICB chief officers designates, with this process expected to conclude in the Autumn.

New chief executive of NHS England/Improvement

This week I was also delighted to hear that Amanda Pritchard has been appointed a chief executive of NHS England/Improvement. We look forward to playing our part in working with Amanda and all our partners across the region to ensure the NHS continues to be the best health and care system in the world.

Finally

Congratulations to our communications teams across the region too. This week they have been shortlisted for numerous industry awards including Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRIDE North East awards and the national PR week awards. Notably, the communications network across the North East and North Cumbria has been shortlisted for a Best Covid-19 response award – a great example of collaborative working. Good luck!

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](https://www.gov.uk).

Public Health England dashboard: The Public Health England (PHE) dashboard can be found [here](#). Daily reporting includes deaths that have occurred in all settings where there has been a positive COVID-19 test, 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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