



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 8 DECEMBER 2021
WINTER, INFLUENZA PLANNING AND COVID-19 UPDATE
REPORT BY GAIL SMITH, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to present to Angus Integration Joint Board the Winter Planning arrangements for NHS Tayside and Health & Social Care Partnerships for 2021/22. This is an integrated plan and work has been ongoing to ensure the Health & Social Care Partnerships and Acute Services have developed cohesive plans for winter, supported by the Remobilisation Plans and Influenza (flu) Planning.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:-

- (i) Approves and endorses the Winter Plan (NHS Tayside and Partner Organisations 2021 / 22) for submission to the Scottish Government.
- (ii) Notes the cost pressures to deliver the services required to meet winter, flu and COVID-19 demand on the background of ongoing flow challenges.
- (iii) Notes whole system working in preparation for anticipated winter challenges.
- (iv) Notes the approach taken within Angus to support flu vaccination.
- (v) Notes the COVID-19 update.

2. BACKGROUND

The Scottish Government issue annual guidance to NHS Boards and Local Integrated Partnerships to support Health & Social Care services to prepare for winter. The Scottish Government request that NHS Boards working with local Health & Social Care Partnerships lodge plans with Scottish Government for approval.

The Tayside Unscheduled Care Board provides the governance and oversight required around the allocation of winter planning and 6EA unscheduled care funding. In previous years, NHS Tayside received funding of £1m - £1.5m. However, at time of writing this report the Scottish Government has still to confirm this year's allocation.

The NHS Tayside Winter Plan has been developed taking cognisance of learning from the ongoing response to COVID-19, other infectious disease prevalence including influenza and norovirus and is closely aligned to the Redesigning Urgent Care programme being delivered by Scottish Government. In September 2021, the Scottish Government commissioned NHS Boards and Health & Social Care Partnerships to provide the next iteration of their Remobilisation Plans to reflect how health and social care services were preparing for the winter season. This year's winter plan will again be underpinned by the Remobilisation Plan to ensure a whole system focus

The key principles of the Winter Plan are outlined below:

- Prevent – The prevention of illness and admissions within our population and staff
- Inform – A whole system escalation framework
- Respond – Whole System Escalation and Business Continuity Planning
- Business as usual is the primary aim – Strategies include planning for more business as usual capacity when required
- Communicate – Communication across the system for staff and good communication with the population of Tayside

3. CURRENT POSITION

Winter Plan

The Winter Plan focuses on key areas to ensure early prevention and response to minimise potential disruption to services and ensure that we continue to provide safe and effective care for our population.

Winter Plans ensure that safe and effective care for people using services and effective levels of capacity and funding are in place to meet expected activity levels. However, this year is more challenging than previous years, as there are additional challenges which have great potential to exacerbate winter 2021/22 pressures on our health and social care system.

- A resurgence of COVID-19 disease in with increased demand on health and care services alongside a depleted workforce who may require to isolate/shield
- Disruption to the health and social care systems due to adjustments required to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission
- A backlog of Non COVID-19 health care with resultant impact due to deterioration in people's chronic conditions presenting for urgent care
- A possible influenza outbreak and the requirement to vaccinate an extended cohort of people this winter
- A possibility of bad winter weather
- Brexit

These factors need to be considered in the context of winter when our health and social care services are already typically working at maximal capacity, and the availability of staff and facilities may be reduced due to winter health impact and winter weather disruptions. This is a big risk for all services delivered in peoples' homes

Influenza

A key priority each year is to ensure that the Seasonal Flu Programme is delivered upon. It helps to protect and alleviate pressures on the NHS. This will be more important than ever this year, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that we will see an increased uptake amongst the population who traditionally received the vaccination. Additionally vaccine eligibility is extended this year in Scotland to the following additional groups:

- Social care workers who provide direct care,
- Household members of individuals who were shielding
- Those aged 55 and over (who are not already eligible)
- Those aged 50-54
- School aged children

COVID-19 Update

The situation in Tayside with people confirmed as having COVID-19 continues to increase whilst the numbers in hospital, including those in critical care remain fairly stable.

Data from Public Health Scotland: The most recent data available from Public Health Scotland (<https://public.tableau.com>) reports for the period 14-20 November 2021, the rate/100,000 in Angus was 487 and the number of positive cases over the same 7 days being 564. There have been fluctuations in the 7 day community rates since the previous IJB report in February 2021 (93/21) when the 7 day rate/100,000 in Angus for 02-08 February 2021 was 105.9 and the number of positive cases for the same time period was 123.

COVID-19 vaccine: On 23 November 2021, NHS Tayside continued to be the top performing mainland Board in Scotland for COVID-19 booster uptake in the over-50s with more than half having received their booster or third dose. On 23 November 2021, Angus is the second highest mainland Local Authority area for COVID-19 booster uptake in the over-50's with 37,461 vaccinations administered, 69.5% of population.

The national online booking portal opened on Monday, 15 November 2021 for those aged 50-59, and over 16s who are unpaid carers or live with someone who is immunosuppressed. Drop-in clinics continue in Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose for anyone over 12 to get their first COVID-19 vaccine or over 18 for a second dose. The NHS Tayside central team are overseeing the administration of COVID-19 boosters to individuals who are housebound.

4. PROPOSALS

Winter Planning

Section 6.1 of the Winter Plan details the specific actions for Angus HSCP. The focus of the winter plan for Angus HSCP is in line with the national direction of ensuring people can access the right care at the right time and in the right place, supporting home or community first, avoiding admissions, facilitating and supporting timely and efficient discharges. A local group is in place to review capacity and flow issues on a weekly basis, including the review of complex discharges from both acute and community settings with an overarching group that will support planning, performance, risk management, resilience and operational management of HSCP services during the winter months in relation to unscheduled care, in-patient care, community and primary care and urgent care.

Summary of Key Actions agreed by the Tayside HSCPs are as follows:

- Enhanced community support services
- Anticipatory care planning and End of Life support for end-of-life care in care homes
- Support the discharge hub to improve discharge planning
- Workforce planning
- Enhanced support to care homes
- Further development of acute frailty models
- Promotion of flu vaccinations
- Falls prevention

Section 6.5 and 7 of the NHS Tayside Winter plan detail the actions for both Primary Care and Out of Hours of which Angus HSCP is the host partnership. Management of the population within primary care and ensuring timely access to urgent primary care 24/7 is critical for supporting both non COVID-19 and COVID-19 assessment and supporting the work of primary care, including the management of long term conditions and chronic disease management, which, has continued throughout the pandemic. The development of pathways continues between both primary and secondary care, which will also support improvement in the interface across the system to benefit both patients and staff

Summary of Key Actions for Tayside Primary Care including the GP Out of Hours service are as follows

- Increase use of Near Me and home triage

- Increase use of professional to professional model
- Demand management and required resourcing to support both Non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 presentations 24/7
- Increase use of digital technology to support digital/virtual consultations
- Enhanced collaborations/consultations with Emergency, Acute and Paediatric Consultants
- Ensure have appropriate workforce is in place to support
- Continue to support the health and wellbeing of all staff

Influenza

The effective delivery of the immunisation programmes for eligible members of the public and staff is importance. This year there is the largest eligibility including all over 50-year-olds, all school staff, and all school age children. As with last year uptake is expected to be higher than was attained prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Boards are required to deliver the programme between 1st October and 31st March and by April 2022 influenza alongside all other vaccinations as part of the Vaccination Transformation Programme as set out in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

There was significant learning on the delivery of the programme by NHS Tayside, but with the concurrent COVID-19 booster programme to deliver, almost all practices in Angus agreed to support delivery where capacity allowed for the over 70s and over 16 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.

The approach to vaccination across Tayside will be the same across all 3 HSCPs and will include:

- Ambulant over 70 and Clinically Extremely vulnerable vaccinated by GP practice staff (Brechin patients will be done at a local NHS Tayside clinic)
- Children age 2-5 done by NHS Tayside childhood immunisation teams in community venues
- Primary and secondary school children done at school by augmented NHS Tayside childhood immunisation teams
- 12 - 15 year old at risk children started in advance and were done at local vaccination clinics in Montrose, Forfar and Arbroath
- Care home residents and staff vaccinated in the care home setting by NHS Tayside vaccination staff
- Housebound vaccinated at home by NHS Tayside vaccination staff
- Frontline health and social care staff booked online and carried out at their chosen vaccination centre
- Over 16 with an underlying health condition and all over 50s done by NHS Tayside vaccination staff at vaccination centres
- School staff booked on national platform to be vaccinated at a local pharmacy or vaccination centre
- Non-frontline healthcare workers at staff clinics in hospital sites, vaccination centres or in community pharmacies.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Winter Planning Funding

As noted in IJB54/21 report and as detailed in the Finance Report to this IJB meeting, the Scottish Government has recently announced £300m of additional funding to provide longer term improvement in service capacity across health and social care systems. While details continue to emerge, funding is also intended to help address issues that may have emerged during COVID-19 responses and have a recurring impact. The 5 main funding areas are as follows:-

1. Interim Care - To enable patients currently in hospital to move into care homes and other community settings, on an interim basis, to ensure they can complete their recovery in an appropriate setting.

2. Uplift in Social care – To uplift the minimum hourly wage of those providing direct Adult Social Care.
3. Expanding Care at Home - To support the expansion of care at home provision. To address pressures already evident in the IJB or already projected within the IJB. It will also support wider needs identified to support care at home including care management, community equipment, adaptations, Enablement Rehabilitation Teams, input from other services such as AHPs and Community Nursing and investment in technology-based solutions.
4. Developing MDTs - There a range of existing and developing pressures this funding may be applied to including supporting Care Homes, Long COVID, Primary Care and the overall service provision within the HSCP.
5. Wellbeing - The IJB has received an allocation to support staff well being. Individual services are developing responses to these allocations.

COVID-19

In terms of impact in 2021/22, it continues to be difficult to determine the duration and depth of this. The background to how costs within the Partnership are affected is described in the October Finance report to the IJB but it is important to reiterate that the Partnership will work towards containing costs where possible.

6. RISK

- Increase in delayed discharges
- Inability to meet Care at Home demands

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

The Winter Plan has been developed taking into account the remobilisation plans for NHS Tayside and the three Health and Social Care Partnerships

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

9. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

REPORT AUTHOR: Jill Galloway, Head of Community Health and Social Care
EMAIL DETAILS: Tay.AngusHSCP@nhs.scot

List of Appendices:
Appendix 1 NHS Tayside Winter Plan