

20th October 2021

Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System (ICS) COVID-19 Recovery Programme and preparation for Winter Pressures– Update

Purpose of report: To update the Select Committee on Frimley ICS' Recovery Programme and preparation for Winter Pressures (Surge Planning)

Introduction:

1. The Frimley ICS continues to experience sustained pressures across all health and care sectors, with some service backlogs, later presentation of disease, ongoing infection prevention and control and outbreak management measures, and a need to prepare for further demand surges due to the anticipated seasonal flu impact and other viral respiratory illnesses.
2. Throughout the pandemic we have been continuously reviewing and learning from each Covid-19 wave and this is informing how we will manage and balance the restoration of services plus maintain provision throughout the winter. In addition to identifying backlogs of work, we are using our data insights to identify unmet with a particular focus on reducing inequalities.
3. We acknowledge the need to continue to support the resilience of our own staff and their wellbeing. Workforce is an ongoing risk to recovery and winter capacity.
4. We have strengthened our governance and delivery structures in anticipation of the system pressures over the next 6 months and will continue to benefit from our foundation of strong partnership working.

Summary:

5. The attached presentation (appendix 1) covers:
 - the current context for recovery and surge planning
 - the principles and approach the system has used to develop its plan
 - the information and insights we have available including demand modelling assumptions
 - Communication of key winter messages to our communities

- risk and mitigation

Conclusions:

6. Effective collaboration within and across systems is at the heart of our recovery and winter plans which are set against a backdrop of the challenge to restore services, meet new care demands and reduce the care back logs that are a direct consequence of the pandemic, whilst supporting staff recovery and taking further steps to address inequalities in access, experience, and outcomes.
7. Our plans are a mix of drawing on experience from previous winters, and throughout the pandemic and build in new ways of working better together based on new insights and innovations.
8. Our governance approach builds on our existing system and partner meeting structures with continued emphasis on patient safety, experience and equity in addition to demand and capacity management. Our approach to response and recovery includes various specific streams of work, with the Frimley ICS Partnership Board providing strategic direction and oversight.

Recommendations:

9. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Next steps:

10. Frimley ICS is currently mobilising the plans as described in appendix 1. The system will adjust and adapt to the changing context as we move into the winter months. We will ensure we continue to communicate and engage with patients and partners as part of this process, alongside a continued focus on the health and wellbeing of our staff alongside those of our residents.

Report contact

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Appendix 1 – Report detail