

**CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH:** Sinead Mooney, Adults & Health  
**SPOTLIGHT:** Current Key Issues

## Surrey COVID-19 update

### Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Surrey's Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) is responsible for:

- Sign-off of the general direction of travel for Surrey's COVID-19 [Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) (LOMP) and ongoing development of the plan
- Senior level oversight of outbreak responses in Surrey, outlined in Surrey's COVID-19 LOMP. This is implemented via Surrey's Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) Resilience & Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Board, or in the event of a significant increase in transmission, via Surrey's COVID Management Group (CMG). Surrey's CMG is currently in operation due to the spread of the Omicron variant.
- Oversight of resource allocation relating to the delivery of LOMP in Surrey
- Direction and leadership for community engagement for outbreak response
- Approving the public-facing communications for outbreak response

### Local Outbreak Management Plan

Surrey's LOMP is continually updated to reflect national policy and guidance. The latest plan (version 15) reflects the Government's [COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021](#) and the revised [COVID-19 Contain Framework](#), and was published on 10 December 2021 following approval by the LOEB. The plan includes:

- The national, legal and local context
- Governance structures where decisions are made
- The surveillance system that provides COVID-19 data to help inform service needs and support local decision makers
- Preventing and reducing transmission of COVID-19 through testing, contact tracing, vaccinations, dealing with variants, being COVID secure in specific settings, and tackling inequalities
- Managing enduring transmission within the local communities
- Communications and engagement with the public, the community, partners, and national bodies

### COVID-19 Data & Intelligence

Between 1 January and 7 January 2022, 1,362.2 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population were recorded in Surrey. This is similar to the regional seven-day rate (1,356.0) and lower than the national seven-day rate (1,570.4). The latest [Coronavirus figures and statistics](#) are available on the SCC website.

### Variants of Concern – Omicron

Omicron is now the dominant variant in England and the South East. The latest figures on the distribution of COVID-19 variants in the UK, including Omicron cases by Lower Tier Local Authority level, are available [here](#). Local data on Variants of Concern is also published in Surrey's [Weekly Coronavirus full summary report](#).

### Communications

A comprehensive Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed to support the LOMP. Targeted communications continue around key behaviours to limit the spread of the variant, including vaccination, testing and the mandatory wearing of face masks in shops and on public transport. The SCC Communications Team are working with the district and borough communications team and provide any assets or support necessary.

### Government's adult social care reform white paper

People at the Heart of Care, the government's adult social care reform white paper published on 1 December 2021, sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care. It outlines a range of policies that the government will implement over the next 3 years, working together with the sector and those who draw on care and support. These proposals are backed by the new Health and Social Care Levy announced in September, of which £5.4 billion is being invested into adult social care over the next 3 years. Important measures unveiled include:

- £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies, with a focus on increasing the range of new supported housing options available.

- £150 million of funding to drive greater adoption of technology and achieve widespread digitisation across social care.
- £500 million so the social care workforce have the right training and qualifications, and feel recognised and valued for their skills and commitment.
- A new practical support service to make minor repairs and changes in people's homes, alongside increasing the upper limit of the Disabilities Facilities Grant for home adaptations.
- Up to £25 million to work with the sector to kick-start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers.
- £30 million to help local areas innovate around the support and care they provide in new and different ways, providing more options that suit people's needs and individual circumstances.
- A new national website to explain the upcoming changes, and at least £5 million to pilot new ways to help people understand and access the care and support available.
- More than £70 million to increase the support offer across adult social care to improve the delivery of care and support services.

## **Mental Health**

At Cabinet on the 30 November 2021, approval was given for the formal inclusion of Mental Health into the Accommodation with Care and Support Programme. This decision recognises the importance that Surrey places on improving mental health outcomes, experiences and services for people with mental health needs in Surrey. This endorsement will strengthen the work already being undertaken to improve the accommodation and care available for people with mental health needs in Surrey.

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The appointment of a management trainee to the mental health commissioning team has also enabled good progress to be made on the housing related support workstream within the programme. We are working closely with our District and Borough Housing partners and housing related support providers to inform future development of these support services.

## **Exploration of Registered Provider of Social Housing status for Surrey County Council**

Since the 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act and associated regulations that came into force in April 2010 what were called or referred to as Registered Social Landlords (RSL) are now named/referred to as Registered Providers of Social Housing (RP). These can be 'private' RPs or not for profit; the term RP covers all permutations including the fact that private companies can and do gain RP status with the Housing Regulator as well as various forms of not-for-profit housing providers. The term RP also covers local authorities who by virtue of their housing duties get granted RP status automatically.

A task and finish group of senior officers has been established to look at the feasibility, pros and cons of seeking to establish RP status for Surrey County Council and will be reporting back on its findings in the new year.

## **Appointment of a new Executive Director of Adult Social Care**

The new Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Integrated Commissioning will be responsible for developing the strategy to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of Surrey's residents, maintaining the focus on improvement and prevention and early intervention strategies. A key focus will be to lead health and social care integration, providing the expertise to support the Council in its shift towards a place-based, outcome driven model and progressing this work at pace. The post holder will carry statutory responsibilities for Adult Social Services and the management of integrated commissioning across health and social care. An appointment has been made and will be announced by the Chief Executive shortly.