

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership Stakeholder Newsletter

October 2020

Learning from service changes made in response to Covid-19 can shape how we provide care in the future

As coronavirus became prevalent in the UK earlier this year, the HCV Partnership commissioned a report to capture the changes made to our region's health and care services in response to the pandemic.

We asked each of the HCV Partnership organisations to submit examples of how they implemented changes and service improvements in response to Covid-19 – and we were pleased to receive more than 330 unique clinical and non-clinical responses from across our health and care system.

The reason for collating all these examples was so lessons could be learned and shared across our health and care system.

While this was primarily focused on our response to Covid-19, many of these innovations will be permanently adopted to improve health and care services in our communities long after the pandemic is over.

What struck me and other colleagues when reading these examples was that health and care colleagues have prioritised the safety of patients and staff, and there is a clear commitment to provide the best possible service to patients and clients within the restrictions and challenges that Covid-19 has brought.

So for your unyielding commitment to helping patients during this unprecedentedly challenging time I want to say thank you.

I'm pleased to tell you that the Understanding our Response to Covid-19 report, which was created in partnership with the Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network, has been published. The report can be viewed [here](#) >

The Clinical and Professional Leaders' Group will now consider the report in great detail, with the next steps being to review what further progress involving these service changes and innovations has been made, and examine which changes have had a sustained positive impact within their communities.

The group will also begin to explore how these local innovations can be introduced across the wider Humber, Coast and Vale area to benefit as many of our local population as possible.

In the wake of rising numbers of Covid-19 cases across the country in recent weeks, it is more important than ever to learn from our responses to ensure we can continue to provide the best possible care in these very challenging circumstances.



Partnership news

While there is understandable concern around rising cases of coronavirus, with new localised lockdowns announced seemingly on a daily basis at the moment, there is comfort to be taken from knowing that we are in a strong position to handle any future outbreaks.

This reassurance comes from the knowledge that, as indicated by the examples throughout the report, our health and care staff have worked quickly to make changes to the way they deliver services in order to keep patients and staff safe, and will continue to do so until the virus is no longer a threat to our people.

Dr Nigel Wells,
Clinical Lead,
Humber, Coast and Vale
Health and Care Partnership



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Partnership secures £16m investment to improve hospital A&E departments



Partnership news

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership has secured £16million to upgrade hospital A&E departments across the region to help respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and winter pressures.

The government has awarded the money to the Partnership this year (2020/21) to improve A&E department facilities and capacity at York Hospital, Hull Royal Infirmary, Scarborough Hospital, Scunthorpe Hospital, Grimsby’s Diana Princess of Wales Hospital and Harrogate District Hospital.

The funding for Humber, Coast and Vale is part of the government’s £150million initiative announced in September to redevelop A&E facilities at 25 hospitals across England, and follows on from August’s £300million funding allocation to upgrade A&E facilities at 117 hospital trusts across the country in preparation for winter.

Scunthorpe Hospital and Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby will each receive £4million and York Hospital will receive £2million this year, as part of an overall package to redevelop A&E facilities at the three sites expected to total £45million over the next two years.

As announced in August, Hull Royal Infirmary, Scarborough Hospital and Harrogate District Hospital will collectively receive £6million for improvements this year, such as increasing A&E capacity by providing additional space, expanding waiting areas, increasing the number of treatment cubicles and improving patient flow.

This means the total investment to improve A&E hospital facilities in Humber, Coast and Vale is expected to reach £51million across 2020/21 and 2021/22.

These improvements will help the hospitals continue to provide a safe environment for patients to receive treatment by helping to reduce overcrowding and improve infection control measures.

Professor Stephen Eames CBE, System Lead and Independent Chair of the Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership, said:

“This additional funding to improve Humber, Coast and Vale A&E facilities is very welcome, especially with winter approaching and as we continue to provide emergency care amid challenging circumstances caused by Covid-19.

“It’s hoped that this improvement work will help to reassure patients that they are safe when they visit hospital to receive the care they need.”

Digital Fast Forward Plan

Digital leaders in Humber, Coast and Vale have published a plan which outlines how digital technology and innovation will be utilised to transform the region’s health and care services.

The opportunities and benefits of digital technology to transform health and care have come to the fore throughout the coronavirus pandemic, as colleagues embraced new ways of working to keep services running safely.

The Digital Fast Forward Plan supports the “recovery through redesign” of our health and care system, building on the rapid changes made across the health and care system in response to the pandemic.

John Skidmore, Digital Lead for the HCV Partnership, said:

“I am delighted to launch our Humber, Coast and Vale Digital Fast Forward Plan which sets out our digital ambitions, plans and opportunities for the HCV Partnership.



Digital

“This plan has been developed by all partner organisations which have come together on the digital agenda with passion, determination and talent to unleash our potential and ambitions for digital across the Partnership.”



Cancer Alliance continues to increase cancer awareness during pandemic



Cancer

By introducing virtual Cancer Champion sessions, Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance has continued to raise awareness and support early diagnosis of cancer throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, the NHS witnessed a significant drop in the number of urgent cancer referrals in the Humber, Coast and Vale region, and indeed across the country, as fewer patients contacted their GP for investigation. The Cancer Champion programme aims to save lives by raising awareness of the symptoms of cancer and encouraging early detection when treatment is simpler and can be more successful.

The programme, which began its face-to-face meetings in September 2018, had set out to reach the milestone of training 2020 Cancer Champions in 2020, but the sessions were paused due to the pandemic.

In August, the team adapted the programme and are now offering virtual sessions. As of 15th October, 123 have taken part in sessions via Microsoft Teams; and this number will continue to rise as further virtual Cancer Champion sessions are held, meaning the team are back on track to reach their 2020 milestone by the end of October.

Emma Lewin, Volunteer Co-ordinator for the programme, said: "Cancer Champions are equipped with the knowledge needed to raise awareness about cancer and engage in conversations to encourage early diagnosis.

"Because we have made the sessions virtual, we are still on track to meet our goal of training 2020 Cancer Champions in 2020, despite the pandemic causing some problems. We are pleased we were able to continue increasing the number of people in the Humber, Coast and Vale area equipped to spark potentially life-saving conversations within local communities."

After completing the session, one participant said: "The training really opened my eyes and made me realise how important it is to educate yourself, your loved ones, friends and the public on cancer and possibly catch it earlier to save someone's life."

Another participant said: "Given how common cancer is, it made me really think about how little I talk about it with family and friends."

NHS staff, healthcare professionals, and members of the public are encouraged to register for the free 90 minute sessions. To become a Cancer Champion, visit: hvcanceralliance.org.uk/cancerchampions

Funding to train additional 170 Nursing Associates secured as Partnership meets apprenticeship levy target



Workforce

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership has been identified as the top performing integrated care system (ICS) in the North East and Yorkshire, in terms of meeting its public sector apprenticeship levy target.

Some 2.2% of the NHS workforce in the region started an apprenticeship between 2017 and 2019, exceeding the levels achieved in the neighbouring ICS areas in North East and Yorkshire. NHS partner organisations across Humber, Coast and Vale spend approximately £2million of apprenticeship levy annually, representing a significant local investment.

The fund has been used to train 170 Nursing Associates as well as many other types of apprenticeships, and an additional 50 Nursing Associates have completed their training and are providing vital care to patients across local communities.

The Partnership is successfully supporting local NHS partners to identify skills gaps, provide workforce planning and to utilise the available levy funds to invest in essential future staffing. The Partnership has secured funding for 98 apprentices this year alone, 10 of which are new roles. A further 100 Trainee Nursing Associates are due to begin training this year.





Mental health

HCV mental health annual conference

The HCV Partnership’s mental health and learning disabilities programme holds its annual conference on Friday, 27th November (9.30am to 1pm).

Guest speakers at the virtual event include Alastair Campbell, former adviser to Tony Blair; and Claire Murdoch CBE, NHS England and NHS Improvement’s National Mental Health Director. Register [here >](#)



Elective care

Humber, Coast and Vale has become one of the first areas in England to launch the NHS Low Calorie Diet Programme to help people who are overweight and living with type 2 diabetes improve their health.

Our area is one of 10 pilot sites to introduce the programme, in which participants are offered low-calorie meal replacement products (such as shakes and soups) for 12 weeks, alongside support to increase their exercise levels.

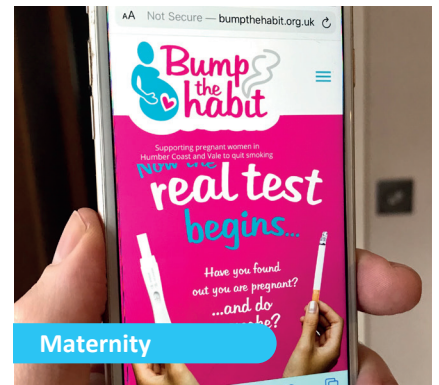
Bump the Habit website launched to help pregnant women stop smoking

A website has launched in Humber, Coast and Vale to help pregnant women stop smoking – with their loved ones also encouraged to quit to help them succeed.

Humber, Coast and Vale has one of the highest smoking at delivery rates in England with 14.4% of women in the area known to be smokers when they give birth, compared to 9.8% nationally.

The **Bump the Habit website** contains information and features to help pregnant women give up smoking, including a tool which locates where their nearest stop smoking service is to enable easy access.

As well as improving your health and the health of your baby, there are financial benefits to stopping smoking, and the **Bump the Habit website** features a calculator which works out how much money you would save if you were to quit.



Maternity

Beverley Geary, Senior Responsible Officer for the HCV Partnership’s Local Maternity System, and Executive Chief Nurse at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “It can be challenging to stop smoking but it’s the single best thing you can do for your health and the health of your unborn baby. The Bump the Habit website contains lots of information and advice to help you with your journey to becoming smoke-free.”

For more information, please visit www.bumpthehabit.org.uk

Humber, Coast and Vale area among first in country to launch NHS Low Calorie Diet Programme

Participants will also receive support via their GP practice, for example if they need their medicines changing, and will receive support for 12 months including help to reintroduce food after the initial 12-week period.

The programme, which is based on two large studies, has been shown to reverse diabetes in some patients, while also improving their diabetes control, and reduce diabetes-related medication usage.

The results from one trial showed that almost half of people who completed the 12-week diet achieve diabetes remission after one year. Diabetes costs the NHS an estimated £10billion a year, while almost one in 20 GP prescriptions are written to treat the condition.

The programme complements the Healthier You NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme, which has received more than 5,500 referrals in Humber, Coast and Vale since its introduction in July 2018.

