

# STOP PRESS

Your essential guide to what's going on across our Integrated Care System

February 2021



## BSW Partnership pulls together for successful Covid-19 vaccination programme

Health and care partners have risen to the challenge of rolling out the biggest vaccination programme in history across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) in a massive coordinated effort involving thousands of hard working and dedicated colleagues.

As Stop Press was finalised more than 220,000 people in BSW had received their first coronavirus vaccine from one of the 27 vaccination clinics up and running across the region.

Everyone living in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire who falls into one of the top four priority groups for the coronavirus vaccine has now been offered a first dose.

The vaccination programme will now begin contacting those next in the queue to receive the vaccine, who are people aged between 65 and 69 and anyone aged between 16 and 64 with an underlying health condition.

This amazing achievement has been supported by partner organisations across BSW Partnership including our hospitals, BSW Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), our GP surgeries, community providers, local authorities and community pharmacists.

The vaccine roll out programme has also seen support from local fire crews, military personnel and a huge number of volunteers.

Gill May, Head of Nursing and Quality at BSW Partnership said the vaccine programme has been able to achieve so much thanks to the support of multiple partners working closely together.

“Our vaccine programme is a mammoth logistical operation which has seen fantastic support from all of our partners across the BSW Partnership who have worked so hard to make it a success.

I'd like to pass on my thanks to everyone involved and say a special thank you to all the health and care staff whose incredible professionalism, stamina and unwavering determination is making a real difference to the lives of so many.”



*Christine Brenton from Wiltshire was delighted to receive her vaccine in January.*

# New proposals offer blueprint for closer integration of health and social care services

The government has set out new proposals to bring health and care services closer together, improve care and tackle health inequalities.

The proposals, outlined in a new white paper - *Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all* - look to build on the successful joint working that has taken place during the Covid-19 pandemic.

They reaffirm how Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) will aim to improve population health and health care, tackle unequal outcomes and access to services, enhance productivity and value for money and help the NHS support broader social and economic development.

The government says the proposals will support local health and care systems to deliver higher-quality care to their communities in a way that is less bureaucratic, more accountable and more joined up, by bringing together the NHS, local government and partners together to tackle the needs of their communities as a whole.

The new proposed legislation comes just weeks after BSW Partnership's own ongoing work to integrate health and care received a boost after NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) said it had met the criteria to become an ICS.

The BSW Partnership board is now looking at the implications of the proposals on how partners will work together over the coming months.

Further developments will be reported in future editions of this newsletter.



## Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all

Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
by Command of Her Majesty

February 2021

### What does the new White Paper say?

*Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all* sets out the government's plans to introduce a more joined up approach to health and care. Proposals include:

- The creation of an ICS NHS statutory body and an ICS Health and Care Partnership which will place a duty to collaborate on organisations which are part of the Partnership
- Proposed reform to the procurement of NHS services in order to give commissioners greater flexibility in how they arrange services
- Legislation introduced to help address inequalities in public health outcomes and the need for government to act to help level up health across the country.

### Read the white paper in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-health-and-social-care-for-all>

# Partners work together to help ease pressures during second Covid peak

Health and care partners across BSW worked even more closely together to support people during January and February as a result of extremely challenging conditions due to a significant increase in Covid-19 patients.

As the number of people receiving treatment in hospitals in Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire greatly increased during the period and more people required help in community hospitals, care homes and in their own homes, health and care partners mounted a joint emergency response. They did this by pooling resources and re-allocating staff so they could provide help where it was needed most.

As a result some operations were cancelled at hospitals in BSW and minor injuries units in Paulton and Trowbridge were temporarily closed - though both have now reopened.

In order to help address mounting pressures, staff working for Wiltshire Health and Care transferred roles in order to help people leave hospital earlier and return home (*see interview with Sarah Hill opposite*).

Elsewhere in the BSW Partnership, health and care organisations supported each other through temporarily transferring colleagues to under pressure areas and hospitals in Bath and Swindon benefitted from support from non clinical military staff.

While the pressure across BSW started to ease a little in late January and early February, NHS services are still extremely busy and initiatives are still in place to support hospitals wherever possible.

Tracey Cox, Senior Responsible Officer for the BSW Partnership said the joint response to the very difficult conditions across the health and care system showed how much can be achieved through working together.

"The health and care system in BSW has worked more closely than ever before over the past few months and has reacted effectively and successfully in offering mutual support to partners during some very difficult circumstances. Every part of the system has played a significant part in our response and I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone involved."



## Changing roles to help the fight against Covid

Sarah Hill had been working as a Physiotherapy Assistant in the outpatients department at Warminster Hospital for Wiltshire Health and Care but was redeployed as a Rehabilitation Support Worker for the Warminster and Westbury Community team to support patients leaving hospital to return home safely.

"I had been working in my previous role for 22 years, but during the first wave of the pandemic I was asked to change roles to help people coming out of hospital to regain their independence.

I'm helping the fight against Covid-19 by freeing up space in hospitals by supporting people who have been discharged. It's really important that that process happens as quickly as possible. Helping with that has been fantastic.

It's a massive change and everyone has to adapt, but I love working with patients on a one to one basis. I have a really supportive team and really feel that I'm achieving something special."

# Local authorities supporting fight against rising Covid-19 infections

Bath and North East Somerset Council, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council have been working with local health partners to support the ongoing fight against Covid-19 across the region.

All of the local authorities in the BSW area are working to help stop the spread of infections through implementing Local Outbreak Management Plans and supporting the NHS vaccination programme.

Local authority plans aim to reduce the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks occurring and, through working with local communities, identify and suppress possible outbreaks before they gain momentum.

Support is provided in a number of ways including transport help to make it easy for residents to get to vaccination sites and coordinating support through volunteer organisations and wellbeing hubs.

They have worked tirelessly to ensure residents of care homes across the BSW area are safe through infection prevention and control plans to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Local authorities have also put in place local contact tracing systems to support and complement the national NHS Test & Trace system and to ensure that people who have tested positive know that they need to isolate, share their close contacts and are aware of the support available.

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## People positive in BSW, survey finds

People living in BSW are feeling positive about the future since the introduction of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, new findings from BSW Clinical Commissioning Group's Our Health Our Future engagement panel has found.

The new survey, which gathered the views of around 500 respondents from a panel of just over a 1,000, also showed local people had been making use of the NHS 111 service and supported health professionals being able to share and have access to personal health and care records.

The latest survey was carried out during November and December 2020. The results have been passed onto system leaders in the BSW Partnership and will be used to inform decisions and plan services.

The survey asked people what they felt about their general health and wellbeing, having the Covid-19 vaccination, their views on personal health and care records, sharing information digitally and their use of the NHS 111 system.

In terms of general health and wellbeing, the positive outlook of residents in BSW had increased with levels at their highest since January 2020. In addition, residents also had a very positive view of the vaccination programme – which was just getting under way at the time of the survey.

The survey also showed that sharing health information across health professionals and analysing personal health and care records anonymously is important and that the majority of people using the NHS 111 service found it met with their expectations and they were dealt with effectively.

You can read the full results of the latest Our Health Our Future survey here:

<https://www.bswccg.nhs.uk/docs-reports/1636-bsw-ohof-panel-survey-4-results-december-2020/file>

**Find out more about joining BSW CCG's Our Health Our Future panel at [www.junglegreenmrc.co.uk/panel](http://www.junglegreenmrc.co.uk/panel)**



# BSW partners work together to see increasing number of Long Covid patients



Over 128 patients across BSW have now been referred to a new service for people suffering from the effects of Long Covid.

The innovative new pilot service is available thanks to joint working by a number of health and care teams across BSW including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and respiratory nurses.

The health professionals have been working together to assess patients.

The service is designed to help people who still have symptoms related to a Covid infection after 12 weeks.

The aim of the clinic is to identify what symptoms a person is experiencing and how this is affecting them on a day to day basis.

The service helps them find resources and treatments to manage these symptoms effectively.

Details of how some people are affected by Long Covid are still emerging, but research suggests around one in five people who test positive for Covid-19 have symptoms for five weeks or longer. For around one in ten people, they last 12 weeks or longer.

Carol Langley-Johnson, Head of Operations, Long Term Conditions and MSK at Wiltshire Health and Care said the new service had done a great deal to help the rising number of people affected by the condition

"This new and emerging condition can have a significant effect on people's quality of life. It also presents many challenges when trying to determine the best-practice interventions and standards of care based on the current evidence.

"This new service has involved support from multiple partners and health and care teams from across BSW and will provide much needed help and support to a number of people.

"This approach to partnership working has been demonstrated in the efficient use of a weekly Virtual Multi-disciplinary panel of experts from all three BSW localities lead by allied health professionals including GPs, respiratory and cardiac consultants, clinical psychologist, commissioners, specialist fatigue therapists and occupational health physicians."

## New BSW Partnership website and refreshed newsletter coming soon

A new website for BSW Partnership is currently under development with plans to go live by the end of March.

The site will be found at [bswpartnership.nhs.uk](https://bswpartnership.nhs.uk) and will include news and updates from across the BSW Partnership, learning and development opportunities, news from ICS meetings and local information about our three localities.

BSW Executive has approved a new visual identity for the partnership which will be used across all communications once we have finalised guidelines for how to use it.

Also in development is a new corporate identity for the BSW Partnership and a new format and name for this regular newsletter.

## Virtual event offers BAME communities chance to ask Covid vaccination questions

Members of black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in BSW will be given the chance to ask questions about Covid-19 vaccinations at a virtual event due to be held on **Thursday 4th March at 6 PM.**

The online event - *Opening Doors: a conversation about Covid-19 vaccination* - will be hosted by an expert panel ready to answer questions and give an overview of the progress of the vaccine roll out programme.

Dr Nima Satish, Clinical Lead for Diabetes at BSW CCG and Gill May, Executive Director of Nursing & Quality at BSW CCG will both be available to answer questions. More panel members are due to be announced shortly.

**For more information, to register for the event or to ask a question email [bswccg.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.engagement@nhs.net)**

## Go the extra mile - outrun an ambulance!

BSW ICS partner South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST) is giving people a new way to beat lockdown blues and raise money for the NHS.

'Go the Extra Mile - Outrun an Ambulance' is a virtual challenge for people to conquer the mileage an ambulance covers while responding to emergencies.

They can complete the distance plus one mile over a period of time by walking, running, cycling, or riding anything else that is self-propelled.

Funds raised will help to support the welfare of SWAST staff and volunteers, and to help the trust continue to run CPR training for the public and provide defibrillators in local communities.

**For more information visit:**

**<https://www.swambulancecharity.org/oa>**

## Major investment in RUH's emergency care facilities



Work is underway on a £2.5m project to update and further improve the emergency care facilities at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

The project, which is the result of a successful funding bid to central government, will continue to ensure patients get the right care in the right place at the right time, while reducing ambulance handover times.

The key strands of the project are to increase capacity in A&E, provide same day care for patients who would otherwise be admitted to hospital and to relocate the Trauma Assessment Unit to a new, permanent space within the Trauma and Orthopaedic Outpatient Unit.

RUH Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks said: "These improvements will have a really positive impact, improving the experience our patients have when they arrive at our front door for emergency care.