

22 April 2021

Joint NHS locality External Stakeholder Briefing

Dear colleague,

This is a joint NHS locality external stakeholder briefing to update on some of the key developments and work undertaken at the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) and with Salford, Oldham, Bury and HMR Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), including our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19

Discharged patients

This data is for all discharged patients with a positive COVID-19 test in hospital or an appropriate diagnosis. Below shows patients with COVID-19 successfully treated and discharged to their normal place of residence from 8 March 2020 to 20 April 2021.

- Salford Care Organisation (Salford Royal) – 1,481
- Oldham Care Organisation (The Royal Oldham Hospital) – 1,899
- Bury Care Organisation (Fairfield General Hospital) – 1,232
- Rochdale Care Organisation (Rochdale Infirmary) - 168

Vaccination programme

To date over 200,000 patients and health and social care staff have been vaccinated at four hospital hubs in Salford, Oldham, Bury and Rochdale and at the Etihad Campus, (we have recently taken delivery of the Moderna vaccine there). We have safely vaccinated those in cohorts one to nine and are now starting to deliver second doses up to cohort ten. As at 11 April 2021, a total of 92,161 people in Bury had their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine and 29,672 people had their second dose. The figures for HMR are 100,206 and 22,863 respectively. In Oldham the data shows 106,422 first doses and 27,975 second doses given.

Hospital visiting and infection control

The NCA is implementing national guidance on inpatient visiting. We have developed our own policy to ensure we can safely 'flex' our visiting status in response to national guidance and local prevalence of infection/outbreaks. This guidance applies to all hospital, clinical sites and in-patient facilities across the NCA. The focus is on patient, visitor and staff safety, risk assessment, proportionality, compassion and external triggers. [Read more](#).

Maternity services at the NCA are now at a point where it is appropriate to relax visiting restrictions for scans, antenatal visits, and inductions. You can read more about this on the NCA website [here](#). The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) restrictions at our NCA hospitals in Salford, Oldham, Bury and Rochdale and community services are still very much in place. Please see these two informative videos both inpatients [here](#) and outpatients [here](#).

Surgery

Restarting elective planned care

Back in November, along with other hospitals in Greater Manchester, we took the difficult decision to cancel some planned operations to help deal with the increased number of cases of COVID-19. In recent weeks the number of people in hospital with COVID-19 has started to fall, as have numbers of cases in the community. COVID-19 will be with us for some time, but we hope we are moving permanently away from the intense pressure the NHS has seen over the last year.

Due to this we are now pleased to report our plans to restart planned care and begin to catch up on the backlog of people waiting. Our consultants will be looking at who has the greatest clinical need and who has waited the longest and prioritising people against these two key principles as

each service gets back up and running. Across Greater Manchester there are now six areas where we're doing extra work as people have waited the longest. These are orthopaedics, general surgery, children's surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat, gynaecology, and ophthalmology. At Fairfield General currently theatres are functioning for urology, pain, community dental, orthopaedics, and Ear, Nose and Throat. Gynaecology is due to start w/c 19 April and general surgery starting w/c 26 April.

We may be asking people to see a different consultant for their treatment or have their procedures in a different hospital to the one they may have expected to have gone to, including private hospitals in the independent sector. If patients are invited to have their treatment in a different place or with a different team and have any concerns they will be able to discuss this with a clinician to talk about options.

We know many people waiting for treatment will be disappointed or worried, and we will be contacting everyone affected as soon as possible over the coming months. Please continue to bear with us. Thank you to our patients for their continued support and patience. For more information please download the PDF [here](#).

Bury - Modular endoscopy unit

The Greater Manchester Endoscopy Modular Unit based at Fairfield General Hospital in Bury has been specially commissioned by Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership to support the delivery of endoscopy services following the pandemic and began treating its first patients in December 2020. The unit is GM resource currently on site at Fairfield for six months before moving to another site (tbc). The unit is prioritising category one patients, which are the most urgent, waiting for an endoscopy. [Read more](#).

Urgent care

NHS 111 First

On Tuesday 1 December 2020 NHS England launched the next phase of their 'Help Us, Help You' campaign focusing on the NHS 111 Service as a new way to access urgent care including A&E/Emergency Departments, to keep everyone safe. The aims of the campaign were to increase awareness of the NHS 111 service, increase knowledge of the ability of NHS 111 to book slots in A&E/Emergency Departments where this is the best service to meet a patient's needs, and direct to other appropriate services and increase the number of people going to NHS 111 First when they have an urgent, but non-life-threatening illnesses.

GM paid for some targeted Facebook advertising and each borough was targeted individually. The total reach of the campaign across GM was 306,000 - approximately 15 percent of the GM population. Mr Motivator, who lives in Ancoats, has very kindly offered his support to the NHS111 First campaign in Greater Manchester via his own short video [here](#).

Governance

Oldham - CQC Inspection at The Royal Oldham Hospital

At the end of November 2020, the CQC conducted an unannounced inspection of the Emergency Department and urgent and emergency care services at The Royal Oldham Hospital. A team of five inspectors arrived on site and focused on Safe, Responsive and Well Led domains. Overall, the CQC found that the Urgent and Emergency Care Service (UECS) at Oldham was 'well led' and scored highly in this area, rated overall as 'Good.'

However, in the CQC's 'safe and responsive' category the service rating has been changed from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement.' This change in CQC rating for the Urgent and Emergency Care service does not affect the overall rating of the hospital or the Pennine Acute Trust's overall rating of 'Good' published in February 2020 ([here](#)) following the significant improvements that have been made over the last five years under leadership of Salford Royal, as part of the NCA. Read more [here](#).

PAT Transaction

The safe disaggregation (i.e. separation) of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (PAT) sites and services was successfully delivered on 1 April 2021 as part of the PAT Transaction and future arrangements, ownership and sustainability of PAT hospitals. From this date Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) formally acquired and became responsible for North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH). The NCA will continue to deliver some services on site or jointly through a Service Level Agreement. This is a seamless transition and patients will not notice any immediate changes. Due to the complexity of the NCA's (Salford Royal) part of the PAT transaction, where the Oldham, Bury and Rochdale Care Orgs are transferred to the NCA, an extension of up to six months has been agreed to formally complete this part of the legal transaction by September 2021.

Hospital - Estates

Salford and Oldham - New build hospital plans progress

Building work at Salford Royal's new £68million hospital is now underway. The facility, which will be called the James Potter Building, will support Salford in its role as the major trauma centre for Greater Manchester and the hub site for emergency General Surgery for the North West of Greater Manchester - [read more](#). Plans to build a new four-storey extension at The Royal Oldham Hospital are also progressing nicely – [read more](#).

Research

More than 10,000 patients, volunteers and NHS staff have taken part in COVID-19 research at the NCA, giving crucial support to the urgent public health studies which are improving care, identifying treatments and developing vaccines and other prevention measures. A new brain research centre - The Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre, will bring together some of the world's leading scientists in brain tumours, stroke and dementia, alongside experts in brain inflammation, imaging and rehabilitation. The Centre is a partnership between the NCA, The University of Manchester and Manchester Cancer Research Centre. Stakeholders can book onto the Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre - Scientific Launch Event [here](#). This is taking place online at Fri, 30 April 2021, 13:00 – 16:00.

People

Leadership changes at the NCA

This week, the NCA announced that Chief Executive Raj Jain will retire from the NHS at the end of this summer. This is very much a personal life choice by Raj and his wife. Raj has been instrumental in Salford Royal's success and achievements and, over the past five years, has helped lead improvements across Pennine Acute under the NCA Group. The NCA Board will now start to recruit and appoint a new Chief Executive for the NCA. [Read more](#).

In January 2021, Professor Michael Luger started in post as the NCA's newly appointment Chair. This follows the retirement of former Chair, Mr Jim Potter. [Read more](#). Jacqui Burrow has been appointed as Deputy Chief Nurse for the NCA. Jacqui is currently Director of Nursing for Rochdale Care Organisation and Programme Director for our COVID-19 vaccination programme.

NCA – Latest News

Keep up to date with the latest news from the NCA on our website under 'News' - [here](#).

Key dates

[Northern Care Alliance Group Committees in Common Board online meeting](#) – 26 April; 24 May

[Salford CCG Governing Body online meeting](#) - 26 May; 28 July

[Bury CCG Governing Body online meeting](#) - 26 May; 23 June

[Oldham CCG Governing Body online meeting](#) – 24 June

[HMR CCG Governing Body online meeting](#) – 21 May

Keeping you updated

We will endeavour to keep you updated with progress and any changes across our local healthcare systems you need to know about through future briefings. If you have any feedback or queries related to any items within this briefing, please contact Andrew Lynn, Group Director of Communications for the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group – Andrew.lynn@srft.nhs.uk.