

Date: 24th January 2022

Report of: Councillor Tim Mitchell

Portfolio: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

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1 Overview

This report provides the Scrutiny Committee with an update on key aspects relating to Adult Social Care (ASC) and Public Health, including the response to COVID-19.

2 COVID-19 Update

Case rates in the borough are down by 5% compared to last week, which is in line with the overall trend across London – rates in the city are down 12% this week after an exponential increase during December. Westminster has the 2nd lowest case rate in London. Positivity rates are also declining, with 16.2% of tests positive.

Current Epidemiology and Cases

(Data as at 13th January 2022)



On 8th December 2021, the Government announced that England would revert to Plan B in response to the rising number of cases of COVID-19 and the new Omicron variant. In addition, the UK's Covid Alert Level has been increased to Level 4. Additional Plan B measures include:

- Mandatory vaccine only COVID-19 status certification in certain settings including indoor and outdoor crowded settings
- Legally mandating face masks in certain indoor settings
- Asking people to work from home if they can.

Supporting the CCG with the Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccinations

Data from NHS England states 56% of Westminster residents over the age of 18 have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. This figure rises to 69% within residents aged 50+. Vaccinations continue to be available through local clinics, pop ups and pharmacies.

A JVCi recommendation to provide a booster vaccination to all over 18's was approved on 29th November. They also agreed to shortening the duration between the second and booster jab from 6 to 3 months. Those from severely immunosuppressed cohorts will be given access to another booster, a potential fourth dose, this winter. Data on resident uptake of the booster is currently unavailable.

The North West London Clinical Commissioning Group (NWLCCG) is targeting to offer a booster to all aged 18+ by the end of December. This ambitious target will be helped locally by:

- An extension to opening times/days of operation at local vaccination sites
- Further Pop-Up vaccination sites
- Improved pharmacy offer.

Care Homes

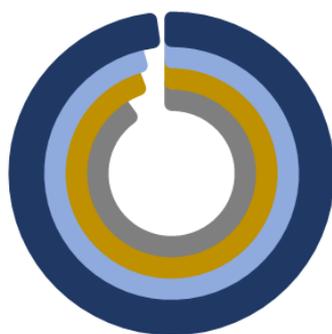
(Data as at 11th January 2022)

Uptake of the vaccine continues to increase across care homes in Westminster, particularly amongst care home staff. 97.8% of care home residents have had their first vaccine and 95.6% have had their second dose.

Staff vaccinations have increased to 98.0% for first dose, with 97.8% having had their second dose. This is the optimum staff level that can be vaccinated at this time, as a number of staff are exempt under the regulations.

The booster vaccination rollout continues with 94.2% of care home residents vaccinated and 47.7% of care home staff.

Residents



97.8%

Dose 1

95.6%

Dose 2

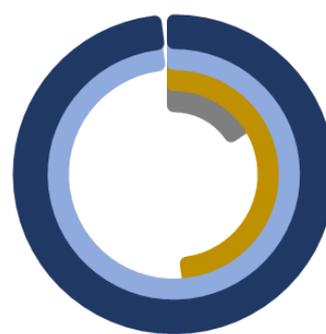
94.2%

Booster

90.0%

Flu

Staff



98.0%

Dose 1

97.8%

Dose 2

47.7%

Booster

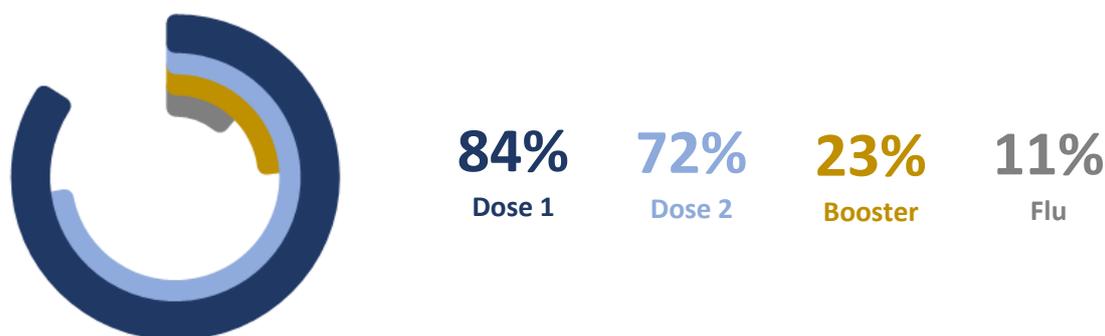
15.5%

Flu

Home Care

(Data as at 11th January 2022)

Uptake of the vaccine continues to also increase across home care services in Westminster. Workforce data shows 84.0% of staff have received their first dose and 72.0% their second. This is higher than the London average where only 63.9% of staff have had their first dose.



3 White Paper Update – People at the Heart of Care

On 1st December 2021, the Government published ‘People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care White Paper’. This white paper sets out a 10-year vision to transform support and care in England.

The paper provides more detail on how the £5.4 billion raised by the Health and Care Levy for Adult Social Care over the next three years will be used and outlines three objectives:

1. People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives
2. People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
3. People find adult social care fair and accessible.

The White Paper also sets out a range of policies to be implemented over the next three years. Some of these include:

- At least £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies, with a focus on increasing the range of new supported housing options available
- At least £150 million of additional funding to drive greater adoption of technology and achieve widespread digitisation across social care to support independent living and improve the quality of care
- At least £500 million on training and qualifications for the social care workforce
- More than £70 million to increase the support offer across adult social care to improve the delivery of care and support services.

4 Winter Preparedness

As winter approaches, there is expected to be considerable pressure on the whole health and care system as the system responds to a range of challenges not limited to increased infection rates from COVID-19, impact of new winter respiratory flu, delays in elective treatments, increased complexity of discharged cases and staffing capacity.

ASC has adopted a winter planning assumption that there will be considerably more demand on services requiring additional capacity within the market and front-line statutory services. Three areas have been the focus for winter planning to support the safe discharge of local residents and to support people to stay at home including:

- Sourcing of additional home care and reablement capacity
- Coordination of communications, engagement, and messaging with health partners
- Additional Occupational Therapy and Social Work capacity to support hospital discharge.

Funding for these schemes is through a combination of the Improved Better Care Fund Winter Surge allocation, local borough placed (ICP) funding, workforce fund and North West London ICS additional funding to support winter pressures.

5 Integrated Care System / Integrated Care Partnerships

The North West London Integrated Care System (ICS) is continuing to develop as the strategic and operational organisation for health and care across North West London. Rob Hurd has been appointed as CEO and will be formally joining in January 2022. In addition, with a focus on reducing inequalities, the ICS has recently published a document, “Addressing Health Inequality in North West London” and looks at new ways of working with communities to improve equity of health outcomes, access and experience. Six workstreams have been established to take this forward:

- Healthy living e.g. obesity, smoking, alcohol reduction, TB - led by Directors of Public Health
- Population health - supporting Primary Care Networks (PCN) and Integrated Care Partnerships to look at wider determinants of health (Paddington Green is a pilot PCN in Westminster)
- Addressing racism - New Race Inequalities Board to be chaired by Kim Smith (Hammersmith and Fulham CEO) and MC Patel (Clinical lead for NWL)
- Economic regeneration - focussing on employment
- Procurement and sustainability
- Digital inclusion.

Locally, the joint Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has agreed key areas of work to refresh its work plan and role within the changing health and care governance landscape. These include:

- Developing a refreshed Health and Well Being Strategy
- Reformatting the way the HWBB meetings are held so there is greater engagement with residents and people with lived experiences to inform how partners are working as system leaders
- Agreeing the relationship of the HWBB and the local place-based health and care partnership and how this informs and influences the NWL ICS board and partnership.