

Our Plan for Improving Access for Patients and Supporting General Practice

Executive Summary

Members of the Health & Well Being Board will be aware that Doncaster (as with most parts of the country) is experiencing high demand into our GP and Primary Care services as we try to recovery safely from the Covid 19 Pandemic. As a Health and Care system we have planned and responded to service demand through the Primary Care Cell which is chaired by the CCG, and has clinical leadership from the GP Federation, Primary Care Networks (PCN's), the Local Authority and Local Medical Committee (LMC). This has included responding to national guidance through the pandemic and taking local solutions to try and respond to differing clinical demand. GP Practices have introduced innovative and alternative ways of accessing primary care, including use of digital solutions and appointments with multi professional staff.

Primary Care has also been instrumental in successfully implementing the Covid vaccination programme and we have recently moved to the implementation of booster jabs for people eligible within the Doncaster Borough. It is clear however that access to primary care remains a genuine concern for some of our patients and public. We have therefore worked with our PCNs to develop localised plans to assist some of our struggling practices and develop tailored offers of support, ranging from increased telephony and administration to infection prevention control guidance.

In October 2021 the national plan for Improving Access to Primary Care was published and is enclosed in Appendix 2 of this paper. It focusses upon 3 main areas

- Increase and optimise capacity
- Address variation and encourage good practice
- Zero tolerance of abuse and public communications

Each system was required to produce a Winter Access Fund Plan by 28 October 2021 to describe how the £250m Winter Access Fund would be utilised between November 2021 to March 2022. Doncaster's share of this funding is £1,384,000.

The Doncaster plan is attached in Appendix 1 which cross references the Integrated Care System plan in order to support monitoring of impact. The Doncaster Plan has been developed in consultation with PCNs, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Primary Care Doncaster and the LMC.

The CCG will manage the implementation of the plan with partners, and will report accordingly on progress and impact.

Anthony Fitzgerald
Director of Strategy & Delivery
NHS Doncaster CCG