

## An update from the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership – 15 October 2021



### A message from our Independent Chair, Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt

First, I am delighted and honoured to have been announced as the Chair-designate of the new NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board.

We have a hugely exciting opportunity to build on many years of partnership working and, particularly, the exceptional achievements of the last eighteen months, including one of the most effective COVID-19 vaccination programmes in the country.

Now we need to step up our efforts to support our wonderful NHS and social care staff, bring waiting lists down, reduce health inequalities and help more people lead longer, healthier and happier lives.

The Health and Care Bill 2021, which contains a series of measures to formally establish Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), is currently at Committee Stage receiving a detailed examination following its second reading. The Bill will put ICSs on a firm statutory footing, empowering them to better join up health and care, improve population health and reduce health inequalities.

Despite the continuing pressures faced by the system, with COVID admissions rising and the added challenge of restoring services, it is good to be able to get out and about a little more; to connect with colleagues and say thank you for all you have been doing. A few weeks ago, I was able to visit The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn and met with some colleagues in the nursing team there.



The photo with the strange rafters in the ceiling is Necton Ward - one of several affected by the need to prop up the old RAAC planks. It is hoped that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn will be included in the next round of new hospital builds. I was also delighted to see the Sandringham Unit; a new centre dedicated to elective treatment where patients can be assessed and treated in COVID-19 secure conditions.

With best wishes and continued thanks for everything you and your organisation are doing.

Patricia



### Norfolk and Waveney now in phase three of the COVID-19 vaccination programme

Phase three of the national vaccination programme roll out is now underway across Norfolk and Waveney. A third COVID-19 booster vaccination is now being offered to eligible groups, along with a third primary dose for those who are immunosuppressed, in line with national and JCVI guidance.

Boosters must be given after a minimum interval of six months in order to provide the most effective, additional protection.

The annual flu vaccination programme is also underway with GP practices, pharmacies and hospital settings working faster than ever to ensure that our most vulnerable patients are vaccinated to boost their immunity this winter. You can find out more [here](#).

### Norfolk and Waveney's Covid Protect in the running for six national health awards

Covid Protect - a local NHS and social care initiative to protect Norfolk and Waveney's most vulnerable patients at the onset of the pandemic - is in the national spotlight and flying high with six prestigious award nominations.

The pioneering innovation has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2021 Health Service Journal Awards, British Medical Journal Awards and the General Practice Awards. These accolades - spanning a range of categories and disciplines - are recognised as the most significant and influential in heralding outstanding achievement across the sectors of medicine, health and care.

Covid Protect was launched by the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership in March 2020. As the pandemic's first wave hit the UK, NHS England provided 'shielded patient' lists and tasked local health and care systems with contacting those registered as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) to ensure their health and care needs were met during lockdown. Find out more [here](#).

### New technology launches to speed up sepsis diagnosis for hospital patients

The combined Microbiology departments at the Eastern Pathology Alliance have launched onsite blood culture machines across Norfolk's three acute hospitals to diagnose sepsis more quickly.

Sepsis is a serious life-threatening condition that can occur in patients in the community or in hospital with vulnerable patients and patients with chronic health conditions most at risk.

The blood culture samples of hospital patients with suspected sepsis across Norfolk used to be sent to the Microbiology lab at Norwich Research Park. You can find out more [here](#).

### Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Days

Suicide Awareness Day took place on 10 September. Organisations across the patch came together to share messages and inform people about how we can all learn the skills and confidence needed to help save lives. You can visit the Zero Suicide Awareness website to access free suicide awareness and prevention training. [www.zerosuicidealliance.com](http://www.zerosuicidealliance.com).

You can also download the [Stay Alive app](#) - a pocket suicide prevention resource, packed full of useful information. You can use it if you are having thoughts of suicide or if you are concerned about someone else who may be considering suicide.

Mental Health Awareness Day took place on Sunday 10 October. It has been more than 18 months since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and in some countries, life is returning to some kind of normal; in others, rates of transmission and hospital admissions remain high, disrupting the lives of families and communities. There's no doubt that the pandemic has taken a toll on everyone's mental health wellbeing and it's really important to know that there are many

things you can do to help yourself feel better, and to know there are services and organisations out there to help too. Further information can be found [here](#).

### **Reducing Health Inequalities**

NSFT has launched a far-reaching quality improvement (QI) project which aims to reduce health inequalities so that everyone can get equal access to mental healthcare and improved experiences and outcomes.

Called Advancing Mental Health Equality (AMHE), the initiative will bring together staff and service users from across the Trust, together with community groups and partner agencies.

Find out more [here](#).

### **Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board review – Joanna, Jon and Ben**

Last month, the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board [review was published](#) in relation to the deaths of three individuals at Jeasal Cawston Park Hospital, Joanna, Jon and Ben. No one can read the report without being shocked and saddened and as a system, our thoughts are with Ben's family and the families of the other patients named. The care these three vulnerable people received fell well below what they had a right and expectation to receive.

The report includes a series of recommendations that the Norfolk and Waveney health and care system accept in full.

A number of recommendations have already seen progress with changes made, including more detailed checks on the progress of vulnerable adults placed in care settings.

### **New podcast from NSFT focuses on personal recovery stories**

NSFT have released their latest podcast episode of Mental Health and You, titled 'Recovery narratives'.

This latest episode, one of a series, has been produced by their team at the Recovery College. Breanne Cook (Recovery College Project Manager) and Amanda Green (Peer Support Lead) explore the use of narratives within peer support work and the Recovery College and the reason why narratives are used and are important.

Both previous participants of Recovery College courses, Breanne and Amanda talk in the episode about their own experience of the benefits of engaging with the Recovery College and the offerings available to all people across Norfolk and Suffolk. You can find out more [here](#).

### **Funding boost for essential disability support services**

Services providing support to those living with a disability in East Suffolk have been given an extra boost following a decision to increase council funding for two established organisations.

East Suffolk Council's cabinet agreed to increase funding for support services which provide advice and information to people with disabilities in the district. In the north of the district, disability support is provided by Disability Advice North East Suffolk (DANES) and by Disability Advice Service – East Suffolk (DAS) in the south.

In East Suffolk, there is a higher-than-average proportion of people living with disabilities and life-limiting long-term conditions. Given the impact of the pandemic on people with disabilities and the increase in demand seen by both organisations, this investment is vital to ensure people in East Suffolk can continue to receive this essential support. Find out more information [here](#).