

**Report to the NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group on 27 May 2021**

<b>Title: Chief Executive's Report</b>	<b>Enclosure D</b>
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**Summary and Purpose of Paper**

The paper sets out items of note arising since the last meeting which are relevant to NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and to its health service commissioning activity on behalf of the Somerset population.

**Recommendations and next steps**

The Governing Body is asked to **Note** the Chief Executive's report.

**Impact Assessments – key issues identified**

<b>Equality</b>	N/A			
<b>Quality</b>	N/A			
<b>Privacy</b>	N/A			
<b>Engagement</b>	N/A			
<b>Financial / Resource</b>	N/A			
<b>Governance or Legal</b>	N/A			
<b>Risk Description</b>	N/A			
<b>Risk Rating</b>	Consequence	Likelihood	RAG Rating	GBAF Ref
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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of items of note arising during the period to 20 May 2021 and information on my activity during this period.

### 2 NATIONAL

#### **Covid-19 pandemic**

- 2.1 NHS Somerset CCG continues to respond to the COVID19 pandemic with a twofold focus: trying to minimize the risk to first, the population of Somerset and secondly, to health and care colleagues across the system. Good progress has been made and CCG colleagues have worked tirelessly to deliver these two aims, with home working being the norm and all individuals demonstrating flexibility either to work directly on issues relating to the pandemic or picking up business as usual duties from other colleagues to enable them to focus on the pandemic. I'd like to express my ongoing thanks to CCG colleagues for their commitment and delivery.

#### **NHS response to COVID-19: Transition to NHS level 3 incident**

- 2.2 With effect from 25 March 2021, the national incident level for the NHS COVID-19 response was reduced from level 4 to level 3. While continuing to maintain a national incident infrastructure, this shifted the management of the incident from nationally co-ordinated to a regional level and mirrors how things operated during the summer of 2020. COVID-19 will likely remain endemic for some time to come and local systems and networks will continue to identify and implement learning from the response to date to build resilience ahead of potential demand on services and in advance of next winter. Local outbreaks and variants of concern will continue to be closely monitored. Given the continued uncertainty, the situation will remain under close review, retaining the option to revert to a level 4 incident as required.

#### **COVID-19 UK alert level: move from level 4 to level 3**

- 2.3 Following advice from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and in light of the most recent data, the UK Chief Medical Officers and NHS England National Medical Director agreed that the UK alert level should move from level 4 to level 3 on 10 May 2021 (The NHS COVID-19 response was previously reduced to alert level 3 on 25/03/21).

Alert levels:-

- level 1: COVID-19 is not known to be present in the UK
- level 2: COVID-19 is present in UK, but the number of cases and transmission is low
- level 3: a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation
- level 4: a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially
- level 5: as level 4 and there is a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed

### **Working together to improve health and social care for all**

- 2.4 Somerset Integrated Care System (ICS) continues to plan for the expected move to new ways of working from April 2022. This will see the functions of the CCG transfer to an NHS ICS Body and the development of a Health and Care Partnership Forum. Guidance is currently being awaited from NHSEI (expected late May but it should be noted this was originally expected mid-May and may move again) with the Bill currently expected to be published late June (again this date has already moved once). All partners are actively involved in developing a draft plan in order to respond to the guidance and Bill once they are published.
- 2.5 Sir Simon Stevens has said he would expect plans to be ‘Simple, Local and Evolutionary’; the draft plans being developed accord well with these three themes. ICS plans will aim to reflect the simple nature of the Somerset system, adapting national guidance to meet local needs and will aim to be relatively pragmatic in the first instance given the pace of delivery required for April 22 but would look to evolve over the next few years as both the planned Foundation Trust and the expected move to unitary local authority status come into being.
- 2.6 The Governing Body will be kept fully informed as plans develop, with Governing Body Development Sessions taking place.

### **Sir Simon Stevens to stand down as Chief Executive of NHS England**

- 2.7 Sir Simon Stevens is to stand down as Chief Executive of NHS England at the end of July. He has held his post for seven years, leading the NHS through some of the most difficult periods in its history. The government has announced he will become a member of the House of Lords. There will be an open competitive recruitment process for his successor.

## **3 LOCAL**

### **Operational Pressures Escalation Level (OPEL)**

- 3.1 OPEL shows the amount of pressure being experienced by hospital, community and emergency health services. OPEL Level 1 is the lowest level of pressure on the system. OPEL Level 4 is the highest.
- 3.2 As at 17 May 2021, the escalation level for the whole of Somerset was OPEL Level 2, described as:

Four-hour performance is at risk. The local health and social care system is starting to show signs of pressure. The Local A&E Delivery Board will be required to take focused actions in organisations showing pressure to mitigate the need for further escalation. Enhanced co-ordination and communication will alert the whole system to take appropriate and timely actions to reduce the level of pressure as quickly as possible. Local systems will keep NHSE and NHSI colleagues informed of any pressures, with detail and frequency to be agreed locally. Any additional support requirements should also be agreed locally if needed.

### **Covid-19 vaccination programme**

- 3.3 The COVID vaccination programme continues to work at pace with a great uptake from the local population and a cross system delivery team. Over 70% of the adult population have now received at least their first dose of vaccine and delivery is in line with the national rollout through the ages (currently down to age 34 or over as at 20 May 2021). Plans are being developed to meet the updated requirement for those 50 or over to have their second dose within 8 weeks in light of the new variant (B.1.617.2).
- 3.4 The Vaccination Centre at the Bath and West Showground was delighted to host a visit from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Sophie, Countess of Wessex who were visiting to express their thanks to all involved in the vaccination programme across Somerset. Members from all partners were able to meet Their Royal Highnesses, demonstrating the system working that has delivered this programme.

### **Representing the CCG**

- 3.5 I have represented the CCG at a variety of internal and external events, including the following meetings:-
- Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board
  - Fit for My Future (FFMF) Programme Board
  - System Leads Meeting
  - South West EDI Group Meeting
  - Somerset COVID-19 Engagement Board
  - ICS and STP Leaders' Meeting
  - South West System Leads - Recovery Meeting
  - ICS Board Meeting
  - Regional Roadshow with Amanda Pritchard and Simon Stevens
  - ICS Leaders' International Seminars/Webinars for leaders of Integrated Care systems, with the King's Fund
  - Severn Network Team Update Meeting
  - Weekly meeting re Weston General Hospital
  - Avon & Somerset Local Resilience Forum Covid19 and EU Exit Strategic Co-ordination Group
  - Care Quality Commission LD Provider Collaboration Review – Somerset STP – Health Inequalities
  - Somerset ICS Executive Meeting/SVOC Gold Meeting
  - South West ICS Development Meeting
  - South West Regional Chief Executives' Meeting

- ICS Development Sessions with Somerset Chief Executives
- Director of Commissioning Network Call with Jill Crook, Director of Nursing Professional and System Development/Director Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, NHSEI
- Meeting with Jane Milligan, CEO, Devon CCG
- Meeting with David DeBerker, UHBW, re Somerset Dermatology
- SEND Commissioning Stakeholder Workshop
- SEND Improvement Board
- Meeting with Berge Balian, Medical Director - Symphony Healthcare Services Ltd, Clinical Director - South Somerset West Primary Care Network, Chair - Somerset Primary Care Board
- Somerset – System Planning and Guidance Meeting with NHSEI
- South West System Leads – Elective Recovery – Accelerator Systems Meeting
- South West Mental Health Programme Board
- Meeting with Mike Radford, SSS
- Meeting with Katherine Nolan, CEO, Spark Somerset
- HEE and Somerset ICS Meeting
- SWAG Cancer Alliance Board Meeting
- Microsoft Teams Half Day Hack
- Outward Mindset Session with Alex Grimsley, Optimus OD and Somerset Chief Executives
- Meeting with Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health, Somerset County Council
- Meeting with Michael Van Hemert, Managing Director, NHS South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit
- CCG/LMC Liaison Meeting
- Somerset – Planning Escalation meeting with NHSEI

20 May 2021