
Health and Wellbeing Board

22 January 2025

Report of the Chair of the York Health and Wellbeing Board

Chair's report and updates

Summary

1. This paper is designed to summarise key issues and progress which has happened in between meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), giving Board members a concise update on a broad range of relevant topics which would otherwise entail separate papers.

Key Updates for the Board

Partnership

2. The **Ageing Well Partnership** have provided the following updates:
3. **Happy to Chat Bench** – Age Friendly York is working in partnership with Rotary York Ainsty to increase the quantity of Happy to Chat benches. The trial introduced by Age Friendly York was well received so we are now looking at suitable places for permanent plaques and have secured funding through Rotary York Ainsty to purchase the plaques. The initial locations will be Acomb Front Street and North Street Gardens.
4. **Warm Places** – the communities' team have recently offered grants to 22 venues in York that will ensure there is a warm place and welcome for residents. Older people feel the cold more so can be particularly challenging to stay warm if they are on a low income. In addition we have been working with the York – Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership to create a [service directory over the winter](#).
5. **Your Home** – as a follow on from the Your Home workshop in partnership with York Older People's Assembly in September we are exploring working in partnership with U3A (University of the Third Age) to bring social activities to social housing retirement schemes (Independent Living Schemes). Many communal living rooms are underutilised, and this provides an opportunity to reduce social isolation and feel more part of the community with local residents joining the activities. This also provides an informal way for older residents to understand what it might be like to live in one of these schemes and to

start planning ahead. The proposal is going to the U3A board in January.

6. **York Frailty Hub** – Dr Emma Olandj, Director of Community Services at Nimbuscare provided a presentation on the Frailty Hub to the Partnership on the excellent work that has been developed. Through a spirit of collaborative partnership working a multi-disciplinary team has been brought together made up of a GP with a special interest in frailty, a social worker, 2-hour responder from a Community Response Team, social prescriber and Age UK Home from Hospital service. The York Integrated Community Team already support 3000 of the most vulnerable residents in York who are frail. Through working more closely together, the Frailty Hub has identified those who would benefit most from an MDT approach and hold those 3000 patients, visiting once a year to check in.
 - In the first year the team spoken to over 4,000 people.
 - From those 4,000 approximately 1,800 were prevented from going into the A&E department inappropriately.
 - Followed those people up for wrap around support and found that most of those patients for up to a month after, were still in their usual place of residence and are managed to keep them home safe and rehabilitate them back to good health.
7. **Better Care Fund (BCF)**: Since the decision to stand down the BCF Performance and Delivery Group last year, officers have been working to reinstate this forum with a renewed set of objectives and outcomes which promote openness and transparency.
8. The first step in this journey was to hold a BCF Winter Workshop which took place in December. It was great to see so many partners coming together to celebrate the fantastic work of the BCF.
9. The workshop was a great opportunity to hear examples of real-world delivery from the schemes and to see how often there are interdependencies. It also provided partners with the chance to get to know each other, network and make some helpful links, strengthening partnership working and collaboration.
10. Everyone who attended the session agreed that what we all have in common, and what really sums up 'why we do what we do' is the person. A person behind every statistic is one of the standout statements that many people took away from the session and it was fantastic to hear some of the case studies that were at times very moving and demonstrate the power some of these schemes have.

11. We talked about being stronger together and how we all acknowledge that there has been a real shift towards integration and this session only reiterates that ethos. There are things that we can do together that we cannot do alone and working together, outside of organisational boundaries and seeing ourselves as 'one' will help create the resilience and strength that we talked about, fundamentally improving how we work and crucially, improving the lives and experiences of the people accessing these services.
12. The next steps in our journey will be to re-establish the Performance and Delivery Group with the first meeting taking place in late January. Following this, the group will meet regularly, aligning with the NHSE planning submission timeframes to enable transparent and collaborative discussion to inform the planning cycle.

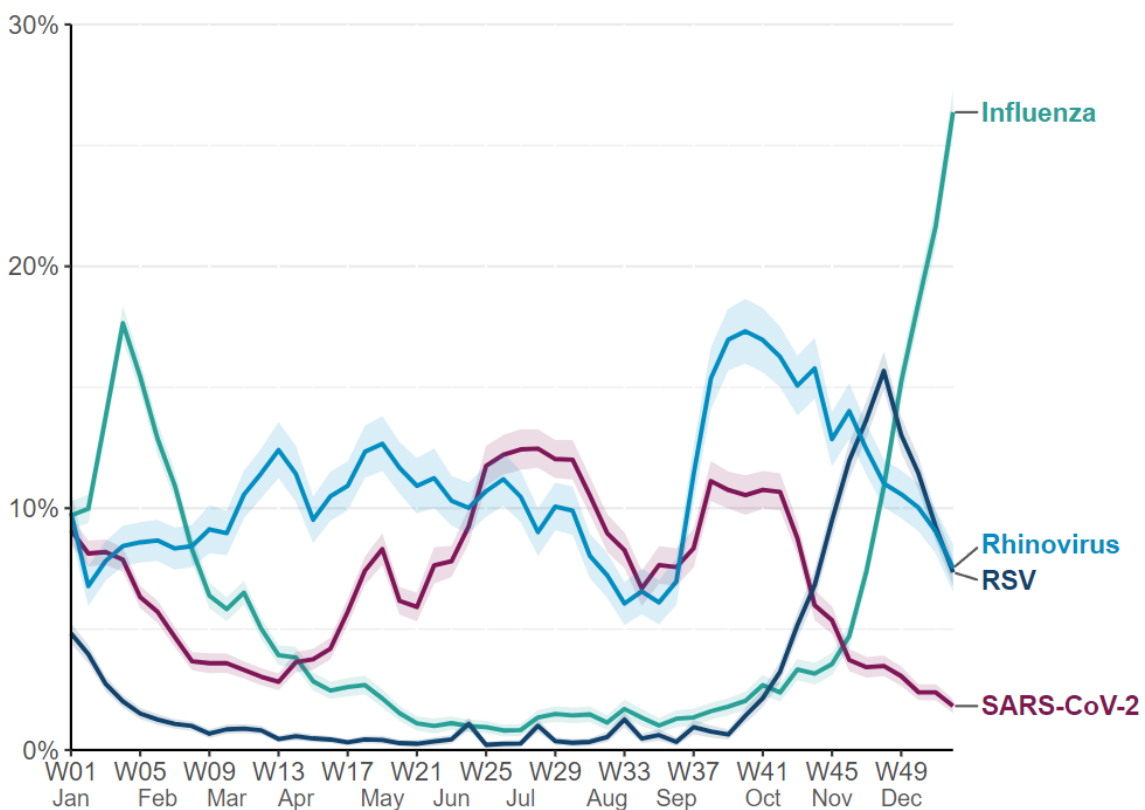
Public Health

13. **Smoking cessation** success: New NHS figures show that York's Health Trainer team, who provide the specialist stop smoking service for the city, are providing the most effective stop smoking service in the country. 82 per cent of people who set a quit date with the service in the last quarter had successfully stopped smoking four weeks after that date, the highest reported percentage in England. 2 in every 3 people who smoke will die early from smoking-related causes, and this is still over 14,000 people in York – so this is a key plank in our strategy to improve health and reduce health inequalities. People can self-refer to the Health Trainers at [CYC Health Trainers – City of York Council](#) or call [01904 553377](tel:01904553377)
14. **Baby week:** York's first [Baby Week](#) was held in November, with events at each of the three main Children Centres/Family Hubs, Clifton, Avenues and Hob Moor as a jointly organised initiative working with Raise York (York's Family Hub Network) and Health Services. The first 1001 days (from conception to age 2) have been shown to be the period of life which most impacts human health, and these events are geared to raising the profile of this crucial time, and helping parents and carers increase knowledge and capacity around infant feeding, developmental support, weaning and nutrition, speech and language, parent and infant mental health and wellbeing, and accident avoidance / use of healthcare.
15. **Sexual Health Services:** Public Health has been reviewing and reshaping the sexual health service offer in the city together with York Hospital who provide the service, and has recently published the consultation [results and next steps](#)
16. **Supporting asylum seeker health:** In collaboration with Refugee Action York, Nimbuscare and Vaccination UK catch up vaccination

clinics have been commissioned within the contingency accommodation for asylum seekers in York. Prior to the clinics, the total number of vaccinations received for this group of people had been 137. By April last year it had reached 264, with almost all the additional vaccinations being for measles. Most of the children are now vaccinated. This work was highlighted in an [LGA Case Study](#) on Inclusion Health in York.

17. Winter pressures: Levels of pressure within NHS and care services are high currently, and as the chart below shows, winter pressures are (as of 3rd Jan) predominantly driven by a surge in influenza cases, which has happened earlier this year than previous years. RSV infections are heading downwards and COVID positivity is low; reported cases of Norovirus are high. NHS leaders have nationally been reinforcing messages about choosing the appropriate place for seeking healthcare. The autumn flu vaccination window is still open and data is being analysed around take up in York and how to target the 2025/6 campaign best. JCVI have announced the eligibility criteria for the spring COVID booster. RSV vaccine offer is available all year round in pregnancy through midwifery services.

Figure 6a. Respiratory DataMart weekly percentage of tests positive for influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV and rhinovirus, England [note 7]



18. Neighbourhood working: In December the council’s executive approved the design principles of a ‘Neighbourhood Model’ for York, which proposed a shift from reactive models of service delivery, with thresholds for access, to a model where community-based teams,

primary and secondary services, social and voluntary sectors share information and codesign support that addresses the holistic needs of different neighbourhoods. This focused effort to join up services at a local neighbourhood level, with targeted interventions based on the needs of the individual, will equip and empower residents to take control of their health, adopt more positive lifestyle choices and make informed decisions about their, and their families, health and wellbeing. The full paper can be read [here](#)

19. Pharmacy Provision in York: York Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) have received an application to relocate a pharmacy from Green Lane in Acomb to Cornlands Road in Acomb. The chair of the HWBB has responded to the application with the view that the proposed move results in a significant change to the availability of pharmacy services in this area. The Chair highlighted the following in her response:

- There is no indication in the application if the re-located pharmacy will continue to provide needle exchange and supervised consumption in the new location. These are important services for some of our residents and are only provided by a small number of pharmacies. It is our strong preference that this service is continued at any new location.
- The current pharmacy operating at Cornlands road is a '100 hour' pharmacy. It provides a seven day service, and six evening openings through the week. This year, it is also providing Christmas day pharmacy coverage. By contrast, the applicant is proposing a five day service with no evening or weekend opening. It is our strong preference that the evening and weekend operation remain in place as we know this is valued by residents.

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Responsible for the report:

Cllr Lucy Steels-Walshaw
Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and
Adult Social Care

Report ✓ **Date** 08.01.2025
Approved

Specialist Implications Officers

Not applicable

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report