

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM NYCCG Annual General Meeting – 7 July 2021
(Please note all questions relating to stroke services have been answered separately)

Question 1: The first question is a prescribing one asking why North Yorkshire CCG does not prescribe testosterone to women in menopause, when there are a lot of CCGs in the country that do?

Answer: Charles Parker - North Yorkshire CCG are working with local consultant gynaecologists and GPs with specialist interest of managing the menopause to review the current Hormone Replacement Therapy including the use of testosterone. As testosterone is no longer licensed for this use it would require discussion with our local prescribing committee for them to consider the evidence or efficacy and safety of prescribing testosterone for women in menopause.

Question 2: The CCG has responded to a recent Planning Application regarding the impact on GP services of a new development in Hunmanby so please can the CCG outline what plans have been developed to address the impact of new housing developments in the Hunmanby area?

Answer: Jane Hawkard - The CCG has a very important role to play in helping identify what additional future healthcare provision may be needed as the result of any population growth. We work with our local authority partners to ensure that future need is identified and costed early so that this can be considered as communities develop.

The CCG has been consulted on the latest Scarborough Borough Council Local Plan around the proposed future development sites. We have met with all the GP practices and the council planning team. Practices are currently responding in terms of the impact of any proposed future housing on their existing surgeries. Where there are significant issues, it would be hoped that the council takes that into consideration and that these housing sites are not included in the Local Plan. There is also a recognition that Scarborough Borough Council are committed to meeting their housebuilding targets and when we cannot prevent housing development, we are committed to securing developer funding contributions to ensure that we can adjust future healthcare provision to take into account increases in population.

The CCG has been, and will continue, to respond to further residential planning applications in this locality. As the accumulation of developments gain planning approval, it is expected that there will be a consolidated sum of Section 106 funding specifically available for redeveloping Filey and Hunmanby Surgeries

Question 3: This question is about access to GPs and the feeling that GPs have not been seeing patients, particularly face-to-face, during the pandemic and a concern that there may never be a return to face-to-face appointments.

Answer: Charles Parker - We know that demand for GP appointments is high and exceeding pre-pandemic levels and we know that it can be frustrating to have to wait for medical advice.

Throughout the pandemic everyone in the NHS has been working hard to make sure people get the care that they need safely. Primary care has remained open and available through the pandemic and as we talked in our presentation it is the adaptations to new ways of working which has enabled us to provide these services in a way that keeps both patients and staff safe.

Because of the infection prevention control measures in place it takes longer for a clinician to deliver a face-to-face appointment than a remote consultation. Our clinical colleagues will always be led by what is clinically in the best interests for the patients they serve. By delivering a blend of face-to-face and telephone appointments with over 60% of GP appointments happened face-to-face in North Yorkshire (according to data compiled by NHS Digital) we can help more people more quickly. We will continue to work with our clinical colleagues to make sure that we can maximise our impact as we move out of the pandemic and this blended approach will likely remain part of the mix. We know that some patients will welcome the flexibility this brings.

Question 4: Please could I ask with regard to emergency and urgent care, is the emphasis purely on medical services or is the CCG also looking at this in the context of urgent and emergency dental care, together with NHS England and dental providers?

Answer: Amanda Bloor - North Yorkshire CCG does not commission NHS dentistry, this is NHS England. This is one of the advantages as we move forward I hope that the commissioning will become more joined up to support local dentistry pathways, especially for urgent dental care.

Question 5: How do charities that get small amounts of money through the CCG know that the new ICS will know about them? and the importance of still receiving vital money. We have had money from the CCG for the last 7 Years but only ever met once. This money is small but vital for community preventative services to continue. Do we contact them? Who?

Answer: Amanda Bloor - Under the Integrated Care System we will be delivering services through local places as North Yorkshire and York and there will remain the very strong relationships we have with our partners and voluntary sector organisations across North Yorkshire and York, and we would not want to move away from that.

Wendy Balmain clarified, Jason Stamp, chairs a Community and Voluntary Group across the Humber Coast and Vale and every place within the ICS is included and represented. It is recognised that the voluntary sector plays an important role, and we would want to continue that moving forward. If a local conversation is required, please do get in touch. We are also working with NYCC to ensure we have the right preventative services in place to support our vulnerable groups.

Question 6: Do you have to get your GPs permission to access your full medical record on the app, please could I ask if this is correct? If so, what is the process for this?

Answer: Dr Charles Parker - Yes, you can download the NHS APP to access your medical records. If you make this request, you will be contacted, to ensure you are the person making the request. The process takes two days to activate and is secure.

Question 7: Can I ask if the reported surge in mental health issues is being seen on the ground in North Yorkshire.

Answer: Dr Peter Billingsley - During the last fifteen months North Yorkshire has seen an increase in children with eating disorders, more people for autism, a rise in dementia patients needing diagnosis, an increase in patients using IAPT services. A general increase in patients requiring mental health services.

Question 8: What is planned in the coming year for cancer services?

Answer: Wendy Balmain - The restoration of cancer services is one of the key priorities. We are working very closely with the Cancer Alliance with the key aim to reduce patients waiting over 62 days for treatment. We are continuing to encourage patients to come forward if they are not feeling well, increasing screening in Primary Care, reviewing cancer care pathways making sure that all patients have access to living with and beyond cancer and have the support required. New diagnostic centres are coming on stream which will provide a rapid diagnostic service to patients.

Question 9: Will NYCCG publicise the GP Data for Planning and Research scheme?

Answer: Sue Peckitt - NHS Digital have engaged with GP practices regarding the data collection. The data was due to be released 1st July but will now be released 1st September 2021 by NHS Digital. North Yorkshire will not be publishing this data.

Question 10: What is being done to identify and then engage with the vulnerable groups that were mentioned during the presentation please? Have the vulnerable groups been identified?

Wendy Balmain - Work has been ongoing, working with local GP Practices and North Yorkshire County Council across North Yorkshire to identify vulnerable patients. The voluntary sector is also involved, and vulnerable patients have been identified and support systems have been put in place.

Amanda Bloor - We have engaged with the eastern European communities on the east coast of North Yorkshire to engage in the covid vaccination programme with the use of interpreters and social media.

Sue Peckitt - We are also working with our local safeguarding groups, North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board and Healthwatch and local charities to ensure voice of the vulnerable are heard.

Question 11: Are children going to be vaccinated against COVID as they seem to be catching this and passing this on to people that are double vaccinated at the moment?

Answer: Amanda Bloor- This decision would be made by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). We all need to continue to observe the guidance and continue to follow "Hands, Face and Space" for us to stay safe.

Question 12: Are you worried about winter, with COVID and services being able to cope.

Answer: Dr Bruce Willoughby - Yes, we are always worried about winter and plan for it across the wider health and care system and this year we will again continue to have the pressures of COVID. It is very important for patients within North Yorkshire and York to have the flu vaccinations. Due to reduced exposure to viruses, we are expecting an increase in child infections which will rise higher during the winter months. Winter planning will commence shortly but the NHS is expecting it to be hard.

Question 13: The Integrated Care System (ICS) covers a large area. How can patients be reassured that their voice will be heard.

Answer: Amanda Bloor – Yes, geographically the ICS is large, but most importantly we are working in partnership in our places across North Yorkshire and York. I do anticipate the relationships that we have built over the last 15 months with our patients, partners and community groups to continue and be the building blocks for the future.