

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Operational Executive – 9 October 2020

Strategic Clinical Executive – 14 October 2020

Primary Care Committee – 14 October 2020

GP Members Committee (GPMC) – 28 October 2020

Hot site/visiting update – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Lead Executive:	Ian Atkinson – Executive Place Director
Lead Officer:	Jacqui Tuffnell, Head of Commissioning
Lead GP:	Dr Avanthi Gunasekera, SCE GP Lead for Primary Care

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to the hot site and home visiting arrangements in Rotherham.

Background:

In March 2020, as the COVID 19 pandemic started to increase, a decision was made by the Rotherham GPs to centralise the review of patients potentially with COVID 19 but with other health issues and those living in a household with potential COVID 19 with health issues requiring face to face support. This would enable practices, to continue to see, as far as possible 'cold' patients within their own practices reducing infection control risks.

A task and finish group was established, supported by the CCG and TRFT released Rotherham Community Health Centre (RCHC) for use as a 'hot site' for the GPs. Once established, overall management of the facility was provided by the GP Federation, utilising practice resources on a rota basis. As the need for this service was expected to be significant, there was sufficient space identified to have 9 clinicians (along with supporting infrastructure) and the site opened with 3 clinicians and support staff. Utilisation peaked at 60% and therefore the number of clinicians did not increase as demand was not the levels anticipated. Maximum capacity with 3 clinicians was 48 appointments. As practices switched to telephone and video consultations, a lot of the anticipated demand was able to be managed without a face to face consultation.

RCCG also supported the introduction of a home visiting service primarily for 'hot' patients which commenced on 16 April, facilitated by the GP Federation. This service also supports care homes and during the COVID peak, death registration. It has been agreed to continue to home visiting service until March 2021. At present, the service is split to support 'cold' visits due to reduced demand for 'hot' during the summer months.

In June, as the services provided from RCHC needed to return, the hot site was moved to the Whiston branch site of Brinsworth practice. As demand had reduced further, the capacity was reduced to reflect the requirement with only 8 appointments per day, with

one AHP and the support infrastructure for 1 clinical room. The staff are provided by practices with backfill costs provided to the practice from access monies.

Update

The hot site has worked well during the summer months, with no concerns raised in relation to capacity. The plan was for the team to utilise the home visiting team to visit where demand has exceeded capacity but I am not aware of any circumstances where this has had to be enacted.

There was always a plan to increase capacity to support winter as follows:

Date	Clinical Staffing	Opening time	Appointments
Summer	1 ANP	2.30 – 6pm	8
5 th October	1 GP	10am – 6pm	15
2 nd Nov	1 GP & 1 ANP	10am – 6pm	30

N.B – the hot site staffing is reviewed each week and can be stepped up if required earlier

Staffing for the hot site is now provided using regular locum staffing and each PCN has a named clinician who can be mobilised should a staffing issue arise.

Home visiting will flex to hot visits only when demand increases but in the interim it is cost effective to utilise for hot and cold visiting with a total capacity of 36 appointments a day.

The criteria for the hot site is under review to enable children to be included but also to ensure that not all winter colds are referred into the hot site. Whilst there continue to be some inappropriate referrals to the hot site, these are exceptional and the clinician within the hot site reviews the referral before they attend to minimise this.

Equality Impact:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A – this is an update in relation to the mobilisation of the service – funding has already been agreed

Human Resource Implications:

N/A

Procurement Advice:

N/A

Data Protection Impact Assessment

N/A
Approval history:
N/A
Recommendations:
Not applicable, this is for information only
Paper is for noting

