

Supporting information - Emerging Impact of COVID-19

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the health and social care system has had to deliver services in different ways, and we need to understand the impact on services in the future to ensure the proposed model of care in Teignmouth and Dawlish remains fit for purpose. This includes reviewing bed capacity for a future COVID-19 surge, the delivery of rehabilitation services, the delivery of primary care services and the delivery of outpatient services. This paper sets out the relevant details in respect of this issue.

Demand for hospital beds during future COVID-19 surge

Demand modelling for a second wave of COVID-19 has been undertaken by Devon CCG's business information team. The modelling for beds with mechanically ventilated or non-invasive ventilated oxygen (MV/O+) and those with normal oxygen (O) is based on the assumption that a second wave would be similar in size to the first wave, in line with current estimates.

The modelling shows that across the Devon and Cornwall system, with NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter, in place, 77 beds MV/O+ beds will be available with an expected demand for 73 beds and 315 O beds will be available with an expected demand for 286 beds.

At the beginning of the pandemic Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust undertook a planning exercise on how their community hospital bed capacity could be expanded to support increased numbers of patients needing hospital care but not requiring MV/O+ or O beds. The exercise identified Dawlish, Brixham and Totnes community hospitals as suitable for additional beds with an additional 18 beds available in the first phase and another six available if demand continued to increase. These beds were not required during the pandemic but are still available should there be a surge in demand over the winter.

The Trust concluded that the 12 rehabilitation beds at Teignmouth Community Hospital would not be required or considered suitable to provide care for patients needing MV/O+ and O beds. Teignmouth Community Hospital was not considered suitable for inclusion in the plan to expand the number of community hospital beds as the wards are not suitable to provide safe nursing during a pandemic. With only one entrance point, the access to the wards does not support caring for patients with COVID-19. The Trust concluded that there were other options that were more economically viable, and where the beds could be made available more quickly.

Delivery of rehabilitation services

During COVID-19 patients have been discharged from hospital along nationally defined pathways.

- Pathway 0 includes discharge home with no additional support in place
- Pathway 1 is for people who can go home with additional support
- Pathway 2 is for people who need a short term bedded placement
- Pathway 3 is for people who are experiencing life changing circumstances.

From April to July 1,120 people were discharged from Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust hospitals along pathways 1-3 via the discharge hub based at Torbay Hospital.

Of these 77% have been through Pathway 1, 8% of discharges have been through Pathway 2 and 15% through Pathway 3.

Care homes have been able to meet the need for Pathway 2 short term placements. Care homes have been given close extra support by GPs and the health and wellbeing team to ensure these patients and other residents are well cared for in a safe manner – further details below.

Delivery of primary care and community services

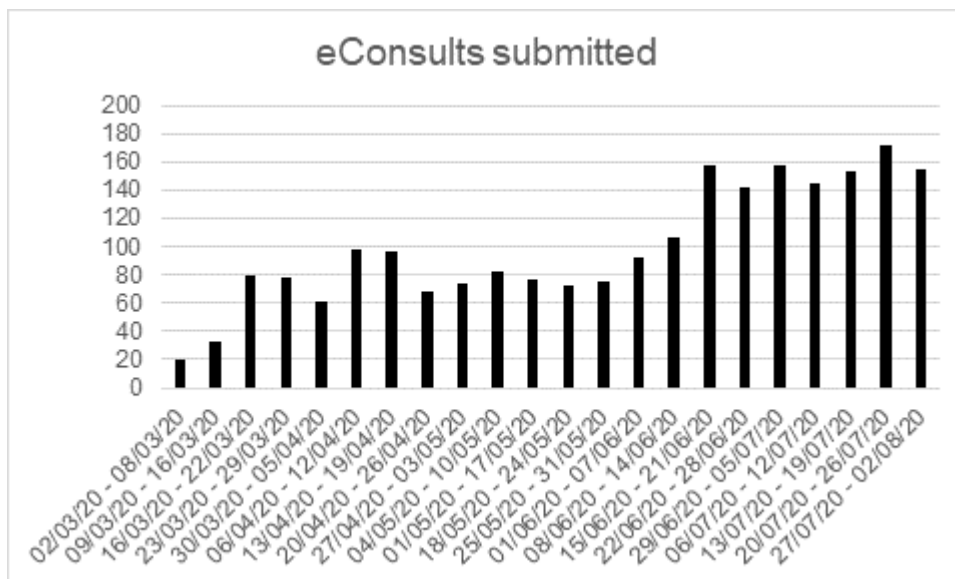
During the pandemic, Teignmouth Community Hospital was used to run the Primary Care COVID-19 hub for the locality. The hub was intended for patients who were suspected to have COVID-19 and needed a clinical assessment to supplement telephone triage/video assessment, or for patients with a potential dual diagnosis. The hub was run from the outpatient department at Teignmouth Community Hospital where it was possible to isolate the area from other parts of the building and not disrupt other activities. From 23 March – 30 June the hub saw 208 patients.

The community team continued to be based at Teignmouth Community Hospital and their focus during the pandemic has been on the co-ordination of care in people's own homes, including care homes. Staff from across the Trust were deployed into the team to support the community response, resulting in an increased capacity to manage higher numbers of referrals and the community led testing that was taking place. Working alongside GPs and the voluntary sector, the team has been involved in supporting care homes with management of outbreaks, infection control, COVID-19 testing, care of patients and supporting discharge from hospital as well as urgent intervention to prevent hospital admission, where safe to do so. This careful and valuable work with care homes has provided a solid base from which to build.

Digital technology has been instrumental in the delivery of GP and primary care services during the pandemic. In the Coastal primary care network 2,191 e-consultations were delivered between 2 March and 2 August 2020 showing a steady increase during the pandemic (see graph below). The number of video consultations undertaken May – July was 466. This model of care will continue. Patients will still need to be seen face to face by clinicians, but this will be reduced. The new health



and wellbeing centre will have fully functioning digital technology allowing delivery of this emerging model of primary care.



Delivery of outpatient services

Specialist outpatient services have had to be delivered differently during the COVID-19 pandemic with much greater use of telephone consultation and digital technology. The emerging impact on the model of care indicates that there will continue to be a move away from face to face appointments with specialists, where this can be done remotely.

Whilst during the height of the pandemic many face-to-face outpatient clinics were suspended, these services are now being restored and will be fully reinstated at the latest during September.

However, the manner in which these appointments take place is changing and will continue to change. Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust has set the ambition of delivering **50% of all outpatient consultations virtually** by September 2021.

Delivery of day case procedures

Some day case procedures continued during the pandemic especially for those patients on cancer pathways of care. Other procedures were suspended and are currently being reinstated.

Health and wellbeing centre review

The layout of the new health and wellbeing centre has been reviewed in light of the requirements placed on the delivery of health services by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of social distancing and infection control. The fact that the building would have three entrances, is spread over a number of floors, has a number of patient waiting

areas and has two staircases and two lifts would allow for safe flow around the building and the separation of different types of patients and staff to ensure social distancing and delivery of different types of care in different areas of the building.

