

Committee:	Health and Adult Social Services (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee
Meeting date:	1 st March 2021
Title:	Update from University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS) on COVID-19
Report From:	Duncan Linning-Karp, Deputy Chief Operating Officer

1. Purpose

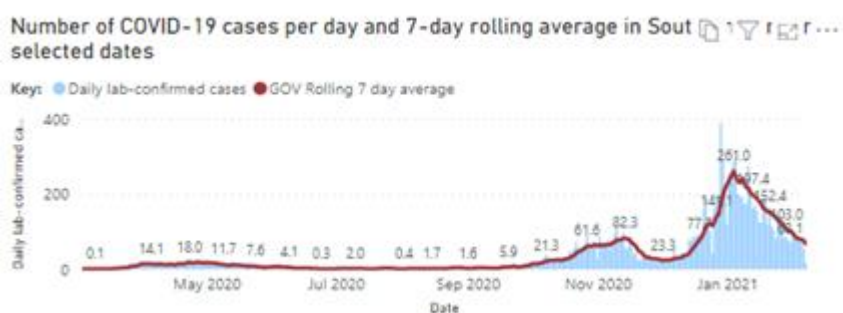
1.1 To provide an update to HASC on COVID-19 and the response of UHS.

1.2 To provide an update to HASC on elective services throughout the third wave of COVID-19.

2. Current State

2.1 Since the last update to HASC in October 2020, cases of COVID-19 both locally and nationally rose significantly. While a national lock-down in November 2020 somewhat flattened the increase, locally there continued to be high levels of COVID-19 in December. That, combined with the emergence of the new variant, led to significant and sustained pressure on UHS in January 2021.

2.2 In Southampton infection rates rose throughout late December and early January although they are now decreasing:



2.3 At the time of writing (15/02) UHS has 101 COVID positive in General and Acute beds and 54 across intensive care and high dependency units. This is a significant reduction from the mid-January peak of over 300 COVID positive patients. However, it remains roughly in line with the peak of Wave 1 (170), and services continue to be under pressure.

2.4 UHS also saw a degree of nosocomial infection across December and January.

2.5 UHS continued to run a full elective programme in December. In line with national guidance priority 3 and 4 patients were cancelled in January and remain so (with a few exceptions).

2.6 This was done to release both nursing and anaesthetic staff from theatres to critical care. The number of critical care beds was doubled, to support both local patients and the wider regional and national need. We saw a high level of critical care transfers in to UHS throughout January. 18 theatres were cancelled to support critical care.

2.7 Throughout January priority 1 and 2 patients continued to be operated on both on the UHS site and also in the independent sector (at the cancer hub at Spire and also Practice Plus Group).

2.8 UHS and the wider system used the Nuffield for medical step-down beds, attracting national plaudits for the successful approach.

Conclusion

4.1 UHS saw a peak in Wave 3 that was 60% higher than in Wave 1. While the numbers have started to reduce, there remains significant pressure, particularly in critical care

4.2 The 18 closed theatres will re-start as the number of patients requiring critical care reduces.

4.3 The vaccine roll out has been successful, with all staff offered their first dose and very high levels of uptake.

4.3 Staff have been under significant and sustained pressure. Ensuring their ongoing well-being will be crucial as we look to recover services