

Reading Health & Wellbeing Board
22 January 2021

Impact of Covid-19 in Reading



Supporting our futures *for* Reading

Adult Social Care
& Wellbeing



Public Health Covid-19 Update January 2021



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

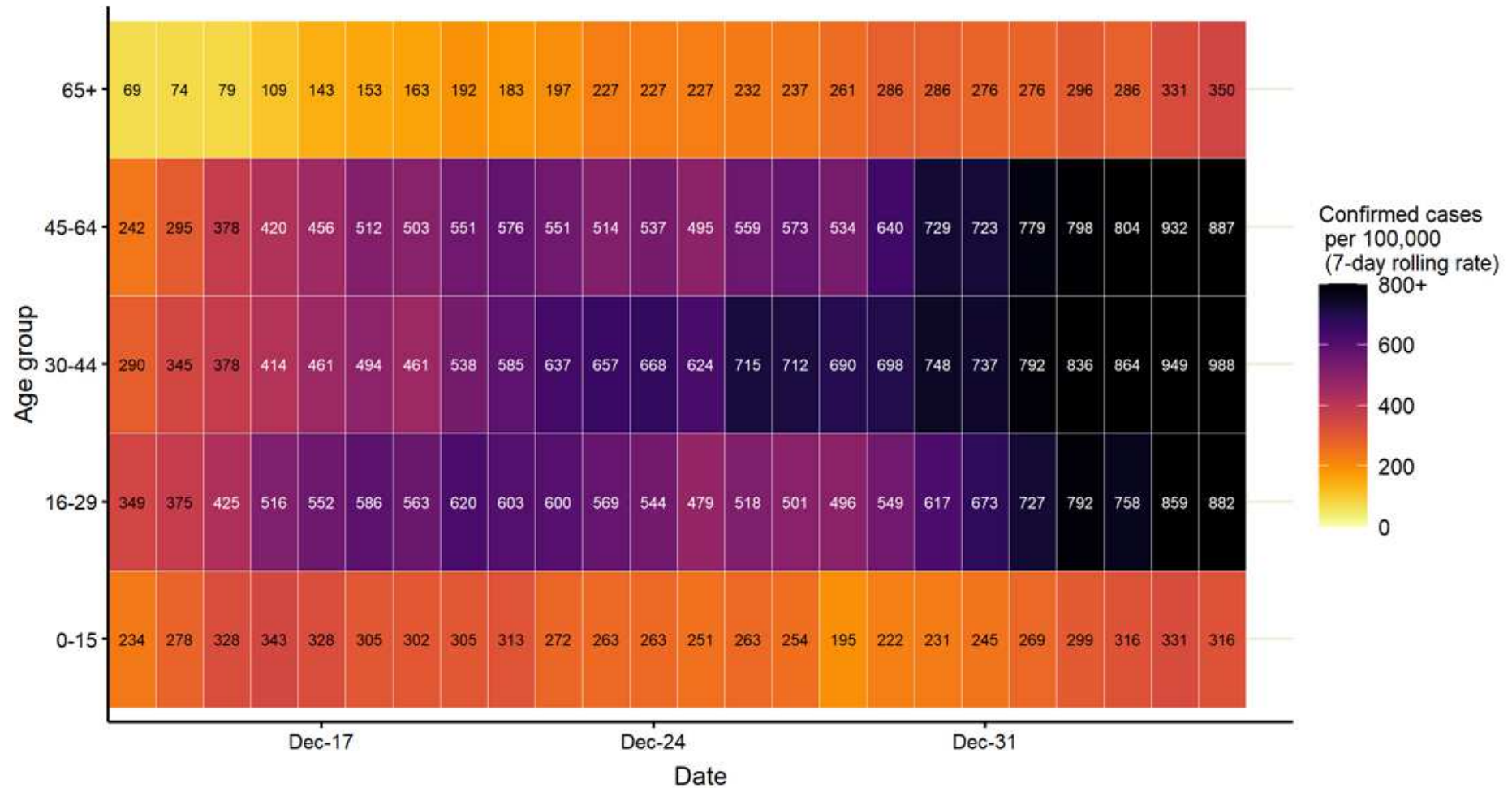
Latest Data

NB - latest data will be tabled on the day of the meeting

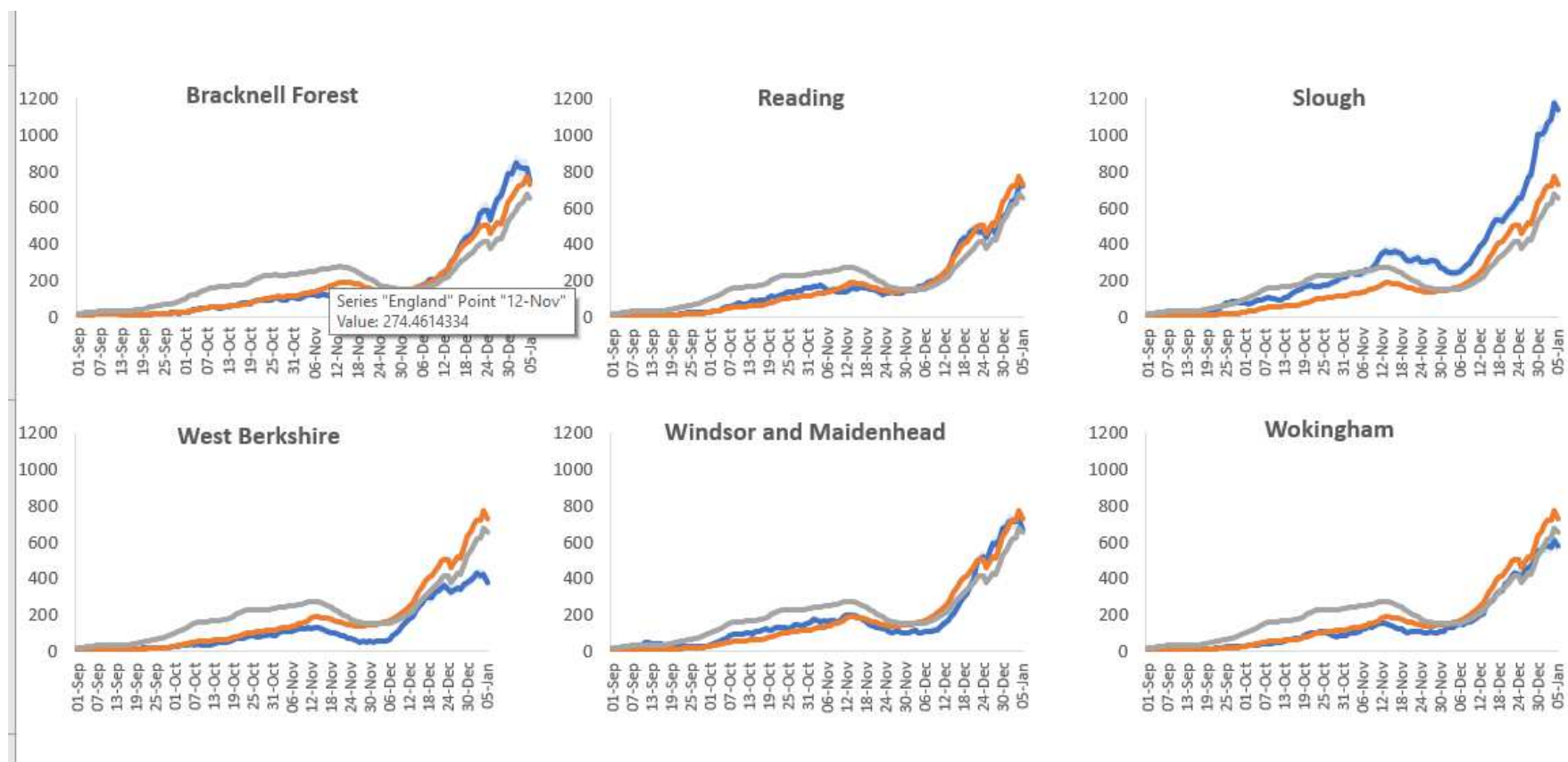
Situational Awareness indicators from 25th to 31st December* in comparison to previous 7-day period

| LA | People tested per 100,000 population (7-day moving average) | | Positivity rate (weekly) | | Cases per 100,000 population - all ages (weekly) | | Cases per 100,000 population - aged 60 and over (weekly) | | Number of confirmed cases (last 7 days) |
|------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Bracknell Forest | 467.6 | ↓ | 25.6% | ↑ | 784.2 | ↑ | 544.7 | ↑ | 961 |
| Reading | 481.2 | ↓ | 17.8% | ↑ | 558.8 | ↑ | 375.7 | ↑ | 904 |
| Slough | 553.2 | ↓ | 28.5% | ↑ | 1003.8 | ↑ | 805.2 | ↑ | 1,501 |
| West Berkshire | 380.3 | ↓ | 16.2% | ↑ | 390.0 | ↑ | 236.2 | ↑ | 618 |
| RBWM | 496.4 | ↓ | 21.5% | ↑ | 685.5 | ↑ | 485.2 | ↑ | 1,038 |
| Wokingham | 424.5 | ↓ | 20.2% | ↑ | 557.5 | ↑ | 301.5 | ↑ | 954 |
| South East | 515.1 | ↓ | 19.1% | ↑ | 643.2 | ↑ | 428.3 | ↑ | 57,312 |
| England | 459.6 | ↓ | 18.3% | ↑ | 546.9 | ↑ | 363.7 | ↑ | 307,806 |





Comparative Data



New SARS-CoV-2 variant

All viruses mutate over time and new variants emerge regularly

This variant transmits more easily than other strains

Evidence suggests this variant emerged in September 2020 and then circulated at very low levels in the population until mid-November

The increase in cases linked to the new variant first came to light in late November when PHE was investigating why infection rates in Kent were not falling despite national restrictions

We currently have no evidence that the variant is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality, but we are continuing investigations to understand this better

The way to control this virus is the same, whatever the variant. It will not spread if we avoid close contact with others. Wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance from others, and reduce your social contacts

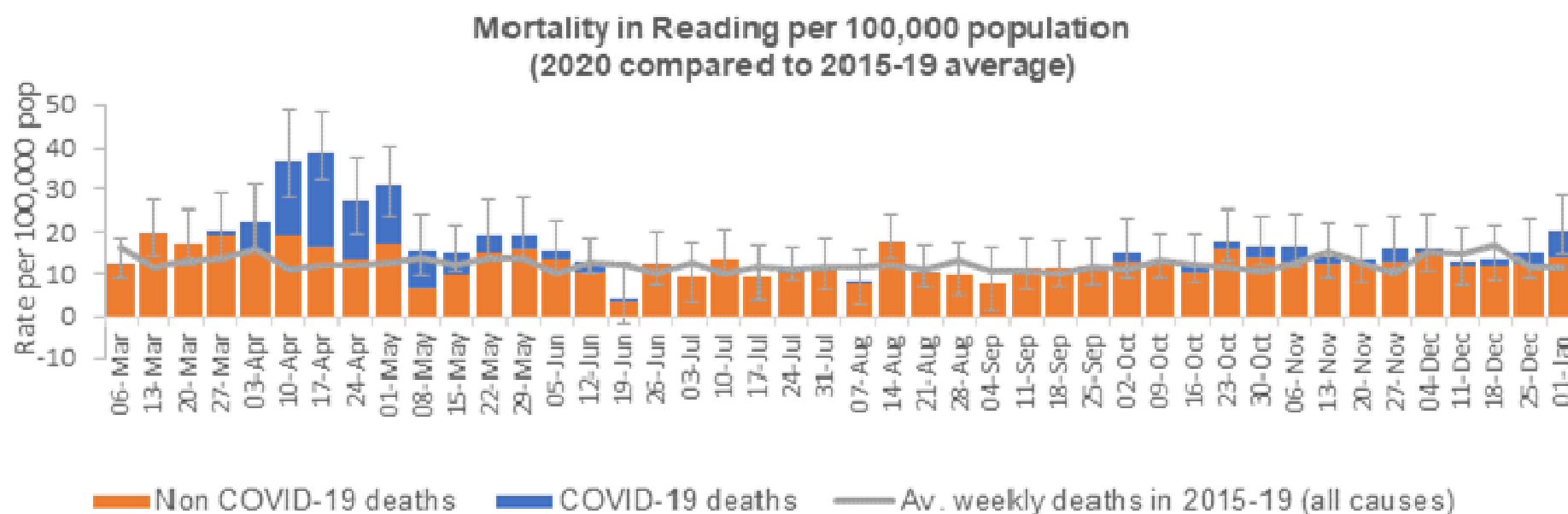
Public Health England said there was currently no evidence to suggest that vaccines will not be effective against the new strain

Lateral flow and PCR tests can detect this new variant

Link to up to date info: [COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\): information about the new virus variant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-sars-cov-2-information-about-the-new-virus-variant)



Mortality Rate in Reading



Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 in South East that are due to new variant (VOC)

| Week (MM/DD/YY) | %_Other cases | %_SGTF cases |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 9/1/2020 | 96.4 | 3.6 |
| 9/8/2020 | 97.3 | 2.7 |
| 9/15/2020 | 96.3 | 3.7 |
| 9/22/2020 | 95.7 | 4.3 |
| 9/29/2020 | 94.8 | 5.2 |
| 10/6/2020 | 96.3 | 3.7 |
| 10/13/2020 | 95.3 | 4.7 |
| 10/20/2020 | 92.7 | 7.3 |
| 10/27/2020 | 88.7 | 11.3 |
| 11/3/2020 | 84.6 | 15.4 |
| 11/10/2020 | 78.7 | 21.3 |
| 11/17/2020 | 69.9 | 30.1 |
| 11/24/2020 | 52.9 | 47.1 |
| 12/1/2020 | 40.6 | 59.4 |
| 12/8/2020 | 28.8 | 71.2 |
| 12/15/2020 | 23.4 | 76.6 |
| 12/22/2020 | 17 | 83 |
| 12/29/2020 | 11.5 | 88.5 |



Testing

- Testing rate in Reading remains good
- Turn around time averages 1.5 days
- Prospect Park will be converted to a 7 day a week Local Testing Site (LTS)
- Lateral Flow Testing being implemented
 - 1 x Secondary School first
 - Key worker testing (Non- NHS) being established
 - Community testing to then follow
- LFT need careful deployment based on issues of accuracy



COVID vaccines

- 3 vaccines are licenced, currently being rolled out
- 2-dose schedule
- Second vaccine dose should be with the same vaccine as for the first dose
- Short term protection from dose 1- It takes a few weeks for your body to build up protection from the vaccine. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective, so you should continue to take recommended precautions to avoid infection.
- Given the high level of protection afforded by the first dose, models suggest that initially vaccinating a greater number of people with a single dose will prevent more deaths and hospitalisations than vaccinating a smaller number of people with two doses
- Protective immunity from the first dose likely lasts for a duration of 12 weeks
- The second dose is still important to provide longer lasting protection and is expected to be as or more effective when delivered at an interval of 12 weeks from the first dose
 - The second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may be given between 3 to 12 weeks following the first dose.
 - The second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine may be given between 4 to 12 weeks following the first dose.
- Local information available at <https://healthwatchreading.co.uk/advice-and-information/2020-12-30/your-questions-answered-covid-vaccines>



Priority groups

- Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- All those 75 years of age and over
- All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- All those 65 years of age and over
- All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- All those 60 years of age and over
- All those 55 years of age and over
- All those 50 years of age and over



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Adult Social Care Covid-19 Update January 2021



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Working better with you

Support to Service Users

- Adult Social Care are operating as business as usual supporting vulnerable service users and carers
- Face to face visits are taking place on the back of individual risk assessments as well as virtual assessments/reviews
- Staff have full access to appropriate PPE
- In House Services are offering urgent respite for families either via the usual service offer or by 'in reach' into peoples homes
- Continue to work with Health to support rapid hospital discharges including mobilising our 'Care Hotel' Discharge Service at the Holiday Inn



Support to the Provider Market

- Facilitating access to Covid19 vaccination for the Adult Social Care workforce
- Support to Providers with regards to Business Continuity Planning including workforce shortages
- Tailored communication and support to Providers to aid understanding of changing guidance including testing, visiting etc
- • Quality monitoring undertaken virtually and face to face in conjunction with health staff as required
- Working alongside Providers to support development of revised service offers that remain sustainable during lockdown scenarios
- Alternative care being sourced for other vulnerable individuals who can't access their usual services



 brighterfuturesforchildren.org



Brighter Futures for Children: Covid update

January 2021



Impact: Schools



- Significant number of children and staff having to self isolate.
- Significant number were tested positive.
- Some schools had to close year groups and one school had to shut completely.
- Interruption of education for many children.



Support: Schools



- Heads Teachers written briefing each week
- Teams Meetings weekly with Head Teachers
- Meeting with DfE/ RSC 3 times per week
- Weekly meeting with unions
- Education Welfare Service



Impact: Early Years



- Majority of settings open but 25% reduction in attendance (1400 take up January)
- Early Years sector challenged financially/lack of clarity around spring term funding
- Concerns : testing and vaccinations



Impact: Social Care



- Delays in intervention from agencies offering virtual intervention makes it difficult to reduce risk for children.
- Increase in poverty, mental health has caused families acute distress – increase risk to children – confined to homes with DA in family.
- Impact on cost due to delays in proceedings; moving care leavers between placements etc.



Response: Social Care



- Risk assessments
- Face to face visits to all children as well as virtual visits
- Strong partnership working
- Review of care planning



Impact: Early Help and Prevention



- Risk assessments – face to face visits to all children. Concern re: those not in school
- Sustaining impact virtually
- Impact on mental health, poverty, DA
- Strong One Reading Children and Young People's Partnership
- Child in Need project



Covid Vaccination in Reading

- * Vaccinations are being delivered to patients of GP Practices by the 6 PCNs in Reading
- * 5 Sites for patients have been set up and have started delivering vaccines between the weeks beginning 21 December and 11 January which covers all GP Practices in Reading
- * Vaccinations for Staff are also being given at Wokingham Hospital and Royal Berkshire Hospital
- * The current focus is on
 - * The 80+ age group
 - * Elderly Care Home residents and staff
 - * Housebound patients
 - * Front line staff
- * The next cohorts will be
 - * 75 +
 - * 70+
 - * Clinically extremely vulnerable
- * General Practice has received supplies of the Astra Zeneca vaccine and this will be used at first for elderly care home patients and housebound patients. The Pfizer vaccine will continue to be used in the vaccination hubs

Phlebotomy Services

- Covid-19* significantly impacted the two main providers of phlebotomy services (BHFT and RBFT) who restricted access to urgent only patients at the start of lockdown
- Phlebotomy was raised by GPs in August 2020 as an area of concern:
 - Q1 of 2020 - BHFT had seen a reduction in activity of 64% compared to Q1 of 2019 due to social distancing and PPE/cleaning
 - Q1 of 2020 - RBFT had seen a reduction in activity of 82% compared to Q1 of 2019 (across two sites) due to social distancing and the 'walk-in' model
- August/September 2020 - a cross system team was drawn together and tasked with working through the issues to increase capacity across Berkshire West
- In September 2020 - BHFT started a recruitment exercise to double the existing staffing complement
- In October 2020 - RBFT opened to routine referrals by launching an online booking system for both sites and increased activity to routine patients and controlled patient flow
- By December 2020 – RBFT booking system created sufficient capacity to increase activity by an additional 10% compared to pre-covid levels
- January 2021 – The staff employed by BHFT enabled the service to open to routine referrals; pre-covid levels of capacity should be recovered by March 2021
- GPs were kept informed throughout of progress; the system worked well together to identify the issues, risks and rapidly implement solutions

BOB ICS NHS 111 First

Reading Health & Wellbeing Board
Jan-21

What is 111 First

- National initiative introduced from Dec-20
- Strong message to the public to contact 111 before going to ED
- 111 clinical assessment service enhanced so patients can be increasingly dealt with on the phone, directed to alternative services or given self-care advice
- Increasing direct access to ambulatory care pathways in hospitals avoiding the need to go via ED
- If an ED visit is necessary patients get booked into a timed appointment slot

BOB 111 First Model

- 111 service provided by SCAS
- Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) provided by SCAS with some staff employed direct (paramedics, nurses) and others outsourced (such as GPs)
- 4 ED Departments with direct booking enabled
- Increase in call handler and CAS clinical resource to support model
- Patient experience when directed to ED
 - Patients identify themselves as having a booked slot when presenting to reception
 - Booked patients are seen as close to timeslot as possible and quicker than those that walk-in
 - Signs in ED to explain some patients will be seen sooner than others as they have an appointment and therefore some of their waiting time was done outside of ED
 - Life threatening emergencies and ambulance arrivals continue to be prioritised

Anticipated Benefits

- Patients directed to the correct service as a result of increased clinical assessment
- Reduced overcrowding in ED which decreases risk of infection
- National expectation to have 20% reduction in “unheralded” ED attendances
 - Up to 60-70% directed to more appropriate services
 - Remainder still attend ED but with booked appointment
- Booked patients average time in ED less than for walk in patients
- Improvement in 4 hour ED performance as workload can be levelled out through the day

Where are we now and next steps

- National comms campaign launched Dec-21
- Enhanced capacity and capability in CAS
- Direct booking in place but low numbers initially
 - 4th Jan there were 71 patients directly booked into ED (approx. 10 per day)
- Developing dashboard for tracking impact
- Starting to book and refer patients into SDEC (Same Day Emergency Care) from 111 CAS
- EDs gradually increasing number of slots available for 111 booking

Reading Voluntary Sector COVID update

Keeping people connected and supported through virtual support groups and buddies:

- Classes, social, fun, information & reassurance for isolated people – community groups, physical & learning disabilities, carers, mental health & anxiety.
- Social Prescribing and befriending.

Getting around safely:

- Readibus driving people to appointments, vaccine hubs, in and out of the Holiday Inn.

Practical support with financial, food, fuel and housing concerns:

- Information and advice support online or on the phone.
- Community hubs distributing offers [food, digital inclusion, white goods] to vulnerable families e.g. ACRE, RCLC, Weller CC, WCDA, PACT, Deaf Centre, RRSB.

Increasing concerns around mental health and anxiety:

- Ongoing impact of COVID with fears for health, family and finances.
- Ongoing isolation and loss of support networks, digital is not the same and impossible for some.
- Ongoing safeguarding concerns for children, those vulnerable to DV, people with a disability, carers.
- Ongoing ripples of anxiety as a result of the tragedies in Forbury Gardens and Caversham.

Reading Voluntary Sector COVID update

The cliff edge of COVID support funding:

- 909k from the National Lottery Community Fund for Reading to March 2021.
- Community grants from RBC/BCF/CCG – building the capacity of small community projects supporting people who might otherwise be missed.

Support for the vaccine programme:

- VCS Vaccine Support Group - Working in partnership to make sure no one gets left behind with buddies, transport, support to make an appointment, interpreters, overcoming fear and misinformation.
- Volunteer support for the vaccine hubs.

A Reading Thriving Communities Network of organisations planning recovery through diverse offer of activities all supporting good mental health and focusing on health inequalities:

- Arts, and culture, including libraries and museums.
- Sport, leisure and physical activity organisations.
- Financial wellbeing, advice, food and practical support.
- Environment and nature-based organisations.