

Key Communications

22 June 2020

North East and North Cumbria SPF Sub-Group

Welcome

Welcome to the key communications from the North East and North Cumbria Social Partnership Forum, which is a Sub Group of the North of England SPF.

PHE report on disparities of risk and outcomes of COVID19

Denise Orange presented slides on the PHE report on disparities of risk and outcomes of COVID19 and spoke about the work in relation to BAME, including the rapid literature review and engagement of 1,000 stakeholders. The review reported a risk of transmission mobility which may be exacerbated by; housing challenges, high occupational exposure, use of public transport, and BAME communities being less likely to seek care or raise risks or concerns.

Recommendations in the report include participatory research to understand the wider social determinants within communities, and a call for funding to develop and implement education and prevention programmes co-produced with BAME communities. The key outcome will be to ensure that the COVID 19 recovery strategy contributes to reducing health and social inequalities in a long-term sustainable manner. The full report is available [here](#)

Karen O'Brien advised that there has been a conversation around picking this work up through the Great Place to Work programme to collaborate on a regional approach. It was agreed that as an SPF it should also be reviewed and supported.

Reset and Recovery

Lucy Topping from NHS England and NHS Improvement discussed the phases of workforce planning process to date. It is anticipated that a planning letter will be released shortly which will outline the ask for the NHS and outline the support offer. Phase 4 will look at ongoing capacity, the return of critical services and will address the backlog of service demand. In addition, this process will seek to embed the positive changes that have occurred as a result of the pandemic.

In the absence of national guidance, regional colleagues have completed some preparatory work, to enable a rapid clear response that it is easily accessible as an ICS. Work is being undertaken with the four ICPs, and planning leads have been identified so they can work within their organisational footprint. The initial ask has been 'acute' focussed to explore the level of activity that can be delivered within existing capacity, including, elective, none-elective and critical care, along with revenue bids linked to this.

Staff side colleagues asked for reassurance that trade unions are involved in the planning and restructure/reconfiguration of services and sought assurance that safe staffing levels are being reviewed with equal focus to capacity levels.

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Health and Safety Reflections from COVID

Rob Quick asked if it was plausible, to review in partnership, joint training virtually or in small cohorts around the learning that has come from health and safety aspects of COVID. He suggested that this would contribute to future work and could build resilience and preparation for a future pandemic/second wave should it occur. It was agreed that this proposal would be looked at further as a NENC SPF

Next SPF meeting

Karen O'Brien, Vice chair asked colleagues to reflect on the objectives for the next for the SPF. Karen advised that the Great Place to Work team were currently reviewing elements of their programme and some work such as, health and wellbeing and inclusion, will be at the top of the agenda.

Date of next meeting – 11 August, 2pm – 3.30pm (MS Teams)

