

# Public Representatives E-Brief Update

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**JULY 2021**



Western Health  
and Social Care Trust

## Neil Guckian begins role as the Western Trust's new Chief Executive

Thursday 1 July marked the first day in post for our new Chief Executive, Mr Neil Guckian. On behalf of our Board, our staff and the users of our services, we wish Neil all the best in this key role within our Trust. The role of Chief Executive carries significant responsibility and pressure so let us all work with him in his leadership of a strong team of directors, managers and staff in ensuring that our communities in the Western Trust receive the very best health and social care it is possible to receive during these challenging times.

Every good wish Neil.

**Sam Pollock,**  
on behalf of Western Health and Social Care Trust.

## Update from Neil Guckian, Western Trust Chief Executive

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with you in my new role as Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

Of course, I am extremely honoured to take up my post and to say that it is a privilege to be able to lead this organisation, which is filled with hugely dedicated, talented and driven individuals in our staff. I would also like to thank my predecessors Anne Kilgallen and Elaine Way for their leadership of the Trust since 2007.



This is a unique time for our Trust and we can be certain that the months and years ahead will bring with them new challenges as we move out of the pandemic phase and into the new post Covid-19 world. To be best positioned to meet these challenges we, as a Trust, must be at the forefront of innovative and transformative care and we will continue to be grateful for your support as we rise to meet those needs.

Regardless of what lies ahead, as Chief Executive you can be assured that my focus will remain firmly fixed on the health and wellbeing of our staff and on the improvement of the quality of care and outcomes for the people served by the Western Trust.

I look forward to being in contact and hopefully meeting in person in the months ahead and have asked our Public Affairs Manager, Chris Curran, to link in with you to arrange this.

Since taking up post on 1 July 2021, I have been concentrating on meeting with groups of staff, media and reaching out to key partners. The amount of good wishes internally and externally have been overwhelming.

I want to also highlight our priorities remain as follows:-

- Supporting our staff through recovery – we are creating a group to focus on identifying/assessing staff adversely affected by Covid and targeting services to support them;
- Rebuild – getting our services back towards pre-Covid pandemic levels – subject to continuing restrictions;
- Reflecting – learning from how we performed during the pandemic and banking as many improvements as possible;
- Safety and Quality – to complete the Governance Review and continue the focus on SAIs;
- Continue our excellent progress on our finances.

## Temporary pause on Visiting to Altnagelvin and Waterside Hospitals

Due to the significant increase in Covid-19 transmission in our Communities and subsequently the sharp rise in admissions of Covid-19 patients to our hospitals in recent days, the Western Trust has had to make the decision to temporarily pause visiting to Altnagelvin and Waterside Hospitals.

This pause on visiting arrangements will be implemented from 6pm on Friday 9th July for a period of 1 week initially and this will be subject to daily monitoring and review.

We have seen a significant recent spike in Covid-19 transmissions and this is particularly prevalent in the North West where it is currently the highest rate in the region, with the Derry and Strabane Council area having reached 372.1 per 100k today.

Additionally, in recent days, we have experienced a number of visitors to our Altnagelvin Hospital who have since confirmed through track and trace that they are Covid-19 positive. This is a serious concern and with the sharp rise in patient admissions to our hospital, the impact this has both in terms of staffing and bed capacity in the hospital and with the increase in Community transmissions, we have had to make the decision to temporarily pause visiting to our Altnagelvin and Waterside hospitals.

This rise in transmission and admissions is also coming at a time when the Trust continues to deal with the additional pressures faced in our Emergency Departments. I understand that this may be very disappointing for the local community. However the safety of our patients and staff will always be our first priority.

Visiting to Altnagelvin and Waterside hospitals in exceptional circumstances, such as end of life care, will continue to be possible and in each instance will be subject to local risk assessment. Please contact the local ward manager where relevant.

At this stage there will be no change to visiting arrangements in our Fermanagh and Omagh hospitals.

All of this continues to highlight the massive importance of our Vaccination Programme.

This week our Vaccination programme Team reached the milestone of delivering 200,000 Vaccine doses. This is a massive achievement and I thank everyone across our teams who have been, and continue to be, involved in this.

We must continue to push forward with this and in order to further facilitate everyone to receive the vaccine we have now made our Mass Vaccination Centres all walk-in facilities in addition to booking your vaccine there. We are also now rolling out Mobile Vaccine Walk-In Clinics and I would urge everyone, and in particular those aged 18-29, to come forward now to get your vaccine.

Full Information on how to access getting the vaccine at any of our centres and also at the Mobile Vaccine Walk-In Clinics is in this E-Brief.

In light of this information I would ask the public to continue to be vigilant in getting on top of this and adhering to all the Covid-19 guidelines currently in place such as social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand sanitising.

Thank you for your support in helping us to get this important message out and please continue to work together to stay safe over the bank holiday weekend.



Neil Guckian, Chief Executive

## Rising numbers of Covid-19 cases in Community and Hospital – Some Elective and Surgical Procedures postponed

Friday 17 April 2020

Geraldine McKay, Director of Acute Services: 8 July 2021

The Western Trust has experienced rising numbers of Covid-19 positive results in the community and in hospital. Hospital numbers have risen sharply in recent days – we now have 20 positive Covid-19 patients in Altnagelvin, in addition to 2 new Covid-19 patients in South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen (6 Covid-19 patients in total in SWAH). This number is a considerable rise compared with a small number of cases in our Hospitals last week. (Please note these numbers are fluid and can change daily).

As a result the Trust has now implemented our initial surge plan and this will be kept under constant review.

The impact of the rise in hospital and community cases, has meant that the Trust has postponed 12 elective procedures at Altnagelvin and has also resulted in a reduction in our surgical capacity with 15 patients having their procedures postponed on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 July. We apologise to the 27 patients in total who have been affected, all of whom have now been contacted by the Trust. We have also already moved to reschedule their appointment dates as soon as is possible to do so.

Again, we would highlight the importance of vaccination, social distancing and public health advice given the high Covid-19 figures, particularly in the North West.

### Update on Rebuild Plans:

In general during Phase 5 (April – June 21) the Trust has over-delivered on its rebuild plans, although as transmission rates have reduced and services work through their individual plans for rebuild, we have become more accurate in setting and achieving plans. We are all conscious of the growth in transmission of the delta variant in the Western Trust geography and while we are planning to scale back some of the extra measures we put in place during the pandemic, we are managing rebuild carefully using risk assessment processes to inform our decision-making.

We have now entered the period of Phase 6 Rebuild, and this will cover the summer months of July and August. DoH is now referring to these short term plans as “Delivery Plans” and more detailed monitoring and performance management processes have been introduced by DoH and HSCB with Trusts for the period ahead.

## COVID-19 – Vaccination Programme Update: 8 July 2021

The Western Trust has now reached the major milestone of 200,000 doses delivered by the Western Trust Vaccination programme. Around 115,000 of these are 1st dose vaccinations, and 85,000 2nd dose.

In NI, over 2 million doses have been delivered, and just over 80% of the population has now received its first dose of one of the vaccines.



**Teresa Molloy, Director Performance & Service Improvement.  
Lead Director for the Western Trust Vaccination Programme**

Providing good access to vaccination to our very widely spread population was planned for by the Western Trust Team at the outset of the Programme. We established 3 Mass Vaccination Centres, while other Trusts have a single centre. Community pharmacies continue to provide vaccination of the over 40 age groups with the Astra Zeneca vaccine.

All younger age groups (those under 40) are now offered vaccination by Trusts in the MVCs across NI, in line with JCVI advice. Since early May 21, the Western Trust has been offering ONLY Pfizer for 1st doses in its MVCs. Some AZ vaccinations were undertaken earlier in the programme, between March and May, and we are close to completing the 2nd doses for these people. In line with JCVI advice, they will receive AZ as their 2nd dose. We expect to wind up the use of AZ in our centres by 13th July, and over the next few days will be issuing messaging on our channels to encourage anyone who has missed their 2nd dose of AZ, to “walk in” to our centres to complete their vaccination.

We are entering a difficult stage in the programme as vaccine uptake recently has remained lower than we would wish, particularly in the 18-29 age group. The uptake is available on the DoH Vaccine dashboard, and the position today is set out below:

### Vaccine Uptake

Age Group	Sum of Cohort Size	Vaccinations (First Dose)	Percentage Vaccinated (%)
18-29	282,418	151,568	53.67%
30-39	251,344	168,628	67.09%
40-49	242,034	198,363	81.96%
50-59	256,638	233,255	90.89%
60-69	195,677	197,886	100.00%
70-79	143,273	143,231	99.97%
80+	81,578	85,894	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,452,962</b>	<b>1,178,825</b>	<b>81.13%</b>

## COVID-19 – Vaccination Programme Update: 8 July 2021

The programme is continuing to respond with new ways to reach those who have not yet received their vaccination.

In the West, we began with dedicated Tuesday evening “walk-in” sessions at our MVCs, and these will rotate across our centres until end July.

We supported a mobile clinic in Creggan on 23rd June, at the request of the PHA due to the low uptake levels in that area.

We will run a programme of mobile clinics over July which will reach out to try to increase vaccination uptake, particularly in the younger age groups. The schedule of mobile clinics is on Page 6 of this E-Brief.

We will continue the effort to deliver as many 1st dose vaccinations of Pfizer to our population as possible by the end of July, and to complete 2nd dose vaccinations in September.

### There are some important messages that elected representatives can assist with:

- All centres in the West, and all mobile clinics will **only deliver the Pfizer vaccine** in the coming weeks

#### 1st dose

##### If people have not yet received their 1st dose vaccination:

- Book their vaccination on line at: [www.covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated/](http://www.covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated/) - This is the quickest and easiest way to be vaccinated, you will avoid waiting and will have a reserved slot,
- If you cannot book on line, attend our centres at any time, and we would hope to vaccinate you. You may have to wait, as those with booked appointments will have priority. Bring your photographic ID, and if possible your Health and Care Number.
- If you cannot attend a centre, we will have mobile clinics across the Western Trust geography and these will be advertised on our website and on social media. The current schedule can be viewed on Page 6 of this E-Brief.

#### 2nd dose

**If people have missed their 2nd dose vaccination** – please encourage them to complete their vaccination. We will vaccinate them if they walk in to any of our centres, even if they received their 1st dose elsewhere. They will need to present photographic ID and their vaccination card.

#### Rescheduling of 2nd dose

There are also some potential developments where we are awaiting decisions. We know that there are some people who are still scheduled to have their 2nd dose 10 weeks after their 1st dose. This “dose interval” was changed in NI some weeks ago to a minimum dose interval of 6 weeks for Pfizer and 8 weeks for AZ. No centre will vaccinate earlier unless in very exceptional circumstances, which are approved by DoH.

SSE have been offering those with the 10 week interval an opportunity to “walk in” and have their 2nd dose earlier, as long as they meet the required minimum dose interval. Next week, we may offer this locally, but that is subject to a review of bookings in the coming days. We will make you aware if this is to go ahead, and it will be widely advertised on our channels.

## COVID-19 – Vaccination Programme Update: 8 July 2021

Finally

There is a great deal of concern about the transmission rates in NI, particularly in the North West. You will all be familiar with the published information. The numbers of COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals has been growing in recent days, and we again have outbreaks in our nursing homes.

It is important that we ask people to come for their vaccination, and use the additional access we will give in this final phase. We also want to ask that people complete their vaccination, by receiving their 2nd dose appointment, as they will then have the full benefit of the vaccination.

**We would ask for your support and assistance in promoting the vaccination programme with your constituents, as we know how critical it will be in the fight against COVID-19.**

Western Trust Vaccination Info page: [bit.ly/WTCOVID19Vaccination](https://bit.ly/WTCOVID19Vaccination)

### Schedule of Mass Vaccination Clinics (MVC)

Dates 2021:	MVC	Opening Hours
<b>Northern Sector:</b>		
Open all dates in July with the exception of 12 July	Foyle Arena	9.00am – 5.00pm
<b>Southern Sector:</b>		
15 July to 18 July 27 July to 31 July	<u>Omagh Leisure Complex</u>	9.00am – 5.00pm
8 July to 14 July 19 July to 23 July 26 July to 28 July 31 July	Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen	9.00am – 5.00pm

\*Please note both MVCs in the Southern Sector will be closed on 24 & 25 July but both centres in Omagh and Enniskillen will be open on 27, 28 & 31 July

### Additional “Walk-in” Vaccination Clinics (day-time schedule of clinics remains unchanged)

Date: 2021	Model	Venue:	Opening Hours
1 & 13 July	MVC – evening	Foyle Arena MVC	4.00pm – 8.00pm
6 July	MVC - evening	<u>Omagh Leisure Complex</u>	4.00pm – 8.00pm
20 July	MVC - evening	Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen	4.00pm – 8.00pm
8, 9 & 10 July	Mobile	Millennium Forum	4.00pm – 8.00pm – 8 July/ 9 July 12.00midday – 5pm on 10 July
15 July	Mobile	Limavady Leisure Centre	4.00pm – 8.00pm
20 July	Mobile	Alley Theatre and Conference Centre, Strabane	4.00pm – 8.00pm
22 July	Mobile	The Milestone Centre, <u>Carrickmore</u>	4.00pm – 8.00pm
27 July	Mobile	<u>Derg Valley Healthy Living Castlederg</u>	4.00pm – 8.00pm
29 July	Mobile	<u>Shantallow Community Residents association</u>	4.00pm – 8.00pm
30 July	Mobile	The Sports Complex, <u>Dromore</u>	4.00pm – 8.00pm

