



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Bristol City Council

(on behalf of and in partnership with NHS Bristol North Somerset
South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group)

New Partnerships and Collaborations: Partnered and coordinated response to provide PPE, transport and testing

Context

In the initial period of the Covid-19 response there were daily challenges in responding to the wider health and care system needs around PPE. These ranged from significant shortages of PPE in supply and stock, massive fluctuations on price, quality and demand, national changes to guidance on usage and issues around fraud. The three BNSSG local authorities (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) work closely with NHS partners on integrated, system-wide approaches to health and care issues. As part of an integrated and health and care system response to the pandemic, a Logistics Cell was set up in March 2020 by the partner organisations to coordinate action on PPE issues, transport and testing issues across the BNSSG area.

Development

Initially the work of the Logistics Cell was focused on PPE troubleshooting, and enabling mutual aid in response to shortages. Daily meetings of procurement leads from across the system were set up, and in order to facilitate joint working and coordination of mutual aid, structures and system processes were evolved rapidly, with individual organisations' agreement secured via incident control centre meetings. This included:

- A single currency for recording PPE requirements and stock levels across health and care providers
- The interpretation of national guidance on PPE use for (non-acute) health and care providers to develop estimated daily 'burn rates' for PPE items by provider type and at system level.
- The adoption of StockWatch, a PPE management software tool provided by Advise Inc which enabled daily reporting of stock levels across the system. Local authorities, the CCG (on behalf of primary care) and health providers all committed to providing daily updates

- Coordinated PPE orders placed for PPE via a procurement consortium which previously had supported the system's acute trusts only (via Bristol and Western Purchasing Consortium).

Implementation

The Logistics Cell was formed as part of the wider BNSSG Incident Command Structure. The Cell was structured with key personnel with respective specialisms from across the BNSSG partners. Key posts include: Chair; Management Support Coordinators (x3); Room Manager and Room Coordinator. Reporting structures to Bronze Command were also applied – around reports of activities, management of risk and issue; these followed Project Management principles. The aligned personnel were either seconded into roles or aligned to support roles by agreement with their respective organisations. The Cell had a specific email account established and worked with identified peer stakeholders from across the BNSSG partners and the Local Resilience Forum for Avon and Somerset.



Review

With continued uncertainty about future requirements for PPE storage, stock management and distribution across the wider health and care system, the decision was taken in August to put in place arrangements that build on the learning of recent months for a single BNSSG approach to PPE purchasing, stock management and distribution that can be activated quickly as and when it is required. As outlined above, the Bristol and West Procurement Consortium has been supporting partners across the wider health and care system in the sourcing and supply of PPE – including with the validation of potential non-approved NHS suppliers, price negotiation and securing certification on quality standards. This has been an optional approach for partner organisations, based on informal arrangements. With the intention of building further future resilience, the Council is also in the process of negotiating a contract variation with its current community equipment provider to cover PPE storage, stock management and distribution for the health and care system (excluding NHS providers in receipt of national PPE deliveries via the Clipper system). This builds on the arrangements already in place for North Somerset Council and it is a service that the company is also providing to a number of local authority areas across England. Costs would closely follow the pricing model for community equipment which is based on the number of

deliveries and the amount of notice given for these deliveries. It is set to include the additional service of emergency PPE deliveries to providers at any time during the year (including out of hours and on bank holidays).

For further information contact:

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