

Wider Impacts of COVID-19

Summary from Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Why is this important?

The purpose of this needs assessment was to understand both the direct and in-direct impacts of COVID-19 within Lewisham, as well as seeking to identify any impact on health inequalities.

Key Facts and Figures

In 2020/2021 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service referrals increased by

40.42%

from the previous year

Immunisations and two week wait cancer referrals remain below target



Processing Education, Health & Care Plans for children with support needs was delayed during the pandemic and requests have subsequently increased



Uptake of all cancer screening (apart from bowel cancer) remain below target



Hospital treatment waiting times have increased



Rate of Long COVID in Lewisham is

0.38%

which is higher than the England rate of 0.28%

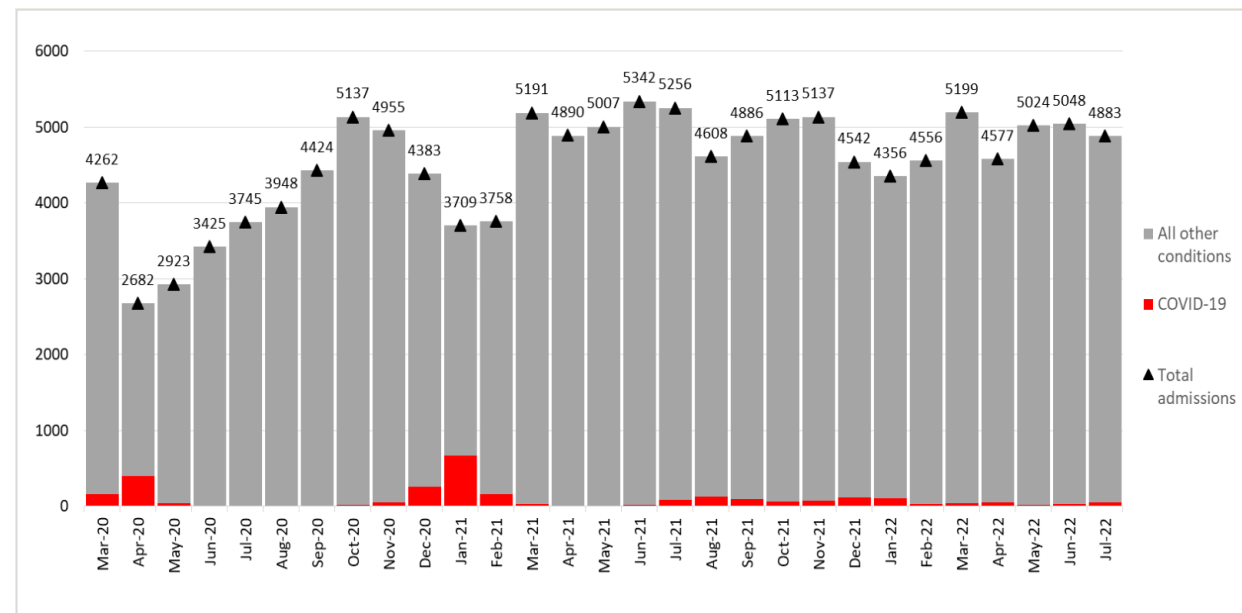


What is happening nationally?

- There have been 20,772,220 cases of COVID-19 in England
- A total of 144,793,337 have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and
- 33,906,503 have received a booster dose
- An estimated 1.9 million people (2.9% of the population) are experiencing self-reported long COVID. Prevalence is greatest for:
 - those of working age
 - women
 - those living in deprived areas

What is happening locally?

- There were almost 105,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lewisham (to end of March 2022)
- Nearly 205,000 Lewisham residents have received at least a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and almost 142,000 have received a Booster dose
- Voices of Lewisham - an engagement platform for residents and stakeholders recommended that there should be recognition of the differential impacts of COVID-19 on residents as consumers, customers and citizens with a view to revisiting how these experiences might redefine Lewisham as a place



Monthly Hospital Admissions at University Hospital Lewisham (Source: NHS Digital/Hospital Episode Statistics)

What needs to be done?

- Closely monitor mental health services, including waiting times
- Promote uptake of preventative healthcare including NHS Health Checks, immunisations and cancer screening
- Provide support to minimize health inequalities particularly in light of the cost-of-living crisis to combat both financial and food insecurity
- Consider development of the local Long COVID service