



# A message from Maddy...



In line with last week's Government announcement, since Monday (22 November) we've been offering Covid-19 boosters to anyone over the age of 40, as well as those aged 16 years and above who have a health condition that puts them at high risk (providing it's at least six months since they had their second dose).

In recent weeks, our hard-working teams have administered a phenomenal 45,000 booster jabs at the York Vaccination Centre as Askham Bar, as well as vaccinating more than 6,500 12 to 15-year-olds here at the site and a further 2,500 12 to 15-year-olds in schools across North Yorkshire. The rural locations of some of the schools we've been visiting makes this a logistically challenging process but, as always, our teams have risen to the challenge.

Nationally, there has been talk of 'saving Christmas' by encouraging everyone eligible for a Covid booster, as well as those who have still not taken up the offer of a first or second dose, to come forward. With this in mind, we've been making a concerted effort to really push boosters and vaccinations again this week and have made thousands of extra appointments available via the booking system.

In addition to this, we're staging a clinic at the University of York this Saturday, from 10am to 6pm, to try to reach the international student population who have not received a vaccination since arriving here to study, as well as any students who are due their second dose. The clinic is for University staff and students only, but we're making both booked and walk-in appointments available to them to try to boost take-up as much as possible.





## More flu vaccinations and NHS Health Checks delivered

In recent weeks, we've also delivered more than 9,000 flu vaccinations and carried out more than 150 appointments with local people as part of the NHS Health Check Service that we're running to help spot the early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and dementia. For more information about our Health Check service, visit the [website](#). Our photograph (above left) shows the sports hall at Burnholme Community College in York after our team had transformed it into a Health Check Clinic in preparation for patients to arrive. These clinics take place at venues across the city, as well as at the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar.

## Don't miss our Light Up event

I'm very much looking forward to our Light Up event, which will take place next Tuesday evening (30 November) from 7pm to 9pm. We'll be lighting up the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar with our official Christmas light switch-on. Our staff and volunteers are all invited along for music from the Salvation Army, as well as street food, mulled wine and refreshments. The Christmas tree and site lights will be turned on at around 7.30pm.

## HSJ Award finalists

I know I speak for all of the staff and volunteers who attended the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards ceremony last Thursday evening in London (pictured left) when I say what a huge honour it was to represent Nimbuscare at such a prestigious, national event.

We were finalists in the 'Community Provider of the Year' category and, although we didn't win on the night, we're still incredibly proud to be considered one of the best community healthcare providers in the country. It's a huge achievement, particularly for such a young but rapidly growing organisation like Nimbuscare. Perhaps even more importantly, it was welcome recognition for our innovative, collaborative and sustainable approach to delivering healthcare services for the people of York.



## The benefits of joint working

**Women's Health Lead for Nimbuscare and Clinical Director at Priory Medical Group, Dr Emma Broughton (pictured left) explains why she believes that working at scale boosts the resilience of general practice and standardises access for patients across the city:**

"Here in York, we have a unique set up, with all practices being part of this alliance; working at scale really is the way forward. We're driving the national campaign to increase the numbers of women who come for cervical screening, focusing collectively on vulnerable groups in particular and understanding the barriers to access.

By working at scale, Nimbuscare has been able to use its Improving Access contract to deliver more convenient appointments for women in the evenings and weekends across the whole of York. Nimbuscare also hosts a Community LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception) Service on behalf of City of York Council's Public Health service, right across the city. This is really improving access to a wide range of contraceptive options for patients close to home and will help reduce unwanted pregnancies.

Working at scale allows for the governance, training and oversight to be managed centrally (and once), allowing practices to get on and deliver the service directly to patients. The York Vaccination Centre has been a real success story for residents and practices alike. Having a single vaccination hub has enabled practices to continue running 'normal' general practice throughout the pandemic, safe in the knowledge that Nimbuscare was running the vaccination programme that's been so key to protecting our population. Although the pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for general practice, working together has played a significant role in ensuring high quality services for our population. Nimbuscare has been able to support practices and the Clinical Commissioning Group with an Operational Pressures Escalation Level (OPEL) programme, whereby any practice facing extreme staffing pressures (such as high sickness/isolation rates during the pandemic) has been supported by Nimbuscare's Improving Access team, ensuring patients have had continued access to primary care and reducing pressure on our local A&E department. Being part of Nimbuscare has been invaluable over the last couple of years. We've worked at scale as local practices in York to deliver services to our patients. It has really helped me in my job as a local GP."

## Dates for your diaries...

Just a quick reminder that next **Wednesday 1 December** Nimbuscare staff will be attending our Team Away Day. Details about the venue and the programme for the day have been circulated.

Then, on the evening of **Friday 3 December**, staff will be coming together for our team Christmas party. Details of the arrangements have been circulated, but if you've not yet given Karina Williams details of your menu choices, please [email](#) her as soon as possible.

The following week, on **Friday 10 December**, we're inviting all our staff and volunteers to sport a festive knit to coincide with Christmas Jumper Day, an annual charity fundraising event in aid of Save The Children. We're suggesting that everyone who takes part makes a donation of £2, all of which will be received by Save The Children. To contribute, simply text TEAMNIMBUS to 70050 and your £2 will be donated. (You'll be billed at £2 plus the standard rate for your text message. By texting TEAMNIMBUS you agree to calls about fundraising appeals, campaigns, events and other ways to support. Include NO PHONE to opt out of calls.)

*Thank you all for your hard work.*

*Please look out for our next newsletter in two weeks' time.*

*In the meantime, please follow us on social media for more news updates by clicking on the links below.*



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