



**South East London**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

**Southwark borough response to winter challenges**  
*January 2022*

# Funds to support the Southwark system over winter

This year significant system wide funds were made available to respond to the dual pressures of winter and the Omicron variant.

Funding	Indicative value (£M)
<p><b>Local care partnership winter funds</b> Additional funds made available by the CCG for local care partnerships to invest</p>	1.0
<p><b>Core winter pressures budget</b> The NHS funding available every year to support systems over winter</p>	0.7
<p><b>Additional social care support</b> An additional allocation of funds by the CCG to local authorities that was match funded by NHS England's London region</p>	1.0
<p><b>GP winter access fund</b> A national scheme to build resilience and support patient access improvements in primary care</p>	8.2 (Across SEL as a whole)
<p><b>COVID-19 hospital discharge support</b> Time-limited funding for care and support costs of people discharged from hospital that has been available throughout the pandemic</p>	2.0

# Additional and extended services

The funding available was used for:

- Support for hospital discharge
- Hospital admission avoidance and primary care resilience
- Strengthening community services

Support for hospital discharge	Hospital admission avoidance and primary care resilience	Strengthening community services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional social work and care brokerage</li> <li>• Voluntary sector support for people leaving hospital</li> <li>• Additional discharge coordinators</li> <li>• Pre and post voluntary sector support for people admitted for elective procedures</li> <li>• Additional occupational therapy</li> <li>• Dispensing pharmacy support</li> <li>• Temporary step-down flats</li> <li>• Additional care home beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary care A&amp;E redirection services</li> <li>• Additional resources for the Extended Primary Care Service (GP hubs)</li> <li>• Additional weekend GP support for care homes to support patients stay in their care home</li> <li>• Support for children and young people with mental health problems attending A&amp;E</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary sector support for children and young people with mental health problems</li> <li>• Additional support for people with learning disabilities and autism</li> <li>• Targeted services for refugees and asylum seekers</li> <li>• Mental wellbeing support and training</li> <li>• Additional resources for safeguarding children and young people</li> </ul>

# Oximetry @home and virtual wards

Additional services were also put in place specifically to support people suffering from COVID-19

## Oximetry @home

This service supports people at home who have been diagnosed with coronavirus and are most at risk of becoming seriously unwell through providing a pulse oximeter to monitor blood oxygen levels remotely. In Southwark this service has been provided by the GP federations and GP practices are linked to the proactive work to case find patients at higher risk of covid and assess for additional care they may require.

## Virtual wards

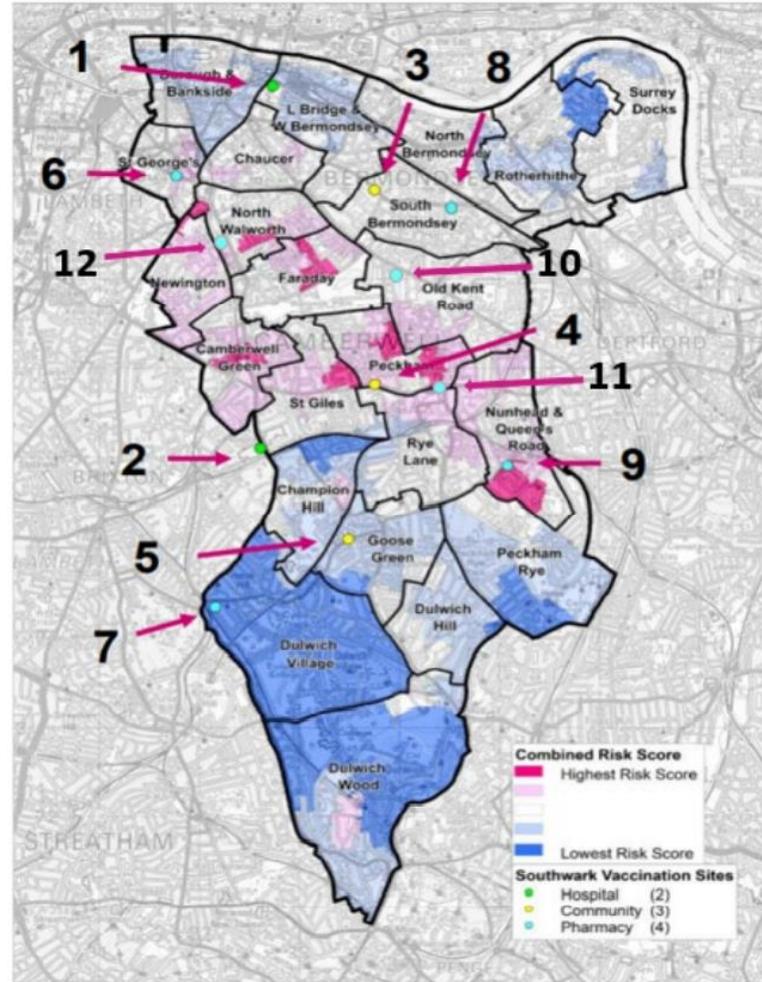
Virtual wards support safe and earlier discharge from of coronavirus patients who have an improving condition but have more complex needs. This service was provided across Lambeth and Southwark by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

# Boosters and evergreen vaccination offer

Across Southwark acute, primary care and pharmacy providers worked hard to meet challenging targets for the booster vaccinations.

The borough continued its communication and engagement work to support people to make decisions about the vaccine. The team is currently working on a hyper-local approach using uptake data to target its approach down to street and estate level.

First, second and booster vaccinations continue to be available to members of Southwark's population yet to take up the offer, this is described as the evergreen offer.



ID	Name	Type
1	GSTT Hub	Hospital
2	KCH Hub	Hospital
3	Artesian Health Centre	LVS
4	Lister Primary Care Centre	LVS
5	Tessa Jowell Health Centre	LVS
6	St Georges Pharmacy	Community pharmacy
7	Fourways Pharmacy	Community pharmacy
8	Medica Pharmacy	Community pharmacy
9	Kristal Pharmacy	Community pharmacy
10	Asda Old Kent Road	Community pharmacy
11	Day Lewis – Peckham	Community pharmacy
12	Walworth Pharmacy (proposed site awaiting sign off from NHSE)	Community pharmacy

## Additional challenges

- High COVID-19 infection rates created challenges in staffing services over the winter periods.
- Care home outbreaks led to many providers having to close to new admissions.
- The pause and resumption of elective recovery plans.
- Deployment of staff.
- Uncertainty about the severity and impact of the omicron variant.