



## Winter Plan 2025/26

The Trust has a range of initiatives within our Timely Care Programme which support the hand over of ambulances, front door admission avoidance, effective ward processes, streamlining discharge, enhancing community care capacity and reducing pressure on hospital beds. While these initiatives focus on improving flow all year, they particularly help with unscheduled care pressures during the winter months.

### Managing Admission

#### Maximizing Ambulance Capacity

- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service direct referral pathway to Acute Care at Home service
- Implementation of Ambulance Off-Load to reduce ambulance handover delays.

**ED Triage Patient Flow Pathway** to reduce time spent in ED.

#### Managing Admissions

Supporting patients to receive the right care in the right place at the right time, our Ambulatory and Same Day Emergency Care Pathways include:

- Urgent Care Centre
- Acute Medical Ambulatory
- Surgical Ambulatory
- Cardiology Ambulatory
- Respiratory Ambulatory
- Frailty Integrated Team

### Improving Patient Flow

#### Effective Ward Processes

Reduce unnecessary time spent in hospital

- Ward rounds with a focus on Home First
- Hospital control room – a centralised hub for managing patient flow
- Discharge Lounge
- Focus to increase discharges at weekend

#### Rapid Access to Diagnostics

Informed decision making, reducing waiting time for treatment and improved health comes

- Bloods
- Scan results

#### In-reach

- Paediatric enhanced medical cover over evenings and weekends.
- Increase of paediatric beds in Blossom and Daisy Hill overnight with additional nursing cover.

### Timely Discharge

#### Simple and Complex Discharges

- Single Discharge Team – Enhance discharge to assess. Approach to the management of simple and complex discharges.
- Early Review Team – to maximise the capacity within Domiciliary Care.

#### Enhanced Community Capacity

- Digitisation of in-house domiciliary care via 'Care Line Live'.
- Maximise core community beds through review of admission criteria.
- Care navigation flow hub approach to coordinate care and better utilise the Independent Sector provision.