



TRUST BOARD / SLT COVER SHEET

	<p>The cover sheet purpose is to provide the Trust Board/Committee with a clear summary of the paper being presented, how it impacts on the people we serve, key matters for attention and the ask of the Trust Board/Committee</p> <p>The Accountable Director must satisfy themselves that the cover sheet is accurate and fully reflects the paper. The expectation is that the Accountable Director has read and agreed the content of both the cover sheet and paper.</p>	
Meeting and Date of meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Trust Board 29th January 2026</p>	
Title of paper	<p style="text-align: center;">Theatre Utilisation (presentation)</p>	
Accountable Director	Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Declan McClements</p>
Report Author	Position	<p style="text-align: center;">Director (Interim) for SCS</p>
This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:	Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Blaithnid Hughes</p>
This paper is presented for:	Email	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blaithnid.hughes@southerntrust.hscni.net</i></p>
This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:	<p style="text-align: center;">Accountability</p>	
This paper is presented for:	<p style="text-align: center;">Assurance <i>(Notes on completion at end of document)</i></p>	
Links to Trust Strategic Priorities 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Collaborative Working</p> <p>Learning Organisation</p> <p>Safety, Quality & Experience</p> <p>Community First</p> <p>Whole-Life Approach</p>

1. Reason for Presentation of Paper / Report

To provide SLT with an up-to-date overview of Theatre utilisation in SHSCT; outlining the commissioned levels of activity, the current uptake of activity; the barriers to maximum performance and the ongoing actions for incremental and sustainable improvement.

2. Detailed summary of paper contents:

Overview of:

- What our theatres provide and where
- Commissioned expectations
- The SPPG-led Support and Intervention Framework (SIF) and the journey of improvement over the last 12 months
- Rationale for under-utilisation
- Nursing workforce issues
- Operator workforce issues
- The difference in Uptake and Utilisation
- SHSCT Run time metrics
- EPIC data confidence levels
- The importance of pre-op assessment
- The way forward

3. Areas of improvement/achievement:

- Presentation will demonstrate gradual and consistent improvement in uptake of theatre lists over the last 12 months - but the journey continues
- Exploration of SIF downgrade
- Recent investment will also be discussed

4. Areas of concern/risk/challenge:

- Not yet meeting SPPG targets for Run time and op time;
- Ongoing workforce challenges, both operator and nursing

5. Impact on Statutory Duties: Provide details on the impact of the following and how.

<i>Financial Impact</i>	<i>Safety and Quality Impact</i>
Yes, there are Financial Impacts	Yes, there are Quality, Safety or Experience Impacts

6. Risk Assessment (Risk level and state if a risk assessment be completed)	
No risk assessment required - SIF and internal scrutiny ongoing	
7. Other Business Intelligence/data (If appropriate)	
EPIC data confidence levels remain LOW for Theatre utilisation at SHSCT and at WHSCT.	
8. Impact: Provide details on the impact of the following and how. If this is N/A you should explain why this is an appropriate response.	
Corporate Risk Register	Theatres is on the SIF.
Board Assurance Framework	
Equality and Human Rights	N/A – no impact

Trust Board Role Fulfilment

Strategy	<i>Papers in this category should address forward-looking priorities, long-term objectives, or service transformation. These are typically focused on shaping the future of the organisation and will often involve decisions on direction, investment, or innovation.</i>
Culture	<i>These papers aim to influence or reflect the values, behaviours, and staff or patient experiences within HSC. They may relate to leadership development, equality, diversity and inclusion, staff engagement, or initiatives intended to reinforce our organisational ethos.</i>
Accountability	<i>Papers falling into this area relate to governance, assurance, performance monitoring, compliance, and risk. They provide evidence that responsibilities are being fulfilled, standards are being met, and corrective actions are being taken where necessary.</i>

Reasons for Paper Presentation

Approval	<i>Used when an item requires a formal agreement or endorsement by the meeting / committee members. Examples are approving minutes, budgets, proposals or policies.</i>
Assurance	<i>Used when an item can be measured against a certain criteria / standard. Examples are a project is on course with delivery or financial targets are being met.</i>
Information	<i>Used when an item is presented for the purpose of updating or informing the attendees without requiring a decision or action, such as reports, updates, or announcements.</i>
Discussion	<i>Used when an item is listed primarily for open discussion, brainstorming or gathering input from the members without requiring an immediate decision.</i>