

## TRUST BOARD COVER SHEET

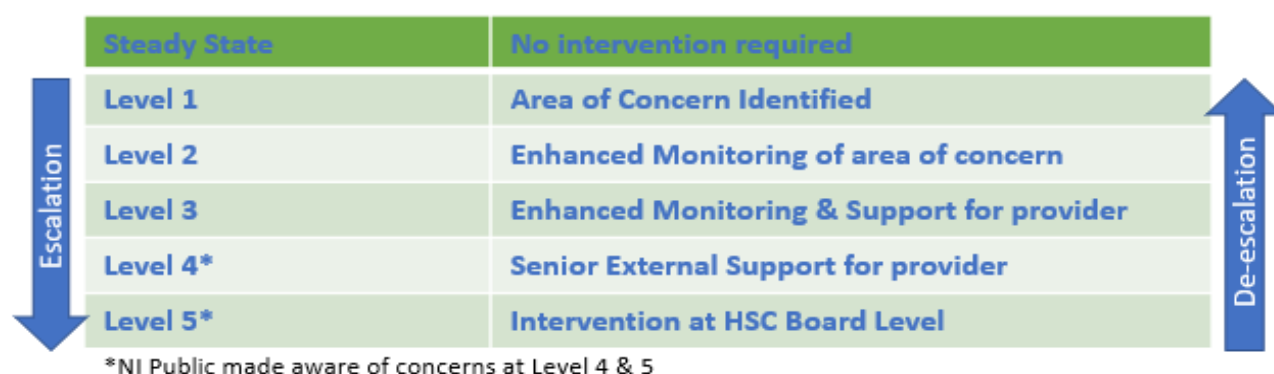
|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                                      | <p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> |                                                 |
| <b>Meeting and Date of meeting</b>                                                                                                    | Trust Board<br>Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                 |
| <b>Title of paper</b>                                                                                                                 | HSC Support & Intervention Framework                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                 |
| <b>Accountable Director</b>                                                                                                           | <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Elaine Wilson                                   |
|                                                                                                                                       | <b>Position</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics |
| <b>Report Author</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Julie Brodison                                  |
|                                                                                                                                       | <b>Email</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Julie.brodison@southerntrust.hscni.net          |
| <b>This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:</b>                                                                                | Accountability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                 |
| <b>This paper is presented for:</b>                                                                                                   | Assurance<br><i>(Notes on completion at end of document)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                 |
| <b>Links to Trust Strategic Priorities</b><br><br> | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Collaborative Working                           |
|                                                                                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Learning Organisation                           |
|                                                                                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Safety, Quality & Experience                    |
|                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Community First                                 |
|                                                                                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Whole-Life Approach                             |

## 1. Reason for Presentation of Paper / Report

The attached paper provides a Trust Board Summary Report on the Trust position in relation to current escalations reported under the HSC Support and Intervention Framework, which is limited to Level 1, 2 and 3 escalations at this time.

## 2. Detailed summary of paper contents:

- The HSC Support and Intervention Framework (SIF) issued to all Trusts at the end of October 2024 sets out the Department of Health's approach for gaining assurance from HSC organisations in relation to the delivery of ministerial priorities and other key deliverables as set out in the Strategic Outcomes Framework (SOF) and associated Systems Oversight Measures (SOMs), and specifically outlines the approach to support and intervention where there are matters of concern that need to be addressed.
- Its intention is to ensure early identification of emerging issues and concerns, so that they can be addressed before they have a material impact or performance deteriorates further. The framework outlines five levels of escalation that provide a model for support and intervention by Department of Health (DoH)/ Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG)/ Public Health Agency (PHA), from Level 1 (Area of Concern Identified) to Level 5 (Intervention at HSC Board level). In monitoring the identified escalation areas, bi-monthly accountability escalation meetings are held between the SPPG and the Trust.
- This paper provides an update on the Trust position in relation to current escalations reported under the SIF, which is limited to Level 1, 2 and 3 escalations at this time.



The current escalations, following the outcome of the most recent bi-monthly accountability escalation meeting with SPPG on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026, are summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – SHSCT Current Areas of Escalation as at April 2026**

| <b>LEVEL 1: AREA OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED</b>                         |                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STSIF25-015                                                        | Waits for Red Flag Breast Assessment                                |
| <b>LEVEL 2: ENHANCED MONITORING OF AREA OF CONCERN</b>             |                                                                     |
| STSIF24-008                                                        | Theatre scheduling and cancellations in DHH (adult and paediatrics) |
| STSIF25-013                                                        | Haematology Services                                                |
| STSIF25-016                                                        | Consultant Psychiatry workforce                                     |
| <b>LEVEL 3: ENHANCED MONITORING &amp; SUPPORT FOR THE PROVIDER</b> |                                                                     |
| STSIF25-011                                                        | Reducing Time Spent in ED for patients (especially > 12 hours)      |
| STSIF25-012                                                        | Ambulance Handover                                                  |
| STSIF25-014                                                        | Gastroenterology Service Pressures and Recovery Planning            |
| <b>LEVEL 4: SENIOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROVIDER</b>           |                                                                     |
| N/A                                                                | None identified                                                     |
| <b>LEVEL 5: INTERVENTION AT HSC BOARD LEVEL</b>                    |                                                                     |
| N/A                                                                | None identified                                                     |

In accordance with the Trust's SIF Reporting Framework the attached paper provides the following for each item of escalation noted above, depending on its current escalation level:

- Level 1 – Identified for information;
- Level 2 – High level assessment; *and*
- Level 3 – Update.

### **3. Areas of improvement/achievement:**

Three positive changes to the escalations since the last Trust Board Update in March 2026 as follows:

- **STSIF24-010 Management of Obstetric Services** – this escalation has now been removed and has been placed onto the SPPG Watching Brief Log. The de-escalation is an acknowledgement of the significant work undertaken by the Trust and the position will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.
- **STSIF24-003 CAH main theatre productivity** – this escalation has been removed in acknowledgement of the significant progress and sustained improvement in CAH theatre activity.
- **STSIF24-008 Theatre scheduling and cancellations in DHH (adult and paediatrics)**  
This escalation has moved from a level 3 to a level 2 following significant improvement work by the Trust to increase the number of theatre sessions delivered on a weekly basis.

### **4. Areas of concern/risk/challenge:**

The attached paper provides an update on current areas of concern which have been escalated on to the HSC Support & Intervention Framework. All areas within the SIF remain areas of concern/risk/challenge and will be monitored closely by the Trust.

| <b>5. Impact on Statutory Duties: Provide details on the impact of the following and how.</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Financial Impact</i></b>                                                                                                                   | <b><i>Safety and Quality Impact</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| No, there are no Financial Impacts                                                                                                               | Yes, there are Quality, Safety or Experience Impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>6. Risk Assessment (Risk level and state if a risk assessment be completed)</b>                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Each service areas is considered in its own right. There is no additional risk assessment required in relation to this update.                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>7. Other Business Intelligence/data (If appropriate)</b>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| N/A                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>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.</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Corporate Risk Register</b>                                                                                                                   | N/A – this is a Summary Update on the Trust’s current areas of escalation under the HSC Support and Intervention Framework, noting that specific areas of escalation may be separately noted on the Corporate Risk Register as is outlined in the attached paper. |
| <b>Board Assurance Framework</b>                                                                                                                 | Finance & Performance Committee and Trust Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Equality and Human Rights</b>                                                                                                                 | N/A - There are no equality / HR implications identified as a result of this paper.                                                                                                                                                                               |

#### **Reasons for Paper Presentation**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assurance</b> | <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> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|