



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you

Chief Executive's Business

Trust Board

Thursday 26 September 2019



19 August 2019 – 13 September 2019

Staff Engagement and visits:

- JNCF Meetings
- Medical Staff Meeting, DHH
- Summer Studentships Presentation
- 'Save our Pledge' – Photo with Young People
- Chief Visits to:
 - ✓ Domiciliary Care Team, Drumalane House, Newry

Trust Representation:

- Chief Executive Meetings
- Transformation Programme Board Meeting
- Digital Shared Services Programme Board
- Southern USC Locality Network Group
- CAWT Review Meeting

Stakeholder Engagement Process:

- Meeting with the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London
- DHH Pathfinder SIG Meeting
- Meeting with NI Audit Office
- Cyber Security Corporate Awareness Session
- Exploiting Technology-Enabled Innovation to Drive Organisational Outcomes Presentation, Chief Executive's Forum
- Meeting with new Lord Mayor & Chief Executive, ABC Council

1. Local / Regional Update:

1.1. Preparations for challenging winter underway

1.2. Winter resilience planning is well underway, in preparation for what is expected to be a challenging period.

1.3. Working closely with regional colleagues, we are focusing on three key areas:

- Avoiding admissions;
- Improving flow; and
- Facilitating discharge.

1.4. Service challenges

1.5. The Trust is managing an increased demand for service, with the highest rate of bed occupancy in Northern Ireland.

1.6. Our population is expected to grow by 7.2% between 2016 and 2024.

1.7. There are significant workforce shortages in key areas: medical, radiology, nursing, AHPs and domiciliary care.

1.8. The impact of increased and emergency and urgent care on our capacity to do planned surgery, resulting in growing waiting lists.

1.9. The impact of funding and workforce on the community care sector.

1.10. Appropriate and timely discharge of patients with complex care requirements.

2. Southern Trust hospital performance – 2018/19

2.1. Acute Beds

- Highest NI occupancy rate - 90.8% of all available beds occupied
- Lowest NI percentage of available beds with 13.3%
- Shortest NI average length of stay with 4.1 days

2.2. Other stats

- Highest number of births in NI and highest number of admissions (12,388) to hospital under the maternity and child health POC

- Highest proportion in NI of non-elective admissions (39.8% of total admissions to acute POC)
- Highest NI day case rate of 88% for elective admissions (acute POC)
- 2nd Highest in NI for total Inpatients & Day Case admissions (109,309)
- 2nd Highest in NI for admissions (3,986) under Elderly Care POC
- 2nd highest in NI for use of operating theatres - 21,961 theatre cases (18.3% of all NI theatre usage)

3. Regional waiting times update

- 3.1. Nearly 300,000 people in Northern Ireland are on a waiting list for a first appointment with a consultant, according to figures from the Department of Health.
- 3.2. A total of 299,436 patients were on a waiting list for a first appointment with a consultant at the end of June. The figures represents a rise of 8.5% over the previous year.
- 3.3. That is 23,500 more than the previous year - a rise of 8.5%.
- 3.4. In June 2019, 138,647 patients in Northern Ireland were waiting for a diagnostic test, with more than half of them waiting longer than nine weeks.
- 3.5. The Department of Health said it "shared the widespread frustration and concern" about hospital waiting times.
- 3.6. It said the backlog was due to financial pressures over several years, with the health budget continuing to face significant pressures.
- 3.7. Figures also reflect the pressure on beds for emergency/urgent hospital admissions, which reduces the capacity to carry out planned procedures.

4. Southern Trust Waiting Times (30 June 2019)

- 4.1. For a First Outpatient Appointment – at 30 June 2019
 - 42,976 patients were waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment
 - 29,965 patients were waiting longer than 9 weeks for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment
 - 10,021 patients were waiting longer than 52 weeks for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment

- 4.2.** For Admission to hospital – at 30 June 2019
- 13,262 patients waiting to be admitted to hospital
 - 8,012 patients waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission
 - 3,030 patients waiting over 52 weeks for inpatient or day case admission
- 4.3.** For a diagnostic test – at 30 June 2019
- 18,488 patients were waiting for a diagnostic test
 - 8,138 patients were waiting more than 9 weeks for a diagnostic test
 - 2,088 patients were waiting more than 26 weeks for a diagnostic test

5. Waiting list validation exercise

- 5.1.** Over 1,860 letters have been sent to patients in the Southern Trust as part of the ongoing waiting list validation exercise (as of 9 Sep 19). The areas validated include; general surgery, Urology, Orthopaedics, ENT and Gastroenterology. The validation exercise is only for patients waiting longer than 52 weeks.
- 5.2.** Patients are sent 2 letters in total and if no response then they are discharged back to the care of their GP. A separate letter is sent to the GP to advise of the situation.

6. Vacant staff posts in Northern Ireland (June 30 2019)

- 6.1.** There were 7,436 vacant empty posts in HSC NI at end of June 2019 - double the amount of jobs since March 2017.
- 6.2.** The overall tally includes key frontline positions such as 2,482 vacant nursing posts, 704 allied health professionals, 654 carers, 454 nursing assistants, 413 social workers, 292 doctors and 120 pharmacists.
- 6.3.** In England, the RCN is launching an advertising campaign to encourage the public to speak up about the impact nurse shortages has on care. Patient safety is at risk due to a shortage of 40,000 nurses in England, according to a new RCN study.
- 6.4.** RCN said the rising rate of hospital admissions is dwarfing the recruitment of extra nurses to the NHS. Its analysis shows that the extra 9,894 nurses

recruited to NHS hospitals since 2013/14 is outstripped by the additional 1,557,074 admissions over the same period.

- 6.5. The RCN is calling for new legislation to ensure accountability for safe nurse staffing at all levels of health and care services in England. It also wants an investment of at least £1 billion in nurse higher education to reverse the declining numbers opting to study nursing.
- 6.6. <https://www.itv.com/news/2019-09-17/patient-care-suffering-due-to-lack-of-nurses>

7. 'Flu vaccination programme

- 7.1. The Trust is urging all staff and in particular frontline staff to protect themselves, their patients, clients and families by getting the flu vaccination.
- 7.2. From 30 September health and social care workers can attend drop-in Flu Vaccination Clinics. Vaccinations will also be available on all wards and Departments to make it more convenient for those staff who have difficulty attending a clinic.

8. ARC Centre break-in

- 8.1. The ARC Centre in Bessbrook was recently broken into and a sum of money and electrical items were taken. Damage was caused to a number of rooms, as well as a greenhouse and a number of outbuildings during the incident.
- 8.2. As a result of the break-in, The Trust was forced to cancel services on one day, disrupting the routine of those suffering from learning difficulties who had been due to attend.
- 8.3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-49514132>

9. "Criminal moratorium" on abortion in NI

- 9.1. There will be a "criminal moratorium" on abortion in NI if no devolved government is formed by 21 October. It comes into effect if the Stormont executive is not restored by 21 October, with regulations required to be in place by the end of March 2020.

9.2. The Northern Ireland Office published a number of reports detailing progress on restoring devolution and other matters - including abortion law review.

9.3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-49595590>

10. Brexit

10.1. The potential impact of Brexit on health and social care continues to attract public attention.

10.2. Operational Readiness Guidance and FAQs have been issued by the Department and are available here:

10.3. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/department-health-ni-eu-exit-operational-readiness-guidance>

10.4. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/eu-exit-frequently-asked-questions>

11. Protect Life 2 strategy

11.1. The Protect Life 2 strategy was launched by the Department of Health. It outlines measures that will be taken to reduce suicide and self-harm in the next five years and examines the importance of working together on prevention.

11.2. Figures from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show that 609 people have taken their own lives here in the two years since Stormont collapsed in early 2017.

11.3. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/action-plan-to-fight-suicide-epidemic-that-claims-a-life-in-northern-ireland-every-day-38481802.html>

12. Health spending

12.1. The public will be given a say in how health services are funded amid ongoing problems caused by "significant" financial pressures.

12.2. With competing demands for extra spending across different parts of the system, the department is to ask members of the public where their

- 12.3. "The department is examining options to facilitate public engagement on budgetary choices. The health service belongs to us all and everyone has a stake in decisions on funding priorities and making the best use of limited resources."
- 12.4. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-public-will-get-a-say-on-health-spending-38448945.html>

13. Derry medical school

- 13.1. In a letter to the chief executive of Derry and Strabane Council, David Sterling (head of the Civil Service) said the business case submitted by the UU makes no provision on funding the medical school from its budget.
- 13.2. Ulster University has previously said it planned to increase student numbers at Magee to 10,000 by 2020 but instead less than half of that are currently enrolled. The UU said it is working with a number of bodies to deliver the medical school.
- 13.3. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/derry-medical-school-not-financially-viable-says-northern-ireland-civil-service-head-sterling-38463618.html>

14. NI Cancer survival rates

- 14.1. A study in the journal Lancet Oncology showed that Northern Ireland is behind the rest of the UK in survival rates for some cancers.
- 14.2. One-year survival rates for stomach, rectal, pancreatic, lung and ovarian cancers are all below the national average, the new figures show. For example, for stomach cancer the Northern Ireland one-year survival rate is 45% compared to the UK rate of 47.4%. For rectal cancer it is 84.9% in the UK and 84.6% here.
- 14.3. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-trails-rest-of-uk-in-cancer-survival-rates-study-reveals-38490147.html>

15. Smoking rates

- 15.1. DOH recently published figures showing that the number of people attempting to stop smoking in Northern Ireland has fallen. In the 12 months to April, 13,860 smokers set a quit date through smoking cessation services - down 1,601 (10%) on the previous year.
- 15.2. It follows a long-term trend with the number of people accessing smoking cessation services declining over the last five years - down from 21,779 in 2014/15. 18% of people in NI smoke - although that figure has dropped from 22% in 2014/15.
- 15.3. The Department published a '10 year tobacco control strategy for Northern Ireland' in 2012. Its overall aim is to create a tobacco-free society.

National / International Update

16. Cancer survival rates

- 16.1. A study in Lancet Oncology has found that cancer survival in the UK is on the up, but is still lagging behind other high-income countries. The UK still performed worse than Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand and Norway.
- 16.2. The research looked at data on nearly four million patients with seven types of cancer - oesophagus, stomach, colon, rectum, pancreas, lung and ovary - from seven high-income countries.
- 16.3. The UK is the worst for key cancers including lung, colon, rectum, stomach and pancreas.
- 16.4. Five-year survival rates for rectal and colon cancer improved the most since 1995, and pancreatic cancer the least. Advances in treatment and surgery are thought to be behind the UK's progress. An NHS England spokeswoman said the report was out of date and pointed to improved survival rates.
- 16.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49661516>

17. Cystic fibrosis drugs

- 17.1. Two "life-changing" cystic fibrosis drugs are to be made available to about 400 patients in Scotland - a month after their use was rejected by the NHS.

- 17.2. Pharmaceutical company Vertex has announced it has signed a five-year deal with the Scottish government. Orkambi and Symkevi were rejected for routine use by NHS Scotland in August. The drugs help improve lung health, but were to cost about £100,000 per patient, per year.
- 17.3. Earlier this year campaigners appealed to the UK government to use its powers to break a deadlock in making Orkambi available on the NHS in England. Vertex refused a £500m offer for the drug over five years - which was described as the "largest commitment" NHS England had ever made.
- 17.4. Those affected want other drug firms to be asked to make a cheaper version. The UK government's Department of Health said its approach was still to urge Vertex to accept NHS England's "generous offer".
- 17.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-49673093>

18. Diabetes cases

- 18.1. A new study suggests that the number of new cases of type 2 diabetes could be stabilising, or even falling. The analysis looked at 47 studies from the mid-1960s up to 2014, mainly from the US and Canada and countries across Europe including the UK.
- 18.2. A third of populations studied between 2006 and 2014 saw a fall in new cases and another third were stable. Studies between 1990 and 2005 showed the number of new cases increased in two-thirds (67%) of populations studied, was stable in 31% and decreased in 2%. But from 2006 to 2014, increases were seen in only a third, with 30% staying stable and 36% declining.
- 18.3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49648646>