

# Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC 20 March 2023 Winter Planning

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# Format

- Background and key aims
- How are we managing Winter pressures together
- Health and social care activity
- Discharge Fund
- Key risks
- Summary

# Background, Key Aims, Current Position

Previously reported to OSC on 21 November 2022

Two types of Winter Plan

➤ Surge – managing increased demand - and Cold Weather

Winter plans developed over the summer and regularly updated with submissions to NHSE and the ICB

Managed by the LADB and daily operational meetings

Key aims

➤ Support the health and wellbeing of the workforce

➤ Safely manage surges in demand for health and care

➤ Safely embed Infection Prevention and Control Principles

➤ Protect elective surgery

➤ Safe and effective discharge

➤ Care for people in the community and avoid admissions

Current position – still in Winter, additional funding since 21 November 2023, fluctuations in Covid and flu



# Health and Social Care Plans 1

## Workforce

- Offered vaccinations and generally good take up
- Additional recruitment and deployment across all Teams
- Increased Bank rates to targeted staff groups
- Wellbeing support available and appreciation initiatives

Surges in demand especially before and during the 4 day Bank Holiday

- Additional bed capacity in acute and community hospitals e.g. 24 beds in Ward 3 UHND and additional capacity in four community hospitals.
- Estate works to using Targeted Investment Funding (TIF) eg SDEC, Theatre Suite, OPD expansion
- Extended hours for urgent care
- Additional staff cover e.g. Front of House ED waiting room staff

# Health and Social Care Plans 2

- Protect Elective Surgery
  - Sustained progress in meeting national targets and Covid follow up e.g. achieved planned move of Orthopaedic Elective activity to BAH
  - Focus on cancer and patient waiting times
  - Range of initiatives to maintain and improve performance
- Effective and safe discharge
  - Partners working together to increase capacity in social care and developing services with providers
  - Additional Social Work staff to support discharge
  - Following national 100 Day Challenge initiatives
  - Investment in transport, pharmacy, Discharge Management Team

# Discharge Fund

- Announced late November 2022 with details available in December 2022
- Initially only available to March 2023 but now each available year
- Some conditions on use linked to freeing up beds and supporting the social care workforce
- Worked as a County Durham Care Partnership to agree priorities and projects to fund
- Projects included support for the social care workforce, designated care home capacity, Community Hospital beds, mental health housing support



# Key Risks

- Shared with OSC on 21 November 2022
- Demand growth beyond model – some periods of sustained pressure
- Workforce availability – generally well managed but continued focus on social care at home
- Industrial Action – managed in partnership with NEAS, staff representatives but still ongoing
- Discharges – sustained at a steady rate over the Winter so far but a continued focus on minimising potential harm due to delays
- Public expectation of the NHS and social care to be “seamless”

# Summary

- Partners working together to prepare for Winter and this has been a real strength in times of increased demand
- Currently in a period of sustained demand and Public Health projections suggest future challenges with Covid and flu
- Additional investment across partners including the NHS, social care and in support for communities been used wisely and well
- Continue to keep patient and staff wellbeing at the forefront of our work
- Still in Winter
- Questions welcome