

County Durham Care Partnership



Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC 19 March 2024

Winter Preparedness

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Partnership



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Format

- Update from 20 November 2024
- Priority areas 2023/24
- Funding 2023/24
- Managing winter pressures together
- Our plans
- Reflections
- Thank you and questions



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Update from 20 November 2024



- Attended OSC 20 November 2024 to present plans for Winter 2023/24
- Plans submitted to the ICB and NHSE for consideration
- Took a whole system approach
- Partners managed winter pressures via the well established LADB with positive relationships
- Recognised challenges linked to ageing and growing population
- Some different issues such as Industrial Action



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Priority areas 2023/24

- Priorities set by Government in letters from Ministers, NHSE and the ICB to all partners
- Priorities for 2023/24
 - Ambulance handovers
 - Waiting times in Emergency Departments
 - Sustaining the elective recovery programme
 - Hospital Discharge
 - Urgent Community Response
 - Admissions avoidance
 - Supporting the social care market
 - Additional data requirements for all partners



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Funding 2023/24

- From the Government with requirements to spend on specific areas and reporting arrangements
- Discharge Fund - £7.5m – only to be spent on additional discharge initiatives – given to Council and ICB as part of the Better Care Fund
- Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) -£4.5m – only to be spent on the social care workforce and providers – given to the Council
- Some Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hub funding
- No additional funding for extra beds in hospitals



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Managing winter pressures together in 2023/24



- System leadership via the LADB chaired by CDDFT Chief Executive
- LADB informal catch up every Monday 8am and formal meetings monthly
- Using data to inform decisions
- Bed meetings in CDDFT 3 times per day
- Transfer of Care Hub meets daily – and more often if needed - to manage discharges
- Council Winter Planning Group met weekly led by Public Health from October to March
- Oversight by and support from the ICB and the regional Urgent and Emergency Care Network



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Our plans 1

- Plans submitted to ICB and NHSE
- We invested the Discharge Fund in
 - Additional 8 staff in Hospital Social Work Team
 - Expanded Discharge Management Team
 - Trusted assessment by Therapists in Community Hospitals
 - Extra GP capacity in the GP Hubs working with Emergency Departments
 - Supported housing for people discharged from acute hospitals
 - NEAS additional ambulances
 - Expanded Urgent Community Response
 - Supporting the voluntary sector
 - Continuous improvement on wards focusing on hospital discharge



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Our plans 2

- We invested the MSIF in
 - Extra Intermediate Care capacity
 - Financial support for the social care workforce
 - Home care capacity
 - Extra social work capacity
 - Training care home staff via The Care Academy
- Council continued Welcome Places, money advice and support to the voluntary sector
- Promotion of vaccination for residents and staff
- Mutual support available if a partner was under pressure e.g. nursing oversight for care homes



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Winter 2023/24

- Increased demand from late November with peaks in early and mid December and post Christmas – very challenging for all partners
- Plans reviewed and changes made to mitigate demand across the health and care system
- Additional bed capacity opened in acute and community hospitals and changed capacity protocols
- Additional primary care capacity in urgent care
- Measures in place to “decompress” Emergency Departments, improve ambulance handover and support workforce
- Additional capacity in care homes
- Additional Hospital Social Work capacity including 7 day working
- Joint work on discharges from mental health beds and crisis response
- Looking after our workforce through enhanced wellbeing initiatives, enhanced payments, vaccination



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Reflections so far

- Still in Winter but more settled position in last few weeks
- Overall very challenging across health and social care
- Demand still high across health and care
- Capacity available in social care
- Some very complex patients in acute beds needing high levels of support to discharge
- Support from ICB and partners to meet the Emergency Department 4 hour target
- Strong and positive working relationships across health and care
- Able to respond quickly together to challenges
- Continued focus on quality of care and wellbeing of the workforce



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Thank you

- Any questions?



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