



Board of Directors – Public

SUMMARY R	EPORT	Meeting Date: Agenda Item:	22 March 2023 8				
Report Title:	Operational Recovery	and Winter Planni	ng				
Author(s):	•	y Director of Strategy and Planning ve Director of Operations and Transformation					
Accountable Director:	Neil Robertson: Execut	ve Director of Opera	tions and Transformation				
Other Meetings presented	Committee/Group	D: None					
to or previously agreed at:	Date	e: N/a					
Key Points	N/a	·					
recommendations to or							
previously agreed at:							

Summary of key points in report

- 1. **Service demand:** Demand levels across most services are in line with pre-covid levels over the medium to longer term. Increased demand is being managed within Memory Services and Sheffield Autism and Neurodevelopmental Services. Recovery Plans are in place.
- 2. **Our winter plan has been implemented well.** The Plan focussed on key risk areas by increasing community support with VCSE partners and addressing long lengths of stay and delayed discharges.
- 3. Adult Social Care Discharge Fund: Has allowed us to test the use of interim discharge beds with two residential care providers. Early results have been positive, and we will explore how to sustain this into next year.
- 4. Our vaccination programme began well, but performance has plateaued through January and **February.** Vaccination uptake rates for Flu have been in line with regional absences and Covid booster update has been below the regional average by c5%
- 5. Services have been resilient through winter: Changes in demand through winter have not been significant and have not impacted upon service continuity. There has been a strong focus on ensuring flow across the urgent care pathway and the position is better this year than last winter, however rates of out of area placements and lengths of stay remain high.
- 6. The impacts from industrial action have been managed well. To date there has not been any impact on service provision and continuity. Strong team and partnership working has been key to achieving this.

Recommendation for the Board/Committee to consider:								
Consider for Action Approval Assurance X Information								
 Recommendation 1: For the Board of Directors to take assurance that we have good plans in place to manage service resilience and continuity. 								

2. **Recommendation 2:** To consider the level of assurance that our approach to our Winter Plan and urgent and emergency care will support the recovery of urgent and emergency care at PLACE.

Please identify which strategic	; priori	ties	will be	e imp	acted by this report:				
	Covid-19 Getting through safely Yes X No								
CQC Getting Back to Good Yes X No									
Transformation – Changing things that will make a difference Yes X No									
Partners	Partnerships – working together to make a bigger impact Yes X No								
Is this report relevant to comp	liance	with	any k	key st	andards ? State	specific st	anda	rd	
Care Quality Commission Fundamental Standards		Standards relating fundamental standards of care and Emergency Planning.							
Data Security and Protection Toolkit	Yes		No	X					
Any other specific standard?	Yes		No	X					
Have these areas been considered? YES/NO				If Yes, what are the imp If no, please explain wh		the ir	npact?		
Service User and Carer Safety and Experience	Yes	X	No		Risk of bringing the viru residential areas, causi	s into inpati			
	M				Risk to safety and patie access to services durin	ng surges &	staff	absence	
Financial (revenue & capital)	Yes	X	No		Increased cost of overti to cover staff absence	me, bank ai	nd ag	ency staff	
					Costs of managing increases services recover has additional Covid funding funding to support impresentational available.	reduced. S is no longe	specif er in p	ic blace. New	
Organisational Development /Workforce	Yes	X	No		Risk of increased staff a the virus or self-isolation		ough	contracting	
					Risk of increased challe staff in sustaining service				
					Plans for expansion of s improvements in line wi forecasts				
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Yes	X	No		See section 4.2				
Legal	Yes	X	No		Breach of regulatory sta our provider licence.	indards and	l cond	ditions of	
Sustainability	Yes	X	No		Service level agile work reduced travel and the programme will focus o	winter vacci	natio	n	

Section 1: Analysis and supporting detail

1.1 Background

Previous reports to the Board of Directors have highlighted how services have recovered from the Covid period. Services have returned to pre-pandemic arrangements while keeping hold of the positive learning from the Covid period. As a result of this our focus has been able to be directed to the core aspects of our strategy.

Recognising the positive progress made this report focuses on operational recovery, and business continuity issues across services, covering the core areas of

- Demand and access challenges
- Service resilience and continuity issues
- Winter planning

1.2 Demand and access

1.2.1 Managing demand across services

As previous reports have noted over the medium to longer term demand levels continues to remain stable and have generally returned to pre-pandemic levels. The exception to this would be Memory Services and Sheffield Autism and Neurodevelopmental Services who have experienced increases, with Recovery Plans in place to manage the services response.

Recovery plans are reported and reviewed by the Quality and Assurance Committee.

APPENDIX 1: Demand and activity overview (Section A & B: Referral and access)

1.2.2 Levels of activity

Activity levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels over the medium to longer term. Most services have returned to pre Covid ways of working and have utilised the learning from working in a global pandemic.

This is evident by the percentage of contacts with service users held face-to-face has recovered and is around 10-15% lower than pre-pandemic levels due to increased use of remote and virtual means of supporting service users.

1.2.3 <u>Pressures through winter</u>

Demand over the winter months has generally remained in line with the usual expected range. Activity levels over October-February remain in line with the longer term expected levels, with a slight increase in the use of the Health Based Place of Safety and a decrease in referrals to the Liaison service in December. Though we did see a slight rise in January in demand, this remains in normal limits.

APPENDIX 1: Demand and activity overview (Section C: Weekly referrals to 8 January 2023)

Flow through our key pathways has been better this winter compared to last winter, reflecting the improved ways of working and focus on escalating potential delays and resolving blockages across the pathway. Flow remains challenging within inpatient services.

This is evident by

- Less 12-hour breaches in A&E for people needing a mental health assessment: there have been 8 breeches between Oct-January, a significant reduction on last winter
- The Health Based Place of Safety has been more accessible: Beds were repurposed for inpatient care needs on 18% of December 2022 and 23% in January, compared to 80% in January 2022.
- Delayed Transfer of Care while reduced in December to c15%, have generally remained at c30% over October, November, and January.
- Rates of Out of Area Placements and Lengths of Stay have remained high through December and January.

1.3 Service continuity and resilience.

- 1.3.1 Previous reports to the Board outlined specific actions and plans being mobilised to respond to and manage specific challenges at this time of year. While the detail is not repeated in this report the Board is advised that the following are in place:
 - Winter Plan: Our Winter Plan has been implemented well, supported by an allocation of £85,500 from SY ICS. Our Plan focussed on the identified risks to inpatient capacity and workforce capacity.

Our Winter Plan was strengthened through the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund and an allocation of £138,000 to the end of March. We have tested the development of Mental health interim discharge beds with two local residential care providers providing interim accommodation and support for inpatients who are experiencing delays in accessing a social care support package.

Given the limited time available to mobilise the additional capacity a small number of patients have been able to access the interim discharge beds, so has not had the impact at this that we expected, and we are reflecting on the next steps for this. However initial feedback is positive and is regarded to work well for the individual patients while delivering the aim of freeing up inpatient capacity. Options to sustain this into 2023/24 are being reviewed.

• Vaccination programme: Has now ended following the launch in October. The programme delivered vaccinations through a clinic-based approach at the Mayfield Suite, Fulwood House, and providing satellite clinics in inpatient and community services. By the end of February 54% of eligible staff had received a Covid booster (North Yorkshire & Humber H rate of 59%) and 57% of eligible staff had received the Flu vaccine (North Yorkshire & Humber rate of 58%).

Uptake of from some of our staff from diverse communities and younger staff was lower this year when compared to the previous year. In term of benchmarking across the region were slightly above average in delivering flu and well above average for the Covid Booster.

- **Industrial action:** Plans have remained in place to ensure SHSC, alongside the Sheffield and SY ICS system, continues to be prepared for industrial action to ensure there is minimal disruption to patient care and emergency services can continue to operate as normal.
- Command structures: The command structure continues to support our readiness and management of risks associated with winter, the potential for further surges of COVID-19, Flu, industrial action and risks to interruption of energy supplies.

1.3.2 Continuity and resilience risks

The following risks to service continuity and resilience are currently being managed through the operational command structures.

- Covid levels may impact on demand and/ or reduce staff capacity.
 - There have been minimal ward closures due to infection outbreaks. This winter there has been 1 ward closure due to covid outbreaks, compared to 6 over the same period of winter of 2021/22
 - No evidence of surge in staff covid absences, with staff covid absence rates lower compared to the previous Winter period. All staff absences due to covid in through winter have been c47% less than the previous year and 62% less for Nursing staff.
- Seasonal winter demands may impact on the available capacity
 - To date there is no evidence of surges in demand due to winter across key urgent care pathways. This reflects in part the levels of demand on services in general and the focussed work to ensure flow across the urgent and emergency care pathways to reduce concentration in demand within stages of the pathway. (Reference Appendix 1, section D)
 - Our Winter Plan has deployed additional capacity via VCSE partners targeted at supporting flow across Recovery Teams and Acute Inpatient Wards and reducing clinically delayed discharge rates.
- Winter sicknesses may reduce staff capacity
 - Winter sicknesses have not had the impact on service continuity across services that they did last winter. Sickness absence rates have remained high at c7% across clinical services for the Quarter 2 and 3 periods and with an increase to 8.3% in January 2023.
 - Vaccination rates for Flu and the Covid booster are significantly below our planned trajectory. Positive performance and increases are reported until December, however as we approached the Christmas period increased uptake plateaued and remained largely static through January and February
 - The campaign focussed on the following activities to deliver further increases by the end of February.
 - Promotion of where and when vaccine clinics are taking place
 - League tables by team for flu and COVID-19
 - Short video to be published of Olayinka Monisola Fadahunsi-

Oluwole, one of our NEDs asking people to take a vaccine

- Developing a target-based plan to promote vaccines until end of February.
- Targeted engagement of younger staff.
- Due to the limited uptake when compared to the previous year, we are holding a tabletop exercise in April 2023, to reflect on the learning and develop our strategy for the next campaign. It is not clear whether a COVID booster will be offered to health and social care staff in the autumn.

APPENDIX 5: Vaccination Programme Performance Dashboard

- Industrial action may impact on services ability to provide accessible and safe care
 - Cross team working has been positive and very strong across SHSC as planned for impacts arising from planned industrial action. This is reflected across different clinical areas and in our planning and communications with our staff side representatives.
 - The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Physiotherapists strikes were well supported by members and impacts on services were minimal and managed well. Services were able to continue as planned in line with our continuity plans and arrangements.
 - At the time of writing the Junior Doctors strike was on its third day, again well supported by members within SHSC. The impacts have been managed effectively and services have been able to continue in line with our continuity plans and arrangements.
 - Contingency plans remain in place

• Energy supply

- Contingency plans in place and to date there have been no incidents and we have continued our programme of emergency generator replacement.

• Effectiveness of our Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response Plans (EPRR)

As part of our EPRR arrangements we have undertaken reviews in key areas to test out our business continuity plans. This is summarised at Appendix 4 and covers the following reviews

- Tabletop exercise on the Yorkshire and Humber Low/Medium Secure Evacuation Plan (September 22)
- Table-top exercise to test Business Continuity Plans across Clinical Services for Industrial action, winter, and Covid-19 (September 22)
- Test of our new Incident Control Centres at Centre Court and reserve at Wardsend Road (October 22)
- Tabletop exercise to test Estates Business Continuity Plan in respect of power outages (December 22)
- Exercise Arctic Willow focussed on response to multiple operational and winter pressures (December 22)

1.6 Looking forward

Key developments going forward will provide opportunities for SHSC to build on its existing plans in respect of ensuring services are resilient.

Key areas of note and opportunities currently will be

- Development of improvement plans across the SY MHLDA Provider Collaborative for Section 136 and Health Based Place of Safety services.
- Strengthening the provision and reach of 24/7 urgent mental health helplines for people across Sheffield as part of the broader ICB plan. Options for this are being progressed in conjunction with Sheffield Children's' Trust.
- The continuation of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund over the next two financial years provides a key opportunity to develop new models of support for people as part of the crisis care pathway.
- The ICB have request draft winter plans by June 23.

Section 2: Risks

2.1 **Impact of winter:** There is a risk that general winter illnesses, while mitigated by our vaccination programme, may impact on staff attendance and reduce the general number of contacts with patients reducing flow through community and crisis care pathways. The Winter Plan is focussed on managing and mitigating these risks through deploying increased capacity and ensuring contingency and escalation plans are in place.

BAF.0024: There is a risk that we will be unable to deliver essential improvements in the quality of care in all services within the agreed time frame to comply with the fundamental standards of care

2.2 **Service demand:** There is a risk that challenges across the crisis care pathway continue for sustained periods of time impacting on access to our services and the broader UEC Pathway. Crisis care services continue to operate under pressure. A range of plans are in place to improve the pathway for service users, address blockages within the pathway and increase capacity and resilience at key access points. Specific additional actions and measures are mobilised as part of our Winter Plan. However sustained pressure on services is expected to remain until the plans have the desired and intended impact.

BAF.0024: There is a risk that we will be unable to deliver essential improvements in the quality of care in all services within the agreed time frame to comply with the fundamental standards of care

2.3 **Business continuity - Industrial action and power supply:** There is a risk that industrial action and/ or power outages disrupts patient care and the ability of critical services to operate as normal. Business continuity plans are in place and our arrangements are being appraised in line with national guidance.

BAF.0024: There is a risk that we will be unable to deliver essential improvements in the quality of care in all services within the agreed time frame to comply with the fundamental standards of care

2.4 **Workforce wellbeing:** There is a risk to staff wellbeing from the sustained impact upon staff of working through the pandemic, managing new needs, working through winter pressures and the impact of restricted workforce numbers. We need to ensure that our plans to support staff wellbeing are reflective of the sustained challenges that we can expect to continue.

BAF0020: There is a risk of failure to enable a paradigm shift in our culture through delivery of the overarching cultural change programme

BAF0013: There is a risk that we fail to identify key cultural and work pressures impacting on staff health and wellbeing and delivery of services

2.5 **Partnership and system working: SHSC** is positively engaged with the city wide command structures. This active approach will ensure cross system working supports a co-ordinated approach.

BAF.0027: There is a risk that engagement with systems partners is ineffective or lacking; caused by weaknesses in partnership relationships or supporting governance arrangements; resulting in a poorer quality of services, missed opportunities and potential costs

Section 3: Assurance

Triangulation

- 3.1 a) Recovery Plans reported to Quality Committee
 - b) Trust wide IPQR reporting through the SHSC performance process, reviewed by service leadership, Board Committees
 - c) SHSC weekly updates on service demand and covid pressures
 - d) National Immunisations Management System (NIMS) provides nationally validated information regarding uptake on Covid and Flu vaccine uptake
 - e) Major Incident Control structure of Gold (Strategic), Silver (Tactical) and Bronze (operational)
 - f) Service visits by the Board and the Executive.

Section 4: Implications

4.1 Strategic Aims and Board Assurance Framework

Implications and risks are highlighted in the above sections.

4.2 Equalities, diversity and inclusion

It is important to note that the Global Pandemic has further worsened the inequalities experienced by some communities, making some services more difficult to access due to digital poverty and worsening social determinants that can impact on mental health.

Investments through the Mental health Investment Standard and Spending Review Funding are focussed on key service area across homeless, drugs and alcohol, community mental health and crisis care services. This brings significant opportunity to ensure we design our services in line with the NHS Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy We need to develop our data sets to ensure we understand, monitor and take necessary action regarding access, experience and outcomes. Supporting performance related information in respect of access and waiting times and protective characteristics is being produced to ensure access is understood in respect of equalities, diversity and inclusion.

The Inclusion and Equality Group has been established which will provide the leadership and governance for the Trust developments of the design and implementation of the Patient and Carer Race Equalities Framework (PCREF). As part of the wider Trust developments, the design and implementation of the Patient and Carer Race Equalities Framework (PCREF), will provide a framework to examine what we change through an anti-discriminatory lens and ensure check and challenge is embed in the process to prevent racialised and discriminatory practice.

At the centre of redesign will be the aligned to the new Clinical and Social Care Strategy, which is committed to addressing inequality. Our developing partnerships, especially with the VCS, will be critical to ensuring we get our service offer right for the communities we serve.

Recognising the above risks for our service users proactive measures are in place to raise awareness, promote opportunities and encourage service users to get vaccinated. Vaccines are offered to all our inpatients and services are reaching out to service users in the community, with specific efforts to reach and support people with a learning disability.

We also need to pay attention to the groups of people who are more likely to be vaccine hesitant and understand the hesitancy in order that information and support is culturally sensitive.

4.3 Culture and People

There is a sustained impact upon staff of working through the pandemic, managing new needs, working through winter pressures and the impact of restricted workforce numbers. We should ensure that our plans to support staff wellbeing are reflective of the sustained challenges.

4.4 Integration and system thinking

Effective joint working is demonstrated through the development of the winter plan and the urgent and emergency care plan for Sheffield. This provides good opportunities to continue building integrated approaches on a multi-agency basis. As plans have been mobilised to increase capacity these have been done in conjunction with partners from across the VCSE.

4.5 Financial

None highlighted directly through this report in respect of recommendations and decisions. The Contract governance processes between the Trust and Sheffield CCG ensure that the financial plan is aligned with the delivery plan in respect of additional in-year investments.

4.6 Sustainable development and climate change adaptation

Following the learning from the Global Pandemic, SHSC has learnt from how it delivers services in an agile manner. This means that we do not necessarily need to work with "everybody in the office" and that services can be delivered through different platforms.

Services have developed and adopted Agile Working Plans. The Plan reflects effective use of workforce time to optimise efficiency and work wellbeing.

4.7 Compliance - Legal/Regulatory

Continuing to follow the guidance will ensure compliance with our constitutional rules and regulatory requirements.

Section 5: List of Appendices

- APPENDIX 1: Demand and activity overview
- APPENDIX 2: Urgent and emergency care dashboard
- APPENDIX 3: Vaccination Programme Performance Dashboard
- APPENDIX 4: Review of our Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response Plans

APPENDIX 1: Demand and activity overview (ending January 2023)

A) Referrals

Key messages: Referral numbers generally haven't increased, are in line with or below pre-covid levels. SAANs and memory Services have experienced increasing demand over the last two years. The Health Inclusion Team has seen an increase in referral numbers over the last few months.

Back to Contents

Responsive | Access & Demand | Referrals

Referrals		Jan-23							
Acute & Community Directorate Service	n	mean	SPC variation	Note					
SPA/EWS	693	<u>696</u>	•••						
АМНР	140	145	•••						
Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment	934	Treatment T limitations o	In February 2022, 5 teams merged to create the Crisis Resolution & Home Treatment Team (4 Adult Home Treatment Teams & Out of Hours). Due to the limitations of reporting from Insight, we require the RiO implementation to get accurate data.						
Liaison Psychiatry	535	485	•••						
Decisions Unit	58	56	•••						
S136 HBPOS	42	35	•••						
Recovery Service North	27	23	•••						
Recovery Service South	32	23	•••						
Early Intervention in Psychosis	38	39	•••						
Memory Service	112	128	•••						
ОА СМНТ	273	254	•••						
OA Home Treatment	27	26	•••						

Referrals		Jan-23		
Rehab & Specialist Service	n	mean	SPC variation	Note
CERT	0	3	• L •	
SCFT	1	2	•••	
CLDT	67	55	•••	CLDT figures represent distinct individuals so does not include multiple referrals per service user.
CISS	2	3	•••	
Psychotherapy Screening (SPS)	62	47	•••	
Gender ID	47	43	•••	
STEP	122	<i>99</i>	•••	
Eating Disorders Service	37	34	•••	
SAANS	444	385	• H •	Demand into the system is unsustainable due to poorly defined system wide neurodiversity pathway. Paper presented to Board and options being explored alongside stakeholders.
R&S	17	19	•••	
Perinatal MH Service (Sheffield)	52	49	•••	
HAST	16	16	•••	
HAST - Changing Futures	4			
Health Inclusion Team	158	150	• H •	Recovery plan being developed.
LTNC	272	114	• H •	Recovery plan is being developed alongside work to validate data.
ME/CFS Long Covid	39	91	• L •	
ME/CFS	129	276	• L •	

Integrated Performance & Quality Report | January 2023

Q

Page 4

B) Referrals, waiting times and caseloads

Key messages: While demand (new referrals) has remained settled, some services are experiencing access challenges (high numbers waiting + long waiting times) and high caseload

Bockete Contents Responsive Access & Demand Community Services												
January 2023	Number on wait list at month end			Average wait time referral to assessment for those assessed in month			Average wait time referral to first treatment contact for those 'treated' in month			Total number open to Service		
	Waiting List		Average Waiting Time (RtA) in weeks			Average Waiting Time (RtT) in weeks			Caseload			
Acute & Community Services	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation
SPA/EWS	483	786	• L •	31.3	28.0	• H •	7.4	9.9		695	1076	• L •
MH Recovery North	86	71	• H •	13.6	8.5	• H •	3.9	10.6	•••	922	960	• L •
MH Recovery South	90	68	• H •	21.3	10.4	• H •	13.4	11.2		1060	1078	• L •
Recovery Service TOTAL	176	141	• H •		N/A		N/A			1982	2038	• L •
Early Intervention in Psychosis	46	24	• H •		N/A					290	338	• L •
Memory Service	1021	643	• H •	39.5	22.3	• H •	43.6	30.6	• H •	4501	4283	• H •
OA CMHT	205	154	• H •	7.3	6.9	• H •	9.9	10.3	• L •	1341	1256	• H •
OA Home Treatment	N/A		N/A		N/A			69	64			
Rehab & Specialist Services	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation	n	mean	SPC variation
SPS - MAPPS	66	68		16.6	20.9	•••	115.4	76.4		338	314	• H •
SPS - PD	48	41		14.4	20.8	•L•	33.2	67.0		197	191	
Gender ID	1978	1598	• H •	143.9	118.7	•••				2787	2393	• H •
STEP	178	106	• H •		N/A					423	400	•••
Eating Disorders	29	32	•••	4.6	4.9	• L •				215	220	
SAANS	6520	4724	• H •	72.5	95.1	• L •				6523	5333	• H •
R&S	99	177	•L•	61.5	84.2	•••		N/A		154	226	• L •
Perinatal MH Service (Sheffield)	32	25	•••	2.4	3.2	•••		N/A		143	141	
HAST	22	30	• L •	6.2	11.6	•••				75	82	•••
Health Inclusion Team	626	248	• H •	8.8	9.0	•••				1549		
LTNC	787	629	• H •		N/A						N/A	
				21.0	15.0	• H •				1469		
CFS/ME		N/A		21.0	15.6	0110				1405		
CLDT	147	183	•L•	9.6	13.3	• L •	18.4	20.8	•L•	740	751	•1•
	147	<u> </u>	•L•				18.4	20.8	•L•		751 28	•L• •L•
CLDT	147 0 1	183	•L•				18.4	20.8 N/A	•L•	740		

Narrative

There are still increasing waits and high numbers of service users on service caseloads (the number of open episodes of care to our community teams). Recovery Plans are in place for the services experiencing the biggest issues although these aren't currently leading to improvement.

Significant reduction in number of people on SPA/EWS wait list.

Integrated Performance & Quality Report January 2023	Q Page 5
--	----------

C) Weekly referral rates: to end of January 2023

Key messages: Referrals over the November- December period have generally remained in line with the rest of the year.

Single point of access

Duty team

AMHP

183

173

163

153

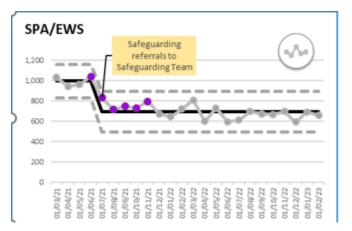
143 133

123 113 103

/03/21

5

/11/21 /12/21 /01/22 /03/22 /03/22



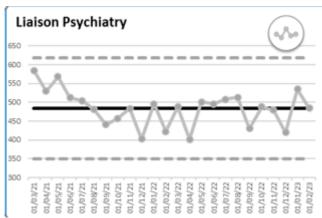
20

01/11/22 01/12/22 01/01/23

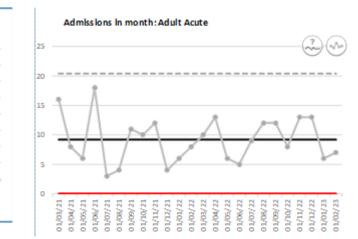
02/

01/08/22 01/09/22 01/10/22

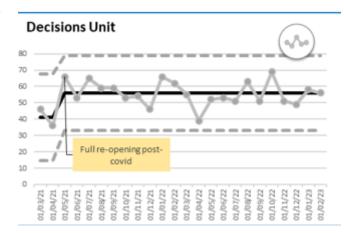
Liasion



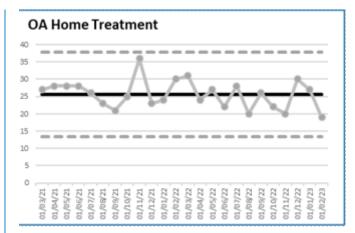
Adult acute admissions



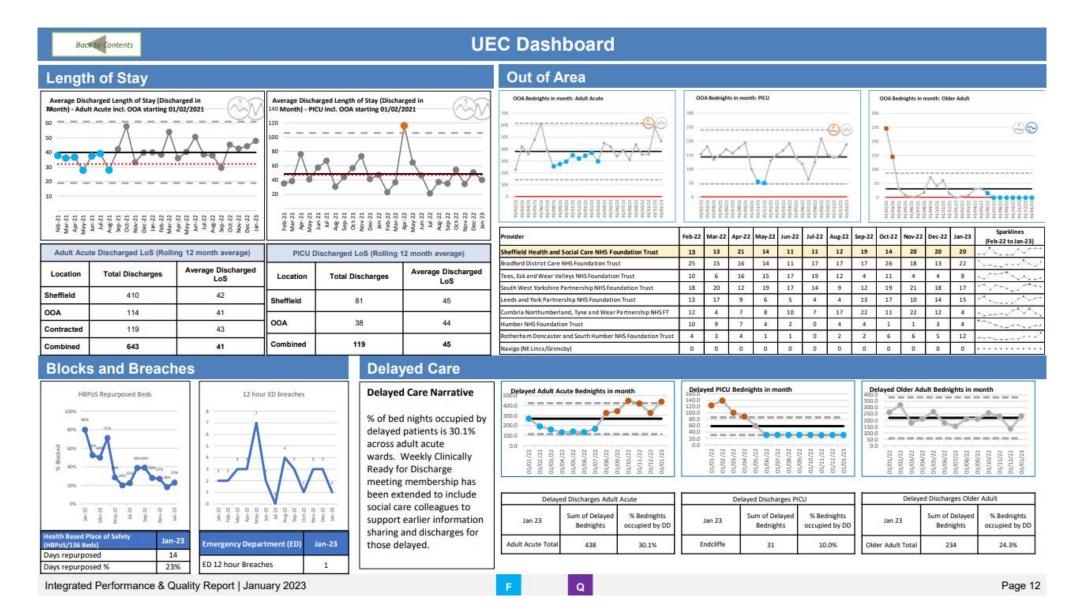
Decisions unit



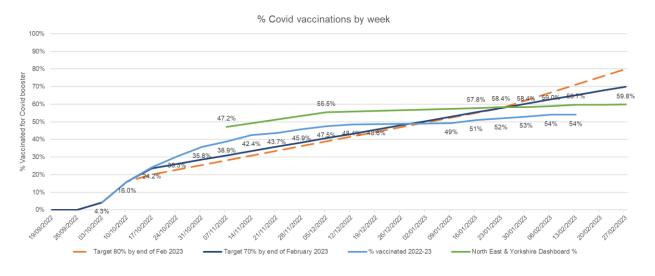
Older adult home treatment



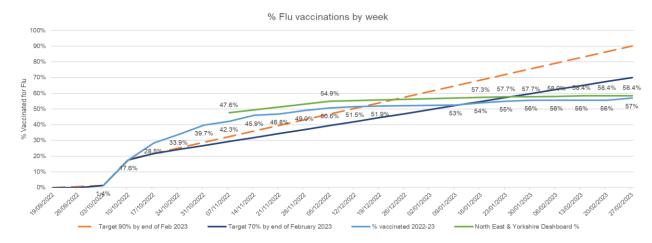
APPENDIX 2: Urgent and emergency care (ending January 2023)



Covid update and trajectory



Flu update and trajectory



APPENDIX 4: Review of our Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response Plans

Recent exercises

1. 5th September 2022 - Tabletop exercise on the Yorkshire and Humber Low/Medium Secure Evacuation Plan.

This was a multi-agency exercise with mental health trust partners across the Yorkshire and Humber region, to test the newly draft plan. It was facilitated by NHS England who are incorporating the learning into a final version for sign off by Trust AEO's who will be party to it.

The exercise highlighted the challenges all trusts face in supporting an evacuation when they are usually full, with NHS England recognising the plan needs to align with plans in other regions, as the likelihood is that such an incident is likely to require national input.

2. 19th October 2022 - Test of our new Incident Control Centres at Centre Court and reserve at Wardsend Road.

With the move from Fulwood House and the reserve at Michael Carlisle Centre reconfigured for other uses, new Incident Control Centres were identified at Centre Court and Wardsend Road. This exercise, carried out with IMST involved setting up the rooms and testing the equipment. It was found that the Yealink phone system is no longer fit for purpose and a new system is being purchased by IT for both rooms. These act as a backup in the event of phone loss through our computer systems.

3. 23rd September 2022 - Table-top exercise to test Business Continuity Plans across Clinical Services for Industrial action, winter, and Covid-19.

This exercise involving General managers, Clinical Leads, Heads of Service and Senior Head of Service worked through a scenario of increasing staff absence though illness, adverse weather and Industrial action, leading to severe pressures on maintaining critical services. It invoked a discussion that led to a revision of all minimum safe staffing levels across the services during November and December 2022, which has proved invaluable in preparations for the Industrial Action presently taking place.

These minimum safe staffing levels are being incorporated into reviews of Team/Service Business Continuity Plans as they become due for 2023.

4. 1st December 2022 – Tabletop exercise to test Estates Business Continuity Plan in respect of power outages.

The scenario was a complete power outage, referred to by energy companies as a 'Black Start' whereby the whole UK infrastructure is thrown into darkness and power gradually restored through priority areas and load blocks. The exercise demonstrated both the measures in place through generators and the gaps, resulting in a re-write of their plan and improved contingency arrangements to respond and engage with partners.

5. Exercise Arctic Willow 29th November to 1st December 2022

This was a national exercise run by NHS England across all areas of health, facilitated by ICB's who fed back into NHS England regional offices.

Working jointly with our local health partners, the purpose was to explore the health response to multiple operational and winter pressures and the interdependencies with local resilience forum partners in responding to these pressures.

It was predominantly an opportunity to assess the EPRR arrangements of recently formed ICB's as a Category 1 responder.

The exercise demonstrated that Trusts adopted similar ways of working through the scenarios, how mutual aid could support where appropriate and available, and highlighted a few business continuity issues for ICB's to address in respect of wider engagement with their LRF partners and neighbouring ICB's.