



Paper No. SET/03/21	
	Tick One ✓
For discussion	✓
For approval	
For information/noting	

Date of Trust Board Meeting: 27 January 2021

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda item: SET/03/21 Performance supplementary paper

1.0 Introduction

This paper provides a high level overview of the impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Trust’s Performance as outlined in the Scorecard. It is reassuring that performance remains constant across many areas despite the challenges of COVID-19. This paper will highlight the areas of greatest impact.

2.0 Background information

Since March 2020 COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact on HSC services across the Trust when many services had to suspend / reduce normal service including many elective procedures.

In July 2020 the South Eastern commenced the restart of normal service as part of the regionally agreed HSC Rebuild Plans.

A 2nd surge of COVID-19 began in September 2020, but the Trust was able to maintain progress of rebuilding services during this surge.

Late December 2020 a 3rd surge of COVID began. There has been significant growth in the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 positive results in surge 3 compared to the previous two surges. In surge 1 43 in-patients were COVID-19 positive on 10 April 2020 with 73 inpatients on 22 October in surge 2 peak. On 18 January there were 107 inpatients with COVID-19 positive results.

3.0 Impact on Performance

Services endeavour to continue toward rebuilding services in line with regionally agreed targets, with virtual contacts employed where possible to assist in continuing to deliver safe and effective services. There are ongoing pressures in relation to staff vacancies and absence as a result of COVID-19, which will impact on ability to meet these targets.

Hospital Services

Unscheduled Care attendances at our Emergency Departments remain lower than we would expect for this time of year, however, 12 hr breaches remain high. The main reason for a delay is due to availability of an inpatient bed. This is exacerbated by COVID-19 outbreaks in Wards, resulting in the need to isolate patients in bays and staff absence. This reduces available bed capacity.

From 11 January 2021 all *outpatient appointments* across all sites have been cancelled. The Trust remains concerned regarding the impact this will have on both red flag, urgent and routine waiting lists. The Trust is currently investigating the potential to utilise an independent provider to facilitate urgent red flag outpatient appointments on Saturdays commencing in February 2021.

The Trust continues to deliver *elective* P1 and P2 procedures (life threatening and those required to be undertaken within 4 weeks); these are mainly urgent cancer operations, for example, Breast, colorectal and urology. The Trust continues to support the Southern and Belfast Trusts with their procedures also on a case by case basis, subject to both ICU and inpatient bed capacity.

Minimal *cancer* operations have been cancelled (c.2%). A Trust dedicated group has been established to closely track the 192 patients with a confirmed cancer diagnosis.

Downe Day Procedure Unit activity has been paused since 11 January 2021 to permit staff redeployment to support the care of inpatients with COVID-19. However, the *Day Procedure Unit* at Lagan Valley Hospital remains open, however is operating a reduced number of theatre lists with a priority on diagnostic cancer work for the region.

Endoscopy services have been temporarily paused from 11 January 2021 to facilitate staff redeployment as above.

Diagnostic Imaging services continues as normal.

Fracture performance remains strong with 72% completed in 48hrs and 100% within 7 days.

Adult Services

Inpatients: Out of Trust referrals for Acute Mental Health wards remain paused but the service is supporting other Trusts on a case by case basis.

Outpatients: There has been a decline in Adult Mental Health Services waits longer than 9 weeks to facilitate staff redeployment to inpatient wards.

Healthcare in Prisons Addiction Services – service demand far outweighs capacity which presents a challenge in terms of continuing to meet people's needs within agreed timescales. Pressures exist in community services which means people are already often waiting significant periods of time at the point of committal. Healthcare in Prisons continue to work closely with Northern Ireland Prison

Service (NIPS) to keep people safe, with exceptional outcomes to date.

Children's Services

In relation to *short-breaks* provision, the plan is to recommence this in February 2021 dependant on levels of community transmission and will be risk assessed before commencement.

The Children's Directorate is leading an improvement initiative to reduce the number of *unallocated* cases which has grown in recent months.

Primary Care and Older People Services

The *Orthopaedic ICAT's* service has received money for waiting list initiative, to assist with referrals of South Eastern Trust patients, who are waiting on Belfast Trust orthopaedic waiting list (patients being referred for spinal issues, upper limb and hands). This has impacted the ICAT waiting list performance negatively as all of the referrals were repatriated at the one time from Belfast Trust. It is expected that these referrals will be completed by end of March 2021.

4.0 Recommendation/s for the Trust Board (please state if the paper/s is for information/noting or for approval by Board members)

Trust Board to Note:

- The ongoing challenges to performance during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Lead Director: Roisin Coulter

Designation: Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics

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