

WINTER PLAN

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

2023/24 :Overview

The Plan is based around three regional high impact areas:

- **Maximising ambulance capacity**
- **Reducing time spent by patients in emergency departments awaiting clinical decision and next stage of care**
- **Timely hospital discharge for patients who are medically fit for discharge.**

The Plan also sets out the key enablers to help us deliver, including our staff health and wellbeing, surge / industrial action preparations and comprehensive local and regional oversight arrangements.



Western Health
and Social Care Trust

Regional Priorities

Regional Priorities

Maximise Ambulance Capacity

- Work with NIAS to support ambulance handover, enhanced coordination and smoother patient transfer
- Maximise ambulatory pathways to reduce need for ED attendance and admissions
- More effective use of community services / pathways to maintain people safely at home
- Weekly rapid access frailty clinics at both hospitals.

Reduce Time Spent in ED

- Implement Minor Injuries Unit at Altnagelvin Hospital
- Consolidate acute hospital site coordination hubs to manage patient flow
- Mental Health Liaison team support for patients in ED where required
- Implement agreed ED staffing resilience plan.

Timely Hospital Discharge

- Coordinated approach to patient discharge including best use of discharge lounge
- Enhanced independent sector care home oversight arrangements
- Enhance access to intermediate care beds and EMI placements
- Maximise Domiciliary Care provision
- AHP focus on supporting discharge and hospital flow.

Regional Priorities

Protect Elective Capacity

- Focus on meeting HSC Service Delivery Plan targets and associated recovery plans
- Explore hospital capacity and capability to maintain elective inpatient services
- Build on dedicated elective day care & overnight stay models at Omagh & South West Acute Hospitals
- Maximise theatre capacity
- Maximise available funding for waiting list activity making full use of independent sector providers
- Continued regional clinical prioritisation to ensure equity of access to elective capacity.

Protect Staff Health & Wellbeing

- Occupational health targeted sickness absence support
- Trust health and well being programmes
- Ongoing senior management visibility
- Timely recruitment to minimise vacancies
- Improve uptake of flu and COVID vaccines.

Surge Preparation

- Implement Trust Surge plans & business continuity arrangements including flexible staff working and Infection Prevention & Control measures
- Implement COVID-19 booster / vaccination programme.

Industrial Action Preparation

- Enhanced command & control arrangements / Industrial Action Working Group in place
- Updated business continuity plans and action cards
- Ongoing engagement with Trades Unions
- Communication with staff, public and key stakeholders.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Enhanced monitoring and oversight at all levels
- Support implementation of escalation process and service continuity plans
- Work with Regional Coordination Centre to minimise disruption to patients.

Key Enablers