

**Trust Board – 6 January 2022**  
**Chief Executive’s Report**

<p>1.</p>	<p><b><u>General Pressure on Services</u></b></p> <p>In recent days there has been unprecedented pressure across all programmes of care/services in the Trust.</p> <p>On 4 January we had 45 patients in Altnagelvin waiting to be admitted to a bed. Whilst this reduced to 38 yesterday, both figures are extremely concerning. In South West Acute Hospital, these were 29 on Tuesday, reducing to 15 yesterday, again significant levels of pressure.</p> <p>This week we have 51 Covid positive patients in Altnagelvin and 27 in SWAH.</p> <p>As an organisation we have continued our Silver Command business continuity arrangements throughout the holiday period.</p> <p>The Western area has been experiencing the highest level of Covid positive cases in the community in recent days. The most recent figures are 4,453 per 100,000 in Derry/Strabane, and 3,598 in Fermanagh/Omagh Council area. These figures are well above NI averages. This is a major concern to us as it is likely to lead to hospitalisations over the next number of weeks in hospitals that are already above capacity.</p> <p>I would again asked our public to do the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help us with discharge – if we can’t offer the package of care or placement preferred, please work with us to support timely discharge. An acute hospital is not the best location if you are medically fit for discharge. We will ensure no patients are disadvantaged by this – either financially or in access to packages of care.</li> <li>• If you have not already received all vaccinations, please do so now.</li> <li>• Please adhere to social distancing, mask wearing, ventilation and hand hygiene to limit the spread of Covid.</li> </ul>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b><u>Other Services</u></b></p> <p>There is the potential that acute hospitals dominate discussions. The majority of our services have been severely impacted by Omicron.</p> <p>From children’s services to mental health and disability, we have been identifying contingency plans to try to sustain services.</p>

	<p>Private nursing homes are experiencing significant outbreaks over the last few weeks, many linked to staff contracting Covid. Likewise, in our domiciliary care providers, up to 19% absence levels have been experienced, leading to reduced service.</p> <p>In respect of the impact of all of the above, within acute hospitals or other services, I want to apologise if our service is not to the standard we would expect.</p> <p>I want to commend all the staff who have been sustaining our services in recent times, through very trying circumstances.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Vaccination Update</u></b></p> <p>As Minister has said, the risk of getting Covid has never been higher, however it is clear that double vaccination, with booster is the best protection against the Omicron variant of Covid. We again urge everyone to have a booster vaccination at one of our Vaccination Centres.</p> <p>The Mass Vaccination Centres delivered 22,936 vaccinations in the 4 weeks to 28 December 2021, 18,264 booster doses, 1,882 first doses, and 2,676 second doses and 114 third primary doses to severely immunosuppressed individuals.</p> <p>This gives a total vaccine delivery of over 300,000.</p> <p>In addition to our MVCs, our District Nursing Teams have delivered 1,464 vaccines to vulnerable individuals confined to their home (on referral from GP). Also, the schools programme delivered 7,655 vaccines.</p> <p>It is worth noting, however that bookings are reducing.</p> <p>The team have organised 3 mobile vaccination clinics as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, 5 January 4 pm – 8 pm – Roe Valley Leisure Centre;</li> <li>• Tuesday, 11 January 4 pm – 8 pm – Shantallow Community Centre;</li> <li>• Thursday, 13 January 4 pm – 8 pm– Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre</li> </ul> <p>Our Mass Vaccination Centres continue to offer bookings and the opening times are as follows:-</p>

	<p><b>Foyle Arena</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="333 304 1385 495"> <tr> <td>Tuesday, 4 January</td> <td>12 pm – 8 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday, 5 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday, 6 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, 7 January</td> <td>9 am – 8 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, 9 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Lakeland Forum</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="333 607 1385 757"> <tr> <td>Wednesday, 5 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday, 6 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, 7 January</td> <td>9 am – 8 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, 8 January</td> <td>9 am – 5 pm</td> </tr> </table>	Tuesday, 4 January	12 pm – 8 pm	Wednesday, 5 January	9 am – 5 pm	Thursday, 6 January	9 am – 5 pm	Friday, 7 January	9 am – 8 pm	Sunday, 9 January	9 am – 5 pm	Wednesday, 5 January	9 am – 5 pm	Thursday, 6 January	9 am – 5 pm	Friday, 7 January	9 am – 8 pm	Saturday, 8 January	9 am – 5 pm
Tuesday, 4 January	12 pm – 8 pm																		
Wednesday, 5 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
Thursday, 6 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
Friday, 7 January	9 am – 8 pm																		
Sunday, 9 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
Wednesday, 5 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
Thursday, 6 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
Friday, 7 January	9 am – 8 pm																		
Saturday, 8 January	9 am – 5 pm																		
4.	<p><b><u>Visiting</u></b></p> <p>In Christmas week, the Trust made the decision to further restrict visiting to exceptional circumstances only across its facilities.</p> <p>This decision was based on a number of factors:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High levels of Omicron in the community (initially evidenced by significant increase in PCR demand, then evidenced by PHA data);</li> <li>• Evidence from Infection Control and Prevention staff of cross infection of patients from relatives/visitors;</li> <li>• Significant deficits of staffing to maximise the visiting process.</li> </ul> <p>This decision was again reviewed on 5 January 2022. We had hoped to ease restrictions however with community transmission at unprecedented levels, this would not be appropriate at this time.</p> <p>We recognise the difficulties this decision has created for patients and their families and apologise for this. We will keep this under regular review.</p>																		
5.	<p>On behalf of CMT and everyone in the Trust, I want to congratulate Sister Liz Buchanan, Ward 26 Respiratory, Altnagelvin Hospital, on receipt of a MBE in the New Year's Honours List. This is a great recognition for Sister Buchanan and all the team, particularly during the pandemic period.</p>																		

Congratulations also to Carmel Green, an Occupational Therapist, who has received the Brain Charity Outstanding Healthcare Professional Award for 2021.

Finally, I want to congratulate all those nominated in the recent Nursing, Midwifery and AHP Recognition Awards and the Social Work Awards. It was great to hear so many examples of staff whose dedication, commitment and professionalism had made such significant impact on patients and clients and the services we provide.