



Meeting Details	Trust Board – 2 November 2023
Director	Teresa Molloy, Director of Performance & Service Improvement
Topic	Briefing – 2023/24 Winter Planning
Purpose of Briefing:	To provide an update on the Regional and Local winter planning work to date.
Preparation and scrutiny	<p>DoH have led on the development of a Regional Winter Plan and associated communication to the wider public.</p> <p>We submitted the Western Trust Winter Plan to DoH in early September 2023, and participated in a formal review session with DoH SPPG and external experts on 12 September 2023. Based on comments received, a revised Plan was submitted on 15 September 2023.</p> <p>DoH held the Winter Summit on 4 October 2023, which primarily focussed on communicating the system approach to winter to the public, across all areas of Health and Social Care.</p>
Publications and communication	<p>Final regional Winter Plan has been issued by DoH after the Winter Summit (Enclosure 1).</p> <p>It was agreed by PTEB that Trusts would prepare Winter Plans but that these would be put into the public domain by Trusts themselves using their normal communication channels. The Western Trust's summary Winter Plan has been published on the Trust's website (Enclosure 2).</p>
Risks and Issues	<p>There are a number of acknowledged risks and issues which we have been transparent with SPPG on. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SPPG have made a range of investments as part of the No More Silos programme, and this has totalled £6.5M in the Western Trust. These investments are focussed on the “entry” points for unscheduled care patients in our system, and include Phone First, rapid access to specialty advice, and ambulatory care in our hospitals.2. Over and above this, there has been no additional financial support for winter, Trusts are expected to manage any additional measures within their baseline. The Trust is working through this as it applies to community services where additional pressure is expected.3. A meeting is being arranged with local GP leaders, to on the broad measures which will be in place over the winter within our locality.4. Workforce remains a very significant issue for the Trust over winter. The Nurse workforce stabilisation project in our 2 EDs is well underway, and the new nurse agency contract has been effectively



	<p>adopted by Trusts, eliminating Off contract nurse agency usage. Workforce shortages do however remain in a number of our services, making them more vulnerable to sickness absence in the event of COVID or other surges. Workforce gaps remain in our medical, nursing, AHP, Social work, and support services teams.</p> <p>5. Industrial action remains a key risk, although the timing of new periods of strike action is not known at this point. New staff groups are being balloted for strike action.</p>
Communications approach	<p>Wider stakeholder engagement on the winter plan has begun, and briefings will be provided in the coming weeks to local political representatives, councils, press and media. A suite of Communications materials has been developed and a Communications Plan for the Trust's Winter Plan has been approved by CMT.</p>
Action Required	Trust Board is asked to note the Trust's Winter Plan 2023/24