

Winter planning Update

Trust actions were created to meet the objectives set by the region for winter planning. These actions include:

- Maximising ambulance capacity
- Reducing time spent by patients in the Emergency Department awaiting clinical decision and next stage of care
- Timely Hospital Discharge for Patients who are Medically Fit for Discharge

The Trust is also expected to clearly demonstrate the approach to:

- increasing and maximising Domiciliary Care availability both in-house and the Independent Sector
- providing sufficient block booked beds and spot purchases
- increasing and maximising core community bed availability
- Protecting Elective Care
- Workforce
- Business Continuity and Escalation Processes
- Communication Plan

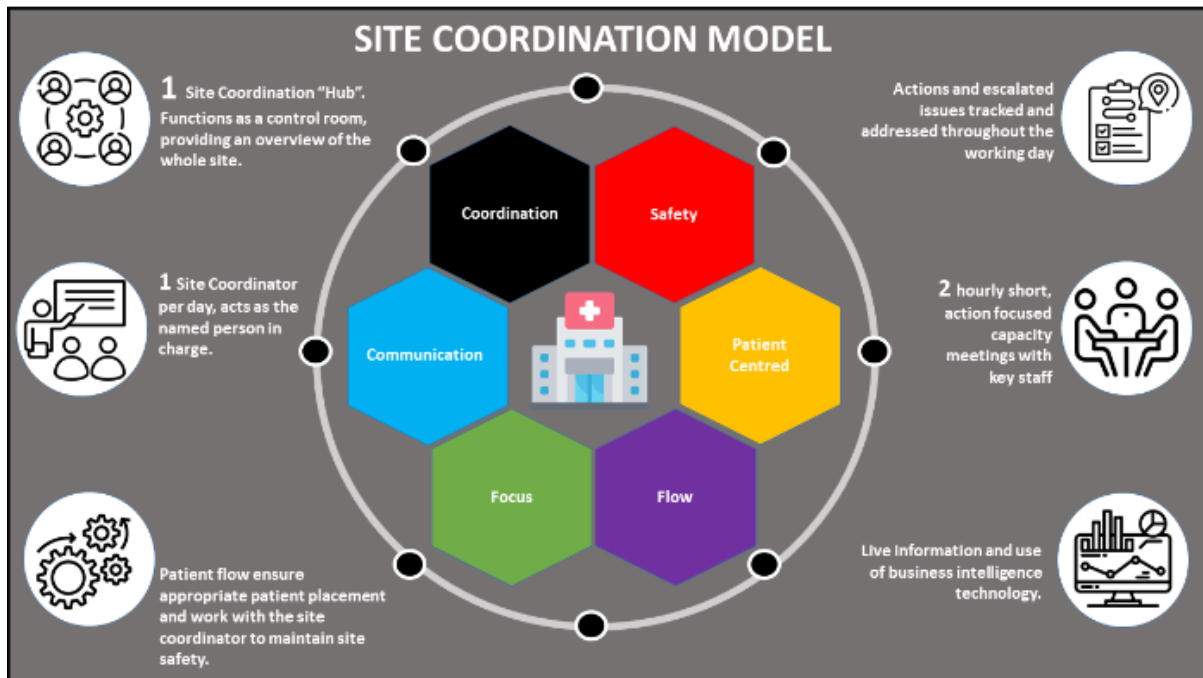
Ahead of an upcoming Regional Preparedness workshop (scheduled for the 13th March) progress on the areas listed above are being updated and RAG rated by the accountable areas. The template will be reviewed and activity and outcomes will be assessed enable the Trust to share learning from the Winter Preparedness plans 2023/24 and identify priorities for planning in 2024/25. The Trust is required to give a short presentation on the key aspects of its 2023/24 plan. This will include:

- initiatives that worked well and will be continued or repeated in 24/25
- actions that did not provide any benefit against winter pressures
- plans that were not delivered in time for winter 23/24 but will be delivered in 24/25

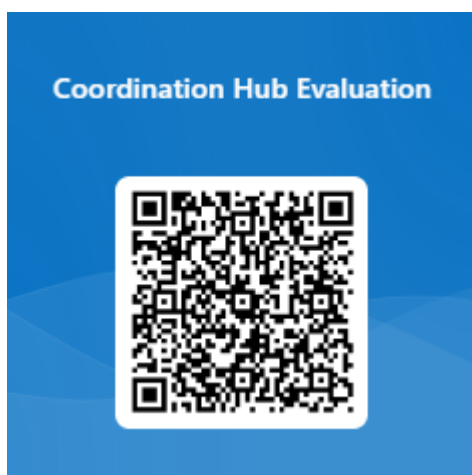
Actions specific to SWAH include the ED nursing stabilisation project (further detail provided below) along with the Enhanced Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) service that will be delivered in 24/25.

Western Coordination Hub and Regional Control Centre

The Western Coordination Hub went live on the 6th November 2023. The hub is based in Altnagelvin and utilises information provided during daily meetings to improve hospital flow, meetings take place at 0830, 1100, 1400 and 1600.



Details from SWAH are provided by the patient flow team. If there are any issues that require escalation then the site coordinator can be contacted directly or via switchboard. A senior rota is created and uploaded to the Coordination Hub SharePoint site. The hub returns reports to the Regional Control Centre twice daily (at 0900 and 1400).



A survey was published for staff to evaluate what works well and what could be improved regarding the coordination hub. Trust staff can access the survey by scanning the QR code using their Trust mobile phone or by clicking the link <https://forms.office.com/e/1zdyR6cv7N>

The survey went live on the 6th February and is set to close Friday 8th March.

Regional Control Centre: The RCC was established on 4 December 2023, is based in NIAS HQ, and has been in operation for just over 3 months. The RCC currently comprises of 4 Leadership Associates and 1 Trust secondee each working an average of 2 to 3 days per week including weekends and on call.

The working rhythm comprised of data submission reviews and regional video calls (30 minute calls at 10.30am and 2.30pm with an additional call at 5pm if requested by Trusts) is now well established each day including weekends, with RCC staff providing 'on call' until 8pm 7 days per week.

ED Nursing stabilisation project update

In June 2023 CMT approved a project to recruit additional nursing staff to enhance the existing workforce in both Emergency departments. At the time that the project was approved the whole time equivalent number of staff (WTE) for Band 5 and Band 3 is shown in the table to the right.

WTE ED Staff	
Band	SWAH (EOD009)
5	27.7
3	8.18

Table 1.0 workforce in SWAH ED June 2023

The additional staff to be recruited before the end of March 2024 can be seen in table 1.1. At the latest report the status of the posts is shown below:

- Band 6 - 1.0 appointed and in post
- Band 5 - 10 in post with 3 yet to start
- Band 3 - 3.86 filled with start dates confirmed.

The band 5 nursing posts comprise of international recruits (2) pre-reg and qualified staff nurses.

WTE ED Staff	
Band	SWAH (EOD009)
6	0.77
5	14.1
3	4.86

Table 1.1 additional staff to be recruited in SWAH

The update below is set to be published on the Trust Intranet, NOW newsletter and on the Trust's social network accounts.



Over 50 new nurses start in Emergency E