

South West Acute Hospital (the South West Acute Hospital) Strategic Development Group (SDG)

Held on 18th April 2024 in Boardroom, South West Acute Hospital and via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Neil Guckian, Co-Chair (Chief Executive, Western Trust);
Judi McGaffin, Co-Chair (Non-Executive Director, Western Trust Board);
Mark Gillespie (Director of Surgery, Paediatrics and Women's Health, with overall responsibility for the South West Acute Hospital and Omagh HPCC, Western Trust);
Teresa Molloy (Director of Planning, Performance & Corporate Services);
Dr Brendan Lavery (Medical Director, Western Trust);
Jim Wilkinson (Department of Health, Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group);
Geraldine McKay (Director Unscheduled Care, Cancer, Diagnostics & Medicine, Western Trust);
Chris Curran (Public Affairs/Relations, SPOC MLAs, MPs, lead on the South West Acute Hospital All Party Group, Western Trust);
Oliver Kelly (Head of Corporate Communications, Western Trust);
Prof Monica Monaghan (Divisional Clinical Director of Medicine, Southern sector, Western Trust);
Prof Ronan O'Hare (Deputy Medical Director, Western Trust);
Maura O'Neill, Interim Director of Community and Older People's Services
Donna Keenan (Director of Nursing & PCOP, Western Trust);
Jenny Irvine (Independent Community Stakeholder)
Bernie McCrory (Independent Community Stakeholder);
Prof Mark Taylor (Independent Expert Health Advisor);
Tomas Adell (Department of Health – Director of Elective Care and Cancer Policy);
Joanne McClean (Independent Expert Health Advisor, Director of Public Health, PHA);
Carol Reid (Asst Director of Nursing the South West Acute Hospital & Omagh H&PCC);
Dr Laura McDonnell (Director, South West GP Federation)
Cllr Thomas O'Reilly (Chair, FODC);
Alison McCullagh (Chief Executive, FODC);
Dr Mark Roberts (Clinical Consultant Lead, Integrated Care Southern Sector, Primary Care and Older People's Services, Western Trust);
Dinah Shortt (Independent Service User, User Involvement)

In Attendance: Michelle Gilmore (Business Support)

Apologies:

Paul Doherty (Asst Director of Operations the South West Acute Hospital& Omagh H&PCC);

Welcome

Mr Guckian, Co-Chair, welcomed all present and apologies were noted. Mr Guckian wished to note at the outset that the presentations on Population Health and on SWAH activity would be the core of the meeting today and added if the allocated meeting time expired today with still items to raise that these would roll forward to next meeting.

Notes taken from previous meeting were addressed and agreed and there were no matters arising noted today.

Update from Western Trust CEX

Mr Guckian provided a brief update on recent Trust activity. He noted there was lots happening and a lot of budget discussions currently, across all Trusts. On the subject of budget allocation, Northern Ireland needs 3 times the amount of money available for the region. Mr Guckian added that the Trusts Recovery plan continues however this is not a short term or easy task. The Trust will continue working on this, noting that obviously the budget will be an impacting factor as we move forward.

Mr Guckian proceeded to update the group on engagement with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), advising that RQIA were coming into the Trust to carry out a review/piece of work around the pathways agreed following the temporary change to Emergency General Surgery at South West Acute Hospital. It is anticipated their review will commence in May and that they will look to engage with various stakeholders and staff etc over approximately a 6 week period.

Presentation on Population Health West

Mrs Molloy set the context for the upcoming presentation entitled Population Health west – developing a Single View. She noted this was a stocktake of the position of our Trust and highlighted the good work happening in Integrated Care services. Mrs Molloy introduced Shane Breen.

Mr Breen delivered a very detailed and comprehensive presentation. For reference, see copy attached within.

Areas covered included Population Health and Social Detriments, Poverty, Health inequalities, Deprivation, Disease prevalence, Mental Health, Older people and emerging themes.

Mr Guckian commented that the timing of presentation was really good adding that we should look to get the momentum up and going again.

Professor Mark Taylor commended on a very informative presentation. Discussion followed agreed that the struggle will be the shifting of funds out of Primary Care to preventative care.



20240418
Population Health Pre

Presentation on SWAH (and Omagh HPCC) overall activity

Mr Gillespie shared presentation on recent activity at South West Acute and Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Centre. For reference presentation is attached below. Mr Gillespie provided an overview and updates on attendances and admissions, updated on obstetrics and Gynae and Emergency Surgical assessment activity. He provided an update on SWAH theatre rebuild progress detailing activity and sessions.

Mr Gillespie also updated group on the following developments;

- The WHSCT has been incrementally building activity in SWAH throughout 23/24 in alignment with recruitment and training activities. SWAH is now in a position to schedule 19.5 sessions per week
- Omagh Day Procedure Unit is now in a position to schedule 30 sessions per week.
- New Surgical and Gynae Consultant appointments
- Trust wide working
- Tier 4 Restructuring of the new Directorates
- Ophthalmology recommenced in Omagh April 2024
- Outpatient with procedure, flexible cystoscopy coming out of day case theatres in Omagh to an outpatient environment freeing up additional elective capacity



20240418 Hospitals
Activity Update Final 5

Discussion had regarding recognising the challenges in getting patients to travel to Omagh and SWAH for appointments/procedures; it is a culture challenge.

Discussion also had regarding live birth figures both locally and for the region with comments on regional trend with change in figures not unique to Western Trust.

Ms McCullagh acknowledged Mr Gillespie providing some very positive developments. She shared that it was raised at Council recently with regards patient triage times and then being transferred and having potentially prolonged wait at Altnagelvin; Ms McCullagh queried if the work RQIA were doing would involve looking at this. Mr Gillespie confirmed this would feature in their review. Mr Lavery took opportunity to provide some clarification around the process advising the patient is seen in Emergency Department, registered on Symphony; if transferred, the patient goes under care of surgeon, not under an ED Consultant.

Mr O'Reilly commented it was excellent that we are seeing increase in throughput and queried how we translate the increased throughput of theatres etc in terms of beds. Mr Gillespie advised this was through protected capacity.

Update on Community & Primary Care

Ms O'Neill had opportunity to provide brief update with presentation on Community and Primary Care. In relation to Delayed Discharges, Ms O'Neill reported that figures were unusual in recent times, explaining that they are seeing more and more complex patients coming through hospital and this is causing a block. Ms O'Neill highlighted the challenges around care home beds. Ms O'Neill referred to Primary care and spoke of the vulnerability of GP practices, in particular made reference to the Trust having recently taken on Fintona Practice from 1st April. OPALS service was discussed with Ms O'Neill sharing this was a vulnerable service, explaining recovery has been very difficult. For reference Ms O'Neill's presentation is included below.



20240416
Community and Prim.

Prior to close of the meeting, Mr O'Reilly made reference to the allocation of funding for healthcare, expressing concern around the reality of services needing much more. He noted if we do not get extra to maintain existing services, across the region; any additional money to any services would be extremely difficult.

Waiting lists and Elective centre are to remain high priorities with significant work continuing on these areas with the clear message that need to be utilising all lists and elective theatre space must be utilised.

Any other business

There was no other business tabled today.

Next steps/Action

Mr Curran will continue to contact members individually to discuss and review the first year of the group and will feedback accordingly at future meetings.

Next meeting date

Next meeting scheduled for 20th June 2024 at 3pm in the Boardroom SWAH and via MS Teams