

2023/24 Winter Planning

Update for Council of Governors

November 2023

Inspected and rated

Good



Key Principles for Winter Planning:

- All work together to offer **appropriate services to our population**.
- Ensure **patient safety and quality of care** is optimised.
- Maintain the **health and wellbeing of staff** and support each other.
- Work to **minimise impact/compromise on planned care services**.



Approach to Winter Planning:

Full winter plan considered by Trust Board public session in Oct-23 included:

1. Anticipate and assess issues in maintaining resilient services:

- Key winter pressure drivers – likely epidemiology of winter 23/24
- Lessons learned from 22/23
- Demand modelling
- Risks

2. Prevent the likelihood of occurrence and effects of any such issues:

- Prevent and manage infection inc. vaccination; patient/staff testing
- Effective patient and staff communications (system approach)

3. Prepare by having appropriate mitigating actions, plans and management structures in place:

- Mitigating actions and flow priorities inc. staff and support service plans; staff well-being
- Surge plans and the extent to which elective activity is protected
- Specific plans for Christmas and New Year period

4. Respond and recover by enacting plans and contingencies as required:

- Escalation triggers and actions
- Contingency plans

Supporting Team SFH over Winter:

- Creating **wellbeing spaces** with free tea and coffee over winter 24/7.
- Relaunching our **CARE values**.
- **Flu vaccinations** and **Covid booster** for all staff.



Winter schemes for 23/24:

Increase our bed base

Over the last year we have significantly increased our bed base across all three sites. Limited options for further expansion. This winter we will have:

- **Pockets of additional beds at King's Mill** (Stroke, overnight and weekend use of daycase, overnight use of new discharge lounge)
- **5 more beds at Mansfield Community Hospital**
- **12 more beds at Ashmere** (a local care home group)

Help with appropriate patient flow

- **Increased CAU opening** - 10am to 10pm, 7 days - giving children and their parents better access to urgent and emergency care when they need it
- **Frailty rapid access clinic** - to ensure frail patients are seen in a purpose designed way quickly – helping to prevent deterioration which can often result in hospital admission
- **Weekend trauma operating** - to prevent patients waiting for surgery
- **Doubling of respiratory physicians at weekends** - helping patients with seasonal conditions get faster treatment and shorter stays in hospital.
- **Weekend MRI scan reporting** - to help avoid delays to patients going home.