

Warrington Health & Wellbeing Board

16 July 2020 – 1.30pm

Report Title	Warrington and Halton Hospitals Covid-19 position statement and longer-term strategic priorities
Type of Decision Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Decision as to a Statutory Function <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Statutory Advice, Guidance or Recommendation to Other Body <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Note or Endorse a Report or Action by Others
Report Purpose	The purpose of this report is to update Health and Wellbeing Board members on the current position in terms of service provision by Warrington and Halton Hospitals as we operate in an environment of Covid-19 recovery. The report will demonstrate how the current position supports longer term strategic priorities, previously discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Report author	Chris Evans, Chief Operating Officer Lucy Gardner, Director of Strategy
Related Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority <small>*see addendum attached to this report</small>	5: Where we work together to safeguard the most vulnerable 7: Where there is a strong, system-wide focus on promoting wellbeing, preventing ill-health and addressing inequalities 10: Where self-care is supported, with more people managing their own conditions 11: Where the best care is provided in the right place at the right time
Confidential or Exempt	This report is not considered to contain information which is confidential or exempt.
Recommendations	It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the current position on service provision, along with links to future plans.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 16 July 2020

Report of the: Simon Constable, Chief Executive, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT

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Ward Members: All

TITLE OF REPORT: **Warrington and Halton Hospitals Covid-19 position statement and longer-term strategic priorities**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the current position in terms of service provision by Warrington and Halton Hospitals as we operate in an environment of Covid-19 recovery. The report will demonstrate how the current position supports longer term strategic priorities, previously discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT

2.1 Not applicable.

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 On 3 March 2020 a national major incident was declared in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT (WHH) instigated level 4 incident control and management.

3.2 From this point on, elective surgery started to be reduced to support planning and preparedness of the anticipated impact of Covid-19. This was to release staff for refresher training, release bed capacity for Covid-19 patients and theatres/recovery facilities for adaptation work.

3.3 On 17 March 2020, official notification was received from NHSE/I instructing providers to plan to postpone all non-urgent elective operations from 15 April at the latest, for a period of at least three months. Emergency

admissions, cancer treatment and other clinically urgent services continued unaffected.

- 3.4 On 20 March 2020 Radiology specialty guidance was issued instructing a pause on all non-urgent examinations. All Cancer and Urgent exams continued within the normal turnaround times. This guidance was implemented immediately.

4. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- 4.1 Deliver high quality care to the populations we serve
- 4.2 Continue to contribute to an improvement in health and wellbeing outcomes
- 4.3 Minimise nosocomial infection
- 4.4 Minimise the delays to elective treatment, following the pause to elective activity during phase 1 of the pandemic
- 4.5 Provide timely treatment to urgent patients
- 4.6 Deliver healthcare services in a safe environment
- 4.7 Continue to align delivery and short term plans to our longer term objectives, including provision of an elective centre in Halton, development of plans for a new hospital in Warrington and playing our role in the delivery of integrated care
- 4.8 Be a good corporate citizen and actively contribute to economic regeneration

5. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 5.1 To date, WHH has tested 9,843 people across inpatient and community settings, of which 1,182 tested positive. As of 8th July 2020, WHH is currently caring for 6 in-patients who have tested positive for Covid-19, none of whom are in ICU. All patients have been cared for in appropriate clinical areas. The peak of Covid-19 cases in WHH was 124 on 12th April. In total the Trust has discharged 369 patients and sadly 133 have died.
- 5.2 Critical care capacity (including ventilator capacity) has not been rate-limiting (a peak of 24 patients with COVID-19 in critical care occurred on 8th April 2020) and no clinicians have been working outside of their professional capabilities; however staff have been redeployed to support the Trust's response.
- 5.3 Staffing levels have remained at safe levels throughout the pandemic; total staff sickness absence (including shielding, self-isolation and non-COVID-19 related absence) peaked at just over 17%.
- 5.4 In line with national guidance, WHH reduced its elective activity to only Cancer Fast Track (CFT) and clinically urgent cases. To support these cases safely, WHH utilised 3 theatres for 5 days per week at Spire Warrington under national contract, beginning 3rd April 2020. This arrangement will continue until end of August 2020.

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- 5.5 COVID-19 'Green Lane' commenced on 5th May 2020 in Theatre 4 at Warrington and Ward B18 to support Colorectal, Urology, Breast, ENT and Gynaecology pathways.
- 5.6 A Halton site rationalisation plan was created in line with elective activity reductions, including cessation of elective surgery at CMTC from 24/03/2020. Elective theatre activity resumed at CMTC on 29/06/2020.
- 5.7 Out-patient activity was reviewed, prioritising CFT and clinically urgent cases. To support recovery, specialty reviews are underway to support the introduction of video consultation software and reconfiguration plans to support face to face appointments.
- 5.8 WHH has maintained appropriate levels of diagnostics / screening provision throughout, with this position reviewed daily. Routine surveillance for endoscopy was cancelled in line with British Society of Gastroenterology guidance. Endoscopy recommenced at Halton (Colonoscopy) and Spire (OGD) at 50% of usual list capacity on 14/05/2020 to support urgent and cancer pathways. Use of Spire Warrington imaging facilities commenced in May to support the waiting list.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Over the next 3–6 months, WHH will continue to reinstate activity. This will be in line with national guidance and enacted only where clinically safe to do so. Additionally, the Trust remains prepared to respond in the case of a second peak of infections.
- 7.2 The impact of virtual clinics and other technological innovations will be reflected in the planning of new hospital infrastructure, both in Warrington and Halton. Feedback from staff and patients has been positive for these developments, and they have been essential in keeping patients safe.
- 7.3 The Trust is advancing plans to develop CMTC in Halton as an elective hub. This will be a "Covid-19 light" site, enabling additional elective activity to take place on this site.
- 7.4 To minimise the impact of Covid-19 on elective hospital activity, WHH will expand opportunities to develop "Covid-19 light" sites. This increasingly will include the maximisation of opportunities to deliver services in community settings where appropriate (in line with NHS Long Term Plan).
- 7.5 WHH will continue to work with partners to manage demand across a wider geography, and this will become increasingly important in a post-Covid-19 landscape as capacity is impacted by new ways of working.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 All services changes are formally risk assessed via agreed process within the Trust and approved at executive level prior to implementation.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY / EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Alongside the risk assessment process an equality impact assessment is completed for all proposed service changes.

10. CONSULTATION

- 10.1 WHH will continue to be guided by NHS England guidance on consultation, and will seek to involve our patients and staff where appropriate in all service change.

11. RECOMMENDATION

- 11.1 It is recommended that the Board note the current position regarding the Trust's response to Covid-19, and how the changes made reflect the long term strategy for Warrington, including Warrington Together, and the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: Strategic Priorities

Strategic Theme	Strategic Priorities
Strong and Resilient Communities	<i>1: Where communities are strong, well connected, and able to influence decisions that affect them</i>
	<i>2: Where all local people can access and benefit from a strong economy with quality local jobs</i>
	<i>3: Where housing and the wider built environment promote health and healthy choices</i>
	<i>4: Where there are low levels of crime and people feel safe</i>
	<i>5: Where we work together to safeguard the most vulnerable</i>
Starting Well	<i>6: Where children and young people get the best start in life in a child friendly environment</i>
Living Well	<i>7: Where there is a strong, system-wide focus on promoting wellbeing, preventing ill-health and addressing inequalities</i>
	<i>8: Where there is a sustained focus on addressing lifestyle risk factors and protecting health</i>
	<i>9: Where both mental and physical health are promoted and valued equally</i>
	<i>10: Where self-care is supported, with more people managing their own conditions</i>
	<i>11: Where the best care is provided in the right place at the right time</i>
Ageing Well	<i>12: Where people age well and live healthy fulfilling lives into old age</i>
Enabling Priorities	<i>E1: Where we have a valued, well-trained and supported work-force that is fit for the future</i>
	<i>E2: Where the benefits from information and technology are maximised</i>
	<i>E3: Where we invest in the right intelligence to understand our local population</i>
	<i>E4: Where we utilise our collective estate so that it best supports local health and social care need</i>
	<i>E5: Where we get best possible value for our 'Warrington Pound'</i>