

WIRRAL PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP BOARDThursday, 10th November 2022

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL HEALTH AND CARE WINTER PLAN 2022/23
REPORT OF:	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND PARTNERSHIPS (WIRRAL) - NHS CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of Wirral's Health and Care System's preparations for Winter 2022/23.

Wirral like other places across Cheshire and Merseyside is facing ongoing significant challenges within Urgent and Emergency and Care (UEC) pathways. These pathways include waiting times for Ambulances, within the Emergency Department, hospital bed occupancy levels and timely discharge pathways returning people home. In addition, it is acknowledged that this winter may be more challenging than most in respect of the cost of living crises.

In response, Wirral's plan includes initiatives within hospital such as new Virtual Wards to support people with Frailty and Respiratory conditions. Out of hospital investment is being made into securing more GP appointments, community beds and domiciliary care capacity. Joint work between the NHS and Wirral Borough Council is underway to support people affected by the cost of living crises such as introducing Warm Hub locations.

The plan has been developed across Health and Care Partners within Wirral such as the local hospital, community trust, primary care, social care and voluntary sectors.

Wirral's plan is still to be submitted for evaluation to NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS England.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Wirral Place Based Partnership Board is recommended to note the preparations being made by Wirral's Health and Care System partners for Winter 2022/23.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Winter Planning is an annual process that is required to be undertaken to ensure health and care systems can respond to higher population needs over the winter season. This report outlines the initiatives that are being undertaken and how they benefit the people of Wirral. Wirral's Winter Plan is still subject to external review by Cheshire and Merseyside ICB and NHS England.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Winter Planning is a mandatory requirement for all health care systems across Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. Individual investment business cases within our Winter Plan are subject to separate approval and include full options appraisals.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Wirral like other national and regional systems across Cheshire and Merseyside is facing ongoing significant challenges across Urgent and Emergency and Care (UEC) pathways. These include waiting times for Ambulances, in the Emergency Department, hospital bed occupancy levels (%) and timely discharge pathways returning people home. In addition, it is acknowledged that this winter will be more challenging than most in respect of the cost of living crises.
- 3.2 Our plans focus on supporting flow across our Urgent Emergency Care system in pathways such as:
- Access to GP appointments
 - Community Ambulance waiting times and 'Turnaround' times at hospital
 - Emergency Department waiting times
 - Hospital inpatient bed occupancy
 - Timely discharge of patients to their own home and/or community care
 - Capacity in the community for packages of care and community beds supporting reablement
- 3.3 The table below summarises Wirral's key winter initiatives and how they aim to support our Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) system. All the services referenced either didn't exist or have had their capacity significantly expanded compared to last winter.

Initiative Name	Description
Frailty and Respiratory Virtual Wards	New wards in the community/peoples own homes where patients receive care that would otherwise have been undertaken in a hospital inpatient bed.
Hospital Inpatient Escalation Beds	Additional inpatient beds at Arrow Park hospital to support reducing overall occupancy levels.
HomeFirst Service	A new service offering reablement to people who are leaving hospital aiming to reduce their long-term care needs.
Care Market Sufficiency	Investment in the domiciliary care market to support workforce recruitment and retention.
Community Residential Care Beds	Beds are being commissioned to support caring for people who would otherwise be waiting in hospital for a care package to be offered.
Urgent Crises Response (UCR) Service	Providing rapid 2-hour care assessment and treatment for in the community for people at risk of hospital admission.
Frailty @ Front Door	A service that supports (in Emergency Department or Acute Assessment Areas) people with frailty return home or would have otherwise been admitted to hospital.
Respiratory @ Front Door Service	A service that supports (in Emergency Department or Acute Assessment Areas) people with Respiratory conditions return home or would have otherwise been admitted to hospital.
GP Access	New appointments mostly in the evenings and weekends to support improving access to GP services.
Anticipatory Care	General Practice and Community Services working together to identify patients at risk of hospitalisation and putting in place care plans to minimise their risk.
New Wirral Health Protection Service	A local Health Protection Service has been developed to provide Health Protection functions to support, advise and guide Wirral settings and protect the health of Wirral Communities.
Mental Health	A series of investments are being made to support; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People waiting for assessment in the Emergency Department at Arrow Park Hospital. 2. Additional Mental Health bed assessment capacity 3. Community care and treatment options including the new Crises Café in Wirral 4. New Community Crises service capacity
Third Sector Hospital Discharge Support	Both Healthwatch and AGE UK support patients being discharged from hospital via follow up calls, transport home and settling in at home services.
End of Life Care Hospital Discharge Support	Wirral Hospice St Johns are offering additional personal care for individuals identified in their last 4 weeks of life return home from hospital.
Health and Well Being Grants	Grant funding to support individuals, carers or families purchase equipment to support them return home from hospital.
Discharge to Assess Beds	New additional community beds to support patients receiving assessments or rehabilitation in the community before returning home usually after being in hospital.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial investment for Wirral's Winter Plan will include new monies recently announced by the Secretary of State for Health with the exact amount to be confirmed. The Health and Care System is still finalising the overall costs associated with individual schemes that are subject to local/regional approval and workforce recruitment.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 A number of Winter initiatives within Wirral's Winter Plan require additional staff for which recruitment is currently underway for.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Wirral's system will have up to daily Chief Operating Officer (COO) escalation meetings to manage the Urgent and Emergency Care system over Winter 22/23. These are supported by performance dashboards which provide up to daily service operational information against set 'trigger' thresholds.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Wirral's Winter Plan has been developed across the local health and care system organisations such as:

Wirral University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust
Wirral General Practices
Wirral Borough Council
Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust
North West Ambulance Service
Healthwatch
AGE UK
Wirral St Johns Hospice

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside are committed to carrying out their work in an environmentally responsible manner, these principles will be followed by the Winter Planning process.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Community Wealth Building in Wirral focusses on partnerships and collaboration. These partnerships are led by Wirral Council with external partners and stakeholders, including residents. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will support the Council in community wealth building by ensuring health and care organisations in the borough have a focus on reducing health inequalities and contribute to the development of a resilient and inclusive economy for Wirral. The Winter Planning process referred to in this report will take account of this in their work.

REPORT AUTHOR: Martyn Kent
Assistant Director Planned and Urgent Care Transformation –
(Wirral) Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
telephone: 07557 256689
email: martyn.kent3@nhs.net

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - NHS England 2022/23 priorities and operational planning guidance
Appendix 2 - NHS England next steps in increasing capacity and operational resilience in urgent and emergency care ahead of Winter Publication reference: PR1929

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NHS England 2022/23 priorities and operational planning guidance
NHS England next steps in increasing capacity and operational resilience in urgent and emergency care ahead of Winter Publication reference: PR1929

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date