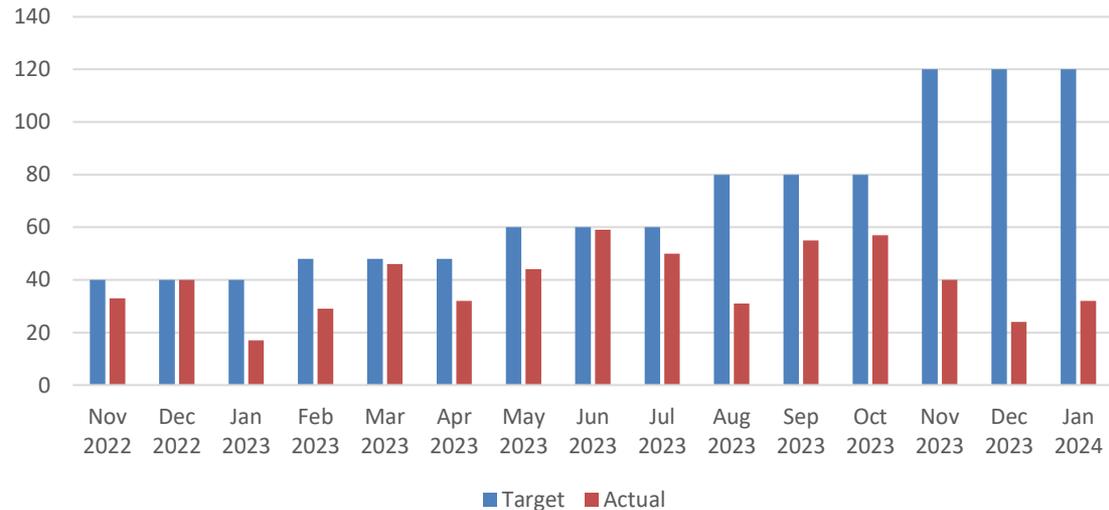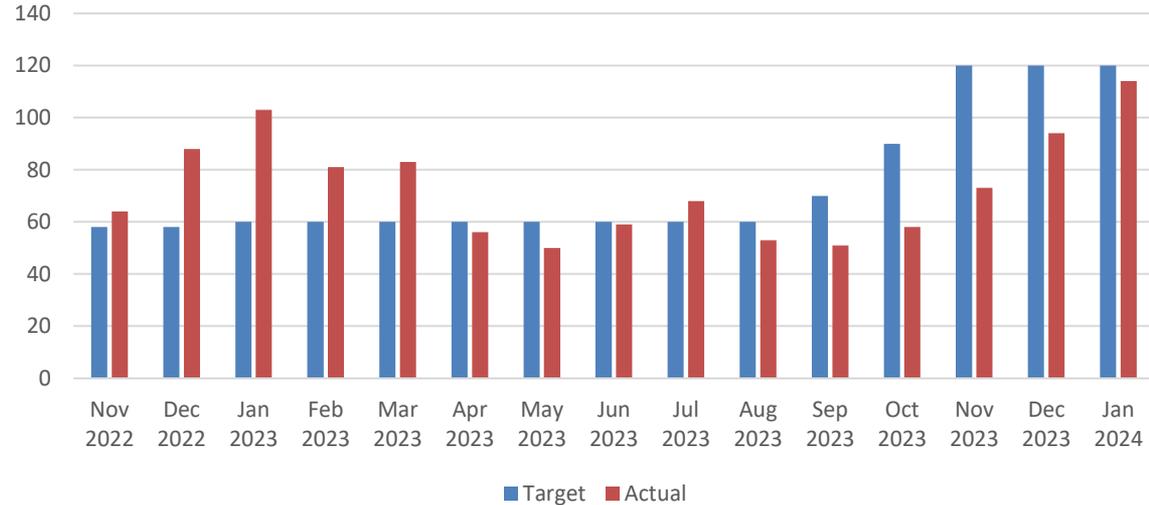# Virtual Wards – Frailty and Respiratory

Frailty

- Commenced with complex model of taking all acute admissions and not purely step-down.
- Medical long term sickness since Nov 23 has made senior cover challenging although this is mitigated as of Feb 24.
- Decrease in the number of referrals from UCR since Nov 23 – collaborative working with UCR team and SNOP's now in place to improve referrals.

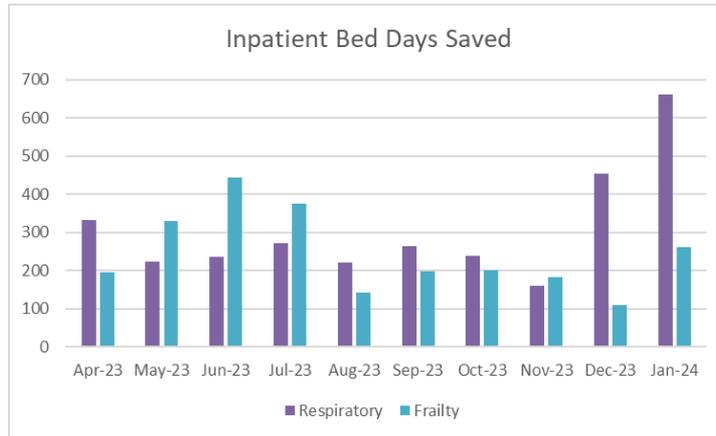Frailty Virtual Ward - Patient Throughput

Respiratory

- The service has been fully operational and open to full capacity from inception.
- Throughput has increased throughout Winter 23/24 with an increase in respiratory related illnesses and new pathways.
- Additional pathways since October 2023 (Bronchiectasis and CAP) has increased throughput.
- Target of 30 beds was reached in January 24 and capacity is available for new admissions.

Respiratory Virtual Ward - Patient Throughput

Bed Days & Cost Avoidance 23/24

- Respiratory Virtual Ward has seen a significant increase in bed days saved due to an increase in both admissions and length of stay, in January 2024 there were 661 bed days saved and a cost avoidance of £107,888
- Frailty Virtual Ward has also seen an increase in the number of bed days saved with 261 in January 2024 compared to 110 in December 2023 and a cost avoidance of £44,618 in January 2024 compared to £18,887 in December 2023

Summary

- A workforce review is currently being undertaken in FVW to ensure efficiency within rotas and to strengthen weekend cover with increase to 30 beds
- Telehealth is used within Respiratory for remote monitoring and Frailty are working with Merseycare to implement this from April 2024
- There are challenges with the implementation of admitting patients into Cerner for both respiratory and frailty. This is being picked up within the digital task and finish groups.
- Decreased number of referrals into FVW – work to continue with UCR and Frailty at the Front Door.
- Daily review established to discuss challenges, daily areas of focus and new pathways with the aim of increasing utilisation on FVW
- Respiratory virtual ward is also seeing challenges in the number of patients being referred with seasonal fluctuation in patient numbers
- Overall virtual wards have saved a significant number of acute inpatient bed days and this will continue to increase with the expansion of FVW to 30 beds. It is expected that 2024/25 will see the full benefits realisation of both virtual ward services.