Title	Update on Wirral Capacity and Demand Planning	
Authors	Sayyed Osman, Director of Adults Care and Health, Wirral Council Simon Banks, Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside	
Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board	
Date of Meeting	25 th July 2024	

Report Purpose and Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the capacity and demand modelling that has been completed across Wirral Place to date and proposes the key next steps to complete the work. This covers the work undertaken by the Unscheduled Care Programme workstreams and other funded Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) schemes.

The report provides a summary of activity undertaken to date, the current position of improvement work and proposes capacity figures for delivery, bringing together an overarching review of all UEC schemes, to both understand and quantify the individual impact on the no criteria to reside (NCTR) UEC programme sentinel measure and all relevant data sources including care market, Home First, Transfer of Care Hub data and other sector data. The recommendations will also inform the Wirral system 2024/25 planning round.

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Consider and accept the workstream and other UEC funded scheme evaluations, inclusive of performance to-date, quality and outcomes and future benefits and focus.
- 2) Consider and accept the capacity proposal figures to progress with the Wirral Health and Care system for implementation in 2024/25.
- 3) Note the current progress made in relation to reduction in people meeting the NCTR and agree future NCTR target.

4

Key Risks

The report relates to the following key strategic risks identified in the Place Delivery Assurance Framework presented to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 21st March 2024:

- PDAF 1 Service Delivery: Wirral system partners are unable to deliver the priority programmes within the Wirral Health and Care Plan which will result in poorer outcomes and greater inequalities for our population.
- PDAF 3 Collaboration: Leaders and organisations in the Wirral health and care system may not work together effectively to improve population health and healthcare.

There are also associated operational risks for the system when acute hospital beds are not available for people who meet the criteria to reside in hospital. This may result in the further risks of:

- Potential harm brought about by ambulance handover delays and corridor care.
- Patient deconditioning and potential harm associated with long lengths of stay.
- The inability to work through the elective recovery backlog.
- Shared resources are not used in the most efficient and effective way possible, therefore not aiding financial recovery and sustainability.
- Increased pressure in social care due to over provision of pathway 2 placements into care homes

Further, there is a key risk that the Insufficiency of support for people in the community may lead to increased hospital/care home admissions and a potential risk to carers.

Governance journey			
Date	Forum	Report Title	Purpose/Decision
27 February 2024	Wirral Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme Board	Wirral medium-term capacity and demand plan	Resolved – Board supported approach
21 March 2024	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board	Update on Wirral Capacity and Demand Planning	Accept a further report on capacity and demand modelling

1	Narrative
1.1	Background
1.1.1	Over the last 12 months, Wirral has seen significant improvement with a sustained reduction in the number of people who remain in hospital with no criteria to reside. Prior to this the Wirral system has been a national and regional outlier for a significant period. This has brought with it national NHS and Local Authority leadership scrutiny and an expectation for improvement, which we are now seeing.
	This improvement has been delivered through the Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme, its component workstreams and other enabling activities.
	Following a Better Care Fund (BCF) support offer from Sir John Bolton OBE, a consultant in capacity planning, further work has been undertaken with system partners to plan for capacity and demand with a further focus on reduction in NCTR. Additionally, a review of the impact each of the Unscheduled Care programme component workstreams and other enabling UEC schemes has been completed, which has been overseen by the Unscheduled Care Programme Board. The purpose of the reviews is to understand the impact the individual schemes have had on the reduction of the NCTR numbers, understanding performance to-date, quality and outcomes and opportunity future benefits and focus.
	It is key that the evaluations and the capacity and demand plan development have been brought together as one piece of work, culminating in a single plan and set of recommendations to inform future service requirements, including future performance targets and trajectories. Additionally, these key outputs will inform the Wirral system 2024/25 planning round.
	This report has been progressed through the Wirral unscheduled care governance arrangements and has been supported by Wirral system partners.
1.1.2	This piece of work to-date is a collaboration between Wirral Partners and will continue to be so. It is proposed that the Unscheduled Care Programme Board oversee the development of the capacity and demand plan and the development of the further report, inclusive of recommendations and will then be brought to this Board, following agreement at the Unscheduled Care Programme Board.

1.2 Capacity and demand work to-date

1.2.1 Sir John Bolton OBE review

In September 2023, Wirral Health and Care system leads agreed for Sir John Bolton OBE, a consultant in capacity planning to work with the Wirral system for 5 days to help Wirral pull together a medium-term system demand and capacity plan. The work was funded by the BCF in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA).

An initial data set was worked up with the Transfer of Care Hub and Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Business Intelligence team. The data was then taken through a series of whole system partner discussions and workshops.

The following conclusions from the appraisal and analysis in Wirral:

- The data that was presented shows a system with a smaller number of patients being referred to use the formal care pathways (higher numbers on Pathway 0) which is positive. However, of this number a higher proportion were assessed as requiring bedded care. Overall, the view was that this should not be a "challenged "system as the numbers were felt to be manageable.
- There is a need to agree on the number of Pathway 2 (P2) beds that are required by the system as there is an aim to reduce the numbers assessed as Pathway 3 (P3) in hospital prior to discharge.
- The aim should also be to ensure that the only people that can't go home
 access Pathway 2 services from commissioned intermediate care services and
 to eliminate the use of spot purchased beds as the outcomes for older people
 are poor. There was a specific workshop that solely focussed on the bedded
 care with the team developing the Wirral Bedded Intermediate Care strategy.
- Those services managing Pathway 2 beds should have easy access to Pathway 1 (P1) services to maximise getting older people back home. This would both reduce overall length of stay and improve the outcomes for those older people. The anticipated number of beds required is between 71 and 99.
- There should be clear measurable outcomes from the P2 services in relation to the number of older people returning to their own homes after a spell in a P2 service. The expected performance would be 66%.
- The capacity on P1 is for 170 people each month, though on occasions that target has been exceeded.
- There is good performance from the P1 services with 74% reported as not requiring additional services beyond their short-term help. There is further work required to understand any blockages and get people out of short-term reablement into long term care. The numbers appear to be low, so the expectation is that blockages can be eliminated.

1.3	Evaluations
1.3.1	Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme workstreams.
1.3.2	High-level summaries of the workstream evaluations follow in this section, with all detailed workstream evaluations appended to this report.
1.3.2.	It is recorded that from July 2022 (and earlier) until mid-April 2023 there were consistently 200 plus patients, up to a maximum of 255, at any one time with NCTR in Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH). The introduction of the Transfer of Care Hub (shadow form April 2023, full go live 1 st July 2023) based at WUTH has made a significant reduction in these numbers and continues in a downward trend. This has focussed on streamlining assessments and pathways alongside minimising hand off delays between Providers. The NCTR number up to June 2024 has shown sustained reduction to 100 people.
2	The Home First service provided by Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHC) offers a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach to assessment of people in their own homes post hospital discharge on Pathway 1. The Home First service has supported reductions in community packages with an evidence base of fewer people needing ongoing care post assessment at home, and people also requiring smaller on-going packages of care. The target was 150 referrals per month in 2023/24. From December 2023, the target was revised as it performed above the anticipated trajectory, accepting 180 plus referrals in June 2024. It is expected as the service matures, the level of referrals will be maintained if not exceeded. It is not anticipated that this service will expand within this financial year.
1.3.2.	Care Market Sufficiency The Care Market sufficiency group has continued to work with the market to reduce the numbers of people waiting for a domiciliary care package. The waiting list has been eliminated, especially for people needing a package of care from an acute or intermediate care setting. A series of workshops with the transfer of care hub and both community and care home providers have resulted in a review of patient information sharing protocols and smoother pathways, supported by the Care Home placement officer. Trajectory targets have been reviewed considering the impact of Home First, and the service continues to perform well.
1.3.2.	Frailty Commenced with complex model of taking all acute admissions and not purely stepdown. Medical long-term sickness since November 2023 has made senior cover challenging although this is mitigated as of February 2024. Regular consultant sessions are now planned for cover in the Virtual Ward. This enables continuation of care for patients and enables additional referrals to be supported. There has also been locum clinical recruitment into the Virtual Ward to cover sickness and maternity leave. This means that as of week commencing 20 th May 2024, the Frailty Virtual Ward will be fully established with juniors, enabling consistent weekend cover. The team are working with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust to develop remote monitoring for frailty patients and are now working towards a go live date of 24 th June

2024. WUTH and WCHC are working closely with each other on increasing referral numbers. The SNOPs and the Frailty Virtual Ward nurses will be spending time shadowing each other throughout May and June to better understand each other's roles and to support with case finding.

Respiratory

The service has been fully operational and open to full capacity from inception. Throughput has increased throughout Winter 2023/24 with an increase in respiratory related illnesses and new pathways. Additional pathways since October 2023 (Bronchiectasis and CAP) have increased throughout. Target of 30 beds was reached in January 2024 and capacity is available for new admissions.

Overall virtual wards have saved several acute inpatient bed days, and this will continue to increase with the review of the frailty virtual ward. It is expected that the review currently underway will see a positive impact on the number of bed days saved.

1.3.2. <u>AbleMe</u>

5

The Local Authority is developing a service (AbleMe) to support increased independence in the community. AbleMe will support people before they reach a crisis and divert admissions into a hospital or care home setting. This service will provide personal care and connect people to their communities and the voluntary community and faith sector. It will reduce demand for domiciliary care in the community. Capacity within the new service offer will be accurately calculated when the service is fully mobilised, with a soft launch planned for 17th June 2024.

An evaluation will be completed and brought back to this Board before March 2025.

1.3.3 | Enabling UEC funded schemes

1.3.3.

Residential and nursing placements

There is sufficiency of supply for standard residential and nursing care. There is, however, a high demand for people with dementia (residential and nursing EMI) beds. Assumptions in 2023 indicated a deficit in provision however, however the bed vacancy rate is currently at 8.9% with availability in all sectors.

The increased number of funded long term and short-term placements is having a significant impact on the social care budget along with significant growth of over 100 people requiring additional 1 to 1 support in homes. This is unsustainable and is currently under review. It is anticipated that due to the implementation of the criteria in Clatterbridge Intermediate Care Centre (CICC) beds and the planned switch of cases from P2 to P1 these numbers will decrease.

1.3.3. Mobile Nights

2

BCF investment has enabled additional hours of care and support to be provided at home during the night. The hours of care provided up to 19 June 2024, is 599.75, which is an increase from 428.75 hours in April 23. This has enabled more people with higher acuity needs to remain at home or have their discharges expedited. It also provides an essential support to carers.

1.3.3. <u>Wirral MIND</u>

3

Supports people with mental health conditions and those at risk of suicide to reduce the demand for mental health beds and placements. It was reported in the previous update that 339 hours of early intervention support were delivered to between June and August 2023 and 608.5 hours between September 2023 and December 2023. From January 2024 until the end of March 2024 a further 496.5 hours of early intervention support have been delivered.

1.3.3. Clatterbridge Intermediate Care Centre (CICC)

In 2023, 102 intermediate beds were commissioned, 71 ward based at CICC and 31 in the community care market. Following a review of these services and increased capacity in other parts of the system the community care market beds will be decommissioned at the end of March 2024. An integrated review of the ward-based beds has been completed with recommendations to the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board for their July 2024 meeting.

1.3.3. Wirral Independence Service (WIS)

5

6

7

8

The WIS contract extension has been agreed with additional BCF commitment of £700k. The new contract starts in June 2024 met by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and Wirral Council as part of BCF arrangement, form other decommissioned services.

1.3.3. Single Point of Access (Age UK)

The hospital based Single Point of Access (Age UK) became operational in Quarter 3, 2023/24. There is a direct referral route from the transfer of care hub which connects people to services in the Community Voluntary and Faith Sector before discharge, as an alternative to commissioned services. Once home, practical support with, as examples, benefits and home maintenance are provided to prevent future admissions. This is complemented by the Going Home Service which provides transport from hospital and ensures readmissions are avoided and people are supported to return home safely. There were 215 referrals into Age UK Single Point of Access (SPA) from January to May 2024. This does not include referrals to the Going Home Service. The outcomes of a service review are being analysed.

1.3.3. Care Home Placement Officer

Between 8th January 2024 and 24th June 2024, the Transfer of Care Hub made 571 referrals to the Care Home Placement Officer. The interventions have led to increased support for families when choosing a care home, a reduction in long length of stay and numbers of people who do not meet NCTR. Liaison with NHS and community-based providers and direct contact with patients and their families has led to an improved lived experience and a seamless transition from hospital to residential services.

1.3.3. <u>Trusted Assessor</u>

Trusted Assessors undertake assessments of people on P2 (residential and intermediate care) and P3 (nursing care) to ensure expedited discharges and provide support to the homes to ensure the placement is sustainable. The Discharge Hub made 19 referrals in July 2023. Due to unavoidable absence this figure remained static in December 2023. However, the number of assessments undertaken has doubled within month in 2024 reaching 38 referrals made in April 2024. This is in line

	with the full complement of staff being in place.		
1.4	Conclusions drawn so far		
1.4.1	When all services are considered together capacity across the system has been increased to meet demand. However, further assurance is needed that capacity is being optimised at the right time and in the right place. This will enable us to map out any gaps in provision. The following table includes a snapshot of discharge support provided in April 2024.		
			•
	Pathway	April-24	_
	P1 HomeFirst Enhanced	141	_
	P1 HomeFirst Hybrid (+STAR)	37	
	P1 POC (Direct referrals from ToCH)	36	
	P2 CICC	57	
	P3 Short term Placement	15	
	P3 (24hr)	40	
	P1 POC - Fast Track	18	
	P3 Fast Track 24 Hour Care	18	
	P1, P2, P3 OOA	2	
	trajectory will be reviewed, considering the impact of further numbers and the switch of patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 to Pathway 2. In the switch of patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2. In the switch of patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2. In the switch of patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2. In the switch of patients for patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 for patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 for patients from Pathway 2 to Pathway 2 for patients from Pathway 2 for pathway 2	way 1.	reduce NCTR Dec-24 Jan-25 Feb-25 Mar-70 70 70 70 70
	Introduger meeting the Citiens to reside [Kym-24] Actual 112 03 111		1 1
1.5	Proposed next steps		
1.5.1	Continue the review of current schemes and agree a positi September 2024. Key services are: OPRA Frailty at the front door Virtual wards Home First	on of se	rvice delivery by
1.5.2	All Partners to continue to meet and work with the NHS Che Business Intelligence Team to revise the capacity and dema future targets and trajectories post September 2024.		•
1.5.3	Unscheduled Care Programme Board oversee the development of the further report, inclusive which will be brought to this board, following agreement at the Programme Board.	e of rec	ommendations

2.1 Risk Mitigation and Assurance

- 1) There is a risk that the NCTR number will increase or not be controlled within a trajectory approved by system partners. This risk is managed by the Unscheduled Care Programme Board with Wirral partners taking a focused approach to contributing to the reduction of the NCTR numbers. Numbers are monitored daily by the Transfer of Car Hub and senior system partners review weekly on the Executive Discharge Cell, unblocking any issues contributing to an increase in NCTR numbers and initiating a PDSA approach to address issues where required. Data analysis is ongoing, and escalations are managed through the Unscheduled Care Programme Board.
- 2) There is a risk that Wirral system partners do not take a collegiate working approach and therefore activity, outputs or outcomes are not aligned or transparent, leading to ineffective system working. System working and relationships have significantly improved since the start of the Unscheduled Care Improvement programme which has contributed to the NCTR improvement. This continues to be a focus and is managed through the Unscheduled Care Programme Board.
- 3) There is a risk that data is not reviewed and refined as work develops, to meet requirements and provide a single version of the truth, which is mutually agreed by system partners. Optimal system working will only be achieved when this is in place, which will provide a quick, simple, and accurate presentation of data to support system working and improvement. This will be progressed through the Unscheduled Care Programme Board.
- 4) There is a risk that the numbers of short-term placements to care homes from hospital will grow, and therefore the switch from P2 to P1 for hospital discharge will not be achieved. This will be kept under review alongside admission to CICC within existing criteria as a co-dependency.
- 5) There is a risk that the system focus continues to be on the discharge of patients from hospital where demand at the front door remains high. The focus of the initial phase of the unscheduled care improvement programme has been to achieve a sustained reduction in the NCTR numbers, where the Wirral system has been a national and regional outlier for a significant period. This has brought with it national NHS and Local Authority leadership scrutiny and an expectation for improvement, which we are now seeing. The programme will now move into a new phase where the primary focus will shift to improvement at the front door front door. In addition, the Wirral Health and Care plan, Primary and Community Care Programme, has now been mobilised which is understood will have a focus on hospital admission avoidance.
- 6) There is a risk that reviews of current services will not be aligned to optimise and support the NCTR reduction, this will be managed by system planning meetings, and as part of the UEC programme.
- 7) There is a risk that if commissioning reviews of the voluntary sector and other services are not undertaken there will be no improvement changes identified and enacted. This will result in no changes to the way of working and won't support pathway shifts.
- 8) There is a risk if targets and forward trajectories are not agreed and set for

service pickup and pathway shifts that the system won't continue to progress in line with the significant improvement achieved to date.

9) There is a risk that the timely assessment and review of patients is not undertaken across all areas including CICC and social work. An MDT approach to ensure timely assessment is already in place across these areas and will be further developed, which will be overseen by the Unscheduled Care Programme Board.

2.2 Financial

A system financial model needs to be developed for the remainder of 2024/25 including a medium-term financial strategy. This will follow once the medium-term capacity and demand requirements are understood. The following items will also have to be taken into consideration of the financial model:

- The Impact of commissioning and costs, review of existing schemes an impact of any tender or procurement activity.
- Budgetary considerations and a join understanding of organisation efficiency requirements.
- Current activity e.g., Home First, domiciliary care and short-term care home placements and not reducing in either sector as the evidence base shows it has absorbed unmet need to date. This will continue to be monitored.
- The number of residential and nursing placements haven't reduced. This will continue to be monitored, with the switch of some cases form P2 to P1.
- The review of impact of virtual wards financial efficacy.
- The change of focus for system improvement from the discharge from hospital to the next phase at the front door.

2.3 Legal and regulatory

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

2.4 Resources

This will be delivered through existing resources from a commissioning and programme perspective and all service capacity will be monitored and kept under review. All team and areas will be prepared to move resources to meet demand, where required.

Wirral must maximise opportunities for Tech enabled care and future digital initiatives to support people to live independently in their own homes, reduce readmissions and support timely discharges.

2.5 Engagement and consultation

Extensive engagement and consultation has already been undertaken with partners and patients across all pieces of work. The John Bolton review included stakeholders from NHS and council partners. The Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme workstreams have undertaken robust engagement undertaking community forum, provider market forums, and undertaking customer journey review sessions. Patient and staff engagement and consultation will underpin all future improvement work.

2.6 Equality

Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and statutory partners have a legal

	requirement to make sure their policies, and the way they carry out their work, do not discriminate against anyone.
	All projects will give due regard to equality implications and will complete an equality impact assessment where needed.
2.7	Environment and Climate
	Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and partners in Wirral are committed to carrying out their work in an environmentally responsible manner.
2.8	Community Wealth Building 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 and partner organisations 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.
	Recruitment programmes are actively seeking to recruit Wirral residents.

3	Conclusion
3.1	 The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations which have been endorsed by the Unscheduled Care Programme Board: Consider and accept the workstream and other UEC funded scheme evaluations, inclusive of performance to-date, quality and outcomes and future benefits and focus. Consider and accept the capacity proposal figures to progress with the Wirral Health and Care system for implementation in 2024/25. Note the current progress made in relation to reduction in people meeting the NCTR and agree future NCTR target.

4	Appendices

Author	James Barclay Bridget Hollingsworth
Contact Number	
Email	james.barclay1@nhs.net bridgethollingsworth@wirral.gov.uk