



To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)

Date: 4th December 2013.

Subject: Winter Pressures at UHCW

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) has been invited to the meeting to provide the Board with an update on their preparedness for expected winter pressures and to give an update on Accident and Emergency (A&E) performance over recent months.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board are recommended to note this Briefing Note.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Following the Board's consideration in July of a presentation outlining detailed research undertaken by UHCW to get a better understanding of long-standing concerns about A&E performance at the University Hospitals site the Board has invited the Trust to provide an update on recent developments and to report on recent performance against the national target of 95% of patients attending A&E to be seen and treated in 4 hours or less.
- 3.2 The Chief Medical Officer of the Trust has been invited to attend the meeting to provide Members with a briefing on their developing work. This will include information about the allocation of additional funding provided by the Department of Health to combat winter pressures.
- 3.3 UHCW as one of the largest secondary and tertiary care providers in the Midlands plays a pivotal role in the local health economy. Its designation as a Regional Trauma Centre has formalised a developing trend in the development of its services, with patients suffering from severe trauma from a wide area now being sent to the site. Last year UHCW along with many other acute Trusts struggled to cope with the added pressure of the impact of cold weather, increases in general illness, additional falls etc with older patients and they regularly failed to meet their 4 hour target.
- 3.4 At the July meeting the Trust provided a detailed piece of research which appeared to provide them with additional understanding of the impact of winter pressures and how changes in the way they managed bed allocation might improve the movement of patients through the hospital and on to discharge.
- 3.5 A paper will be submitted to the Trust's Board on 27th November and it is expected that this will be provided to the Board as further information in advance of the Board's meeting.

Briefing Note Author:

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