



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
14 June 2023

RESTORATION AND RECOVERY OF ELECTIVE CARE

REPORT OF LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
HEALTH SYSTEM

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the elective care recovery progress for the patients of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) with a specific focus on the scale of the impact for those people living in within the Leicestershire County boundary who are on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) list for elective care, diagnostics and/or treatment.

Context

2. Before the pandemic (March 2020), Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's (LLR's) health providers had a total of 66,000 on its waiting list. The UHL waiting list includes patients with a physical health need, diagnostics and/or treatments including cancer, for both paediatrics and adults.
3. The size of the waiting list more than doubled following the pandemic with 130,835 patients waiting by October 22. UHL has the 6th largest RTT (Referral to Treatment) waiting list nationally based on March 23 published data.
4. Nationally, the overall waiting list is continuing to grow and is at a record high, despite the reduction in the longest waits.
5. UHL has seen a reduction in the overall waiting list since the start of the year (April 23 117,318), achieving our first annual reduction in our waiting list in four years.
6. UHL has also seen significant progress made on reducing waiting times for those patients waiting the longest for definitive treatment. UHL has virtually eliminated all patients waiting longer than 2 years for treatment.
7. At the beginning of June 23, UHL will be launching the operational plan to improve adult and paediatric planned care in 23/24. *See appendix 1.*

8. The ambitions and actions in the plan are clinically led and are informed by evidence and feedback from across UHL. The plan recognises the importance of:

Productivity- making our processes as efficient as possible

Capacity- ensuring we have the right capacity in place

Partnership- building strong links with our partners

9. Patients, in general, are receiving their care sooner now than they were 12 months ago. With the plans we have in place, we believe we will be able to say this again in 12 months' time.

Elective Recovery

104-week waits position

10. In February 23, UHL had the 6th highest number nationally of 104+ week waiters. By March UHL was no longer in the top 25 of Trusts with reporting a month end position of 2. By 1st July the Trust expects to have no patients waiting longer than 2 years.

78-week wait position and forecast

11. The Trust is working towards getting to a zero position for patients waiting over 78 weeks by the end of June. However, there is significant risk within this position that is currently being worked through. Some of this risk relates to the latest planned Industrial Action.

65-week wait position and forecast

12. The 65+ week waits position is ahead of plan, achieving zero in March 2024. Work continues at pace to bring this timeline forward.
13. Outpatient recovery and transformation plan is critical within this aim, given the non-admitted PTL (Patient Tracking List) makes up 85% of the elective backlog.

Diagnosics

14. Fundamental to elective recovery is progress being made on diagnostic performance.
15. In October 2022 UHL had the largest and longest diagnostic waiting list in the country. By the end of April 2023 there has been a 25% reduction in the overall waiting list and long waits have reduced by c.38% for 6+ week waits and 50% for 13+ waits. Based on March published data UHL would be ranked fifth highest on size of waiting list and fourth highest for 6+ and 13+ week.

16. This improvement has been delivered by additional insourcing, increasing productivity and validation of the waiting list in Radiology, ECHO and Endoscopy. Improvement schemes are continuing whilst building a case(s) for sustainable capacity where needed e.g., National Investment in Endoscopy.
17. Progress continues to be made on establishing a second Community Diagnostic Centre at Hinckley. A more detailed report on this will be presented at the next meeting.

East Midlands Planned Care Centre (EMPCC) opened 1st June 2023

18. A key part of our plan for 2023/24 is the opening of the EMPCC. The first patients were operated on in the EMPCC at Leicester General Hospital, on 1st June 2023.
19. The opening consists of two modular theatres build next to the former Brandon Unit. These theatres are 'phase one' of the East Midlands Planned Care Centre and will treat approximately 1,500 additional patients in the first year.
20. 'Phase two' of the EMPCC programme will involve a refurbishment of the Brandon Unit, including the development of wards protected for planned care patients, as well as fourteen outpatient rooms and four clean procedure rooms. When 'phase two' is completed in late 2024, around 100,000 patients per year will be seen in East Midlands Planned Care Centre.
21. This additional capacity will complement our existing capacity across all of our sites – including our community hospital sites. All of our sites will play a key role in reducing our waiting lists.

Summary

22. There continues to be good progress made on the reduction of those patients waiting longest for definitive treatment.
23. In April 2023, the LLR launched the Planned Care Partnership (one of eight partnerships established across the system). The Partnership aims to oversee and support the delivery of the 2023/2024 operational performance plan and strategic plans for Electives, Diagnostic and Cancer and to work in partnership with health and social care partners, maximising opportunities for collaboration and development of services on a local and place-based footprint across the East Midlands.

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