

FOI REF: 21/412

23rd August 2021

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

1. **What are your post-covid recovery plans?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust is following the National 2020/21 priorities and operational planning guidance – issued in March 2021 with the aim to:

- Fully recover all cancer standards and reduce backlog
- 28 day Faster Diagnostic Standard (FDS) to 75% by quarter 3
- Reduce elective long waiters (>52 weeks) reduced to maximum 23 weeks
- Zero >78 week waits
- Zero >104 week waits
- Reduce overall non admitted and admitted waiting list size
- Reduce P2 patients waiting longer than 5 weeks
- Increase use of Patient Initiated Follow Ups (PIFU)
- Increase use of Advice & Guidance
- Increase virtual consultations to >25% of overall outpatient activity

2. **How are you currently looking to reduce the demand for your elective care services?**

By clinically prioritising our admitted waiting list (national priority code set), we have ensured that we are treating patients in order of clinical priority, at the same time reducing our backlog.

Our elective waiting lists have incorporated these priority codes and give booking teams, service managers and divisions clear sight and ability to manage their waiting lists effectively. There is an outpatient transformation programme which is working with divisions to increase the use of PIFU pathways and to support the increase in demand around Advice & Guidance. Working with Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) on the High Volume Low Complexity (HVLC) cases, the Trust aims to increase its day case activity. This will reduce overall length of stay and increase elective theatre activity.

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Return to the national diagnostic standard (DM01) compliance in all diagnostic modalities. During the first wave of the pandemic, the national guidance was to stop a large portion of diagnostic activity. This has created a backlog across all modalities which divisions are now working to address whilst maintaining current demand as well.

By July 2020, all diagnostic modalities had restored to pre-covid levels of activity. However, the backlog of patients waiting was and is still in excess of diagnostic capacity. To address this, the Trust are working with the system and independent providers to source additional activity.

3. Are you currently experiencing any issues managing referrals and if you are can you explain them, please?

No

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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