

Questions to Board in Public

Date of Board meeting in Public

Thursday 11 February 2021

The following questions have been submitted to the Board. Details of the questions together with the Trust response are shown below and an official response has been provided to the originator of the question.

Question to the Board	Trust Response
<p>Does the IW NHS Trust recognise the importance of building greater resilience and will it now be permanently increasing both St Mary's capacity and staffing levels so the full breadth of island based hospital services can not only be restored, but robustly secured and maintained in order St Mary's can meet what inevitable will be the huge backlog of clinical work needed to be caught up on?</p>	<p>The Trust is working with partners across the health and social care system on the island and across Hampshire to develop plans for recovery from the many challenges presented by the pandemic. The planning process will reflect the lessons learned locally and nationally from the experience of providing care and services, and supporting a wide range of staff and volunteers. The Trust expects to preserve the best of the innovations introduced during the pandemic to help meet the needs of the island community, and to combine these, where appropriate with a return to previous clinical and operational pathways. Development of those plans is at an early stage, but progress will be reported to the Trust Board in due course.</p>
<p>As the IW NHS Trust evolves and seeks to embrace working increasingly with partners and third parties, who will have ultimately responsibility for ensuring high quality patient care, and that the highest medical standards are maintained, throughout the patient journey? Will this responsibility come under the umbrella of the Trust, or will it be devolved as the batten of Patient Care is passed on?</p>	<p>The IOW NHS Trust as the Registered Provider of services is both responsible and accountable for the services which are provided. We are working with our NHS Partners on the mainland, to create partnerships which enhance the viability and sustainability of our services. Currently there are no plans for the Registration of services to be passed to other providers. The final model for the partnerships currently being developed by the Trust has yet to be decided, and the answer to the question posed will depend on the decision made. Ensuring that there is clear accountability for the quality of care provided will be an essential element of the final arrangement, and a matter upon which the Trust will be required to satisfy its commissioners and regulators.</p>
<p>The Committee Report – Finance & Infrastructure Committee – 6 January and 28 January 2021 states bullet point 3, 'The Committee were asked to form a view on whether in 2021/22, the Trust should plan to meet all targets and therefore clear any waiting time backlogs as part of our Recovery.' Did the Finance & Infrastructure Committee risk factor the cost implications of possible Medical Negligence actions being brought by patients in respect of delayed treatment?</p>	<p>The Finance and Infrastructure Committee has started to consider a wide ranging set of cost implications for our Recovery phase once leaving this phase of the Covid pandemic. The impact of delay in treatment due to our response to the Pandemic and the cost of such a delay is a significant factor we need to take account of in our future planning. It is worth noting that the Trust is covered under the Medical Negligence Insurance scheme and therefore has Medical Insurance for any agreed claims.</p>
<p>Re-Investing in our future (£48m) Programme Board - 'The committee noted that the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) is going to Treasury on 29 January for approval. A key challenge in the approval process has been the requirement to complete the plan by end of March 2024. The Trust has developed a plan to address this.' Is this plan in the public domain, and if so, where can it be read?</p>	<p>The Plan is not yet in the public domain in any detail. A high level summary of current outline plans has been prepared and can be shared. As plans further develop more detail will be available and will be shared.</p>
<p>Ambulance resources would appear to be an ongoing issue, covid, or no covid. As the Trust got a plan to 'permanently' address this issue, and if so, does it include a finance and a procurement commitment to, with some urgency, increase the number of ambulances and ambulance staff within the island's own ambulance service?</p>	<p>The Finance and Infrastructure Committee has supported the Executive proposal to maintain the current funding and level of Ambulances and Ambulance staff we have available to us for at least the next year whilst a more permanent funding solution is sought.</p>

