

Tim Powell
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Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
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30 September 2016

Our Ref: TP/sm/res/015

Via Email

Dear Chair

Update letter from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

I write to provide the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an update from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

You will recall that I told you in my last letter about some of the changes that the Trust has made since the visit of the Care Quality Commission in February. We continue to provide the Commission with the daily monitoring information that they require on a weekly basis, and to you on a monthly basis. The large multi-occupancy ambulance, known as the 'jumbulance', continues not to be used at Queen Alexandra Hospital. Dr Rob Haigh was appointed as the Executive Director with responsibility for the Emergency Care pathway and the escalation system that we have put in place has improved the patient safety and experience in the Emergency Department, with initial assessment and treatment times showing a significant and sustained improvement.

There has been an incremental improvement in the 4 hour performance, with quarter 2 to date at 81.1% compared to 79% at the end of quarter 1, which is still short of the system's commitment to achieve a sustained position of 85% by the end of the financial year. Unscheduled Care admissions to Medicine and Elderly Care have increased by 3.2% since April and the number of stranded patients remains static at over 200 each day (this compares to an average of 133 in August of last year).

A number of different initiatives have either been introduced, or are soon to be introduced, as part of our internal Urgent Care Transformation Programme. I referred to some of these in my last update to you, and include: the creation of a Short Stay Unit which enables 55% of those being admitted to be discharged within 72 hours, and 80% of frail patients that come to our Emergency Department being screened by our Frailty Intervention Team which has resulted in an average of 16 less admissions each week. A new integrated discharge service has been launched.

There were 12,172 new outpatients in August which is a 6% increase on last year and 6,355 elective patients were treated during August which represents an increase of 18% more than in August last year. This increase in demand, combined with the continued impact of medical outliers in surgical beds has put considerable pressure on our Referral to Treatment performance.

Our 2016/17 Income and Expenditure plan delivers a £1.2m surplus and the position at the end of August is one of £6.5m deficit, which is £0.1m adverse to plan year to date.

My colleague Peter Mellor will be happy to further expand on this information and answer any other questions that you might have. We will continue to provide you with the financial and performance monitoring data that you have asked for.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TP', written in a cursive style.

Tim Powell
Interim Chief Executive