

## Winter planning update

Northumbria Healthcare and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group have been asked to brief committee members on the robust and extensive plans in place for healthcare across Northumberland during winter 2018. Members will receive a full presentation from both organisations during the meeting on 8 January 2018 and this short briefing note describes the areas that this will cover.

Each year, extensive planning takes place in all organisations across the system to ensure operational resilience and maintain patient flows for the winter period. In line with the national winter operating model focused on continuous monitoring and supporting improvement with a national, regional and local presence, the local Northumberland & North Tyneside A&E Delivery Board produces a single winter plan with oversight and perspective from all partners in the local system.

The local system plan – which has been assurance reviewed by NHS England / Improvement - covers the following four areas:

- A&E improvement
- Reduction in hospital bed occupancy
- Flu vaccination
- Norovirus testing.

The plan also includes collaborative working cross-system for communications, plans to flex capacity including escalation and scenario planning (for example for adverse weather, infection outbreaks).

In addition, Northumbria Healthcare maintains an operational resilience and capacity plan, which recognises that increases in demand can occur at any time of the year and focuses on ongoing and robust capacity planning for year round operational resilience. This includes setting out specific plans in place for operational management of winter to minimise the impact on patient care.

Both organisations will assure members on the current state of readiness and how the system has performed through the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The Trust will inform members on the latest performance and usage figures and discuss the areas of risk and the mitigations in place. There will also be an update about Trust hospitals across the county including the latest position about Hexham urgent care centre and the temporary relocation of the Whalton Unit to Wansbeck General Hospital.