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Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD / COMMITTEE

Elective Care Recovery Update

Portfolio Holder:

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September 2022

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health on the progress in the recovery of Elective Care services.

Executive Summary

In February 2022, NHSE published the Delivery Plan for Tackling the COVID-19 Backlog of Elective Care, a plan that set out a clear vision for how the NHS will recover and expand elective services over the next three years.

A central aim is to maximise NHS capacity, supporting systems to deliver around 30 per cent more elective activity by 2024-25 than before the pandemic, after accounting for the impact of an improved care offer through system transformation, and advice and guidance-creating an elective care system that will be fit for the future.

The National plan, as is reflected in our locality plan, has a strong focus on improving patient outcomes and their experience of NHS services, delivering against the following key areas:

1. Make progressive improvements on long waits, with a goal to eliminate waits of over one year by March 2025, and waits of over two years by July 2022.
2. Reduce diagnostic waiting times, with the aim of least 95% of patients receiving tests within 6 weeks by March 2025.

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3. Deliver the cancer faster diagnosis standard, with at least 75% of urgent cancer referrals receiving a diagnosis within 28 days by March 2024, and return the 62 day backlog to pre-pandemic levels by March 2023.

The ambitions set out in the recovery of Elective Care are important for improving outcomes for patients, but they are still heavily dependent on maintaining low levels of COVID-19, enabling the NHS to restore normalised operating conditions and reduce high levels of staff absence.

The plan requires a collective focus to:

- Increase capacity and separate elective and urgent care provision, while freeing clinicians' time for new patients and those with the greatest clinical need
- Prioritise diagnosis and treatment for those with suspected cancer or an urgent condition, and offering alternative locations with shorter waiting times for those waiting a long time
- Transform the way we provide elective care, including streamlined care and fewer cancellations, and more convenient access to surgical and diagnostic procedures, using digital tools and data to drive the delivery of services
- Provide better information and support to patients, providing personalised, accessible support to patients whilst they wait, improving outcomes and reducing inequalities in health outcomes.

Recovering elective services is going to require a huge, collective effort from systems and providers. This is not just in hospitals but across the entire health and social care system. The National ask is ambitious, however Oldham locality continues to strive to ensure we continue to make inroads and improvements and return to, and exceed, a pre pandemic performance position.

This update seeks to update the Committee on progress to date, highlights ongoing challenges and outlines next steps in the recovery of Elective Care.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to 'NOTE' the update.