



Welcome to the NHS Virtual Wards to Virtual Hospitals Strategy Conference

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



05th March 2026

The Studio, 03rd Floor, 7 Cannon St,
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Chair Opening Address

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



Gurnak Singh Dosanjh

Deputy CCIO | Digital Healthcare Consultant | CSO | ICB Clinical
Lead

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland



Keynote Presentation

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



Mr David Cruttenden-Wood

Clinical Director Of Virtual Healthcare HHFT. Acute, General &
Colorectal Surgeon. NHS England Regional Clinical Advisor (UEC)
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT)

WardAnywhere 2026: The NHS Virtual Wards to Virtual Hospitals Strategy Conference

Convenzis

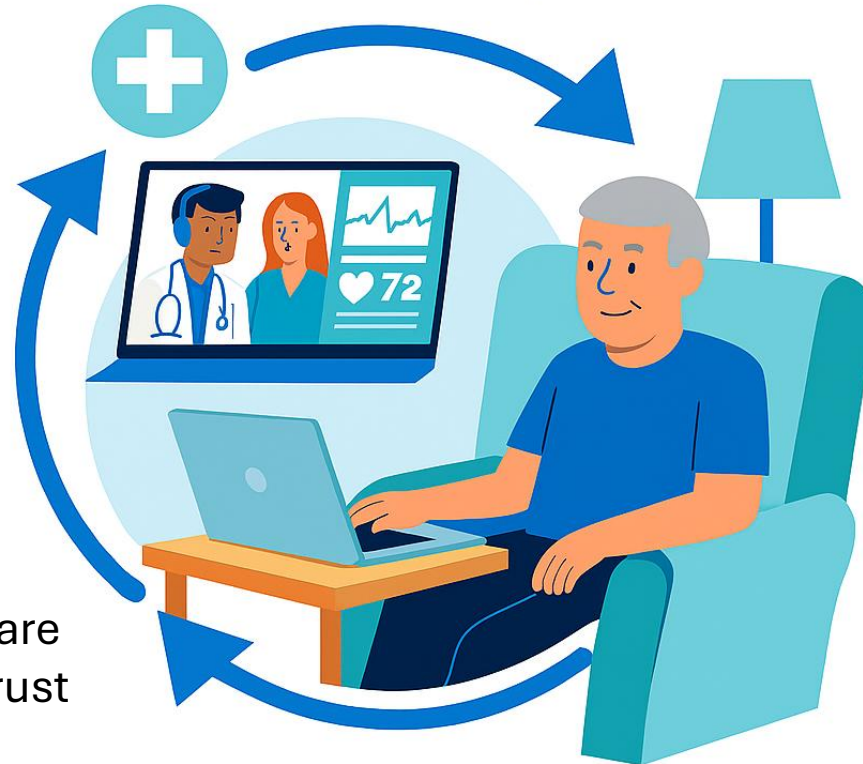
Birmingham

5th March 2026

Unified Wellness

Integrated virtual care for all

Expanding safe, seamless, resilient wrap around care for the right people, at the right time in the best place.



David Cruttenden-Wood
Clinical Director for Virtual Healthcare
Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust
5th March 2026

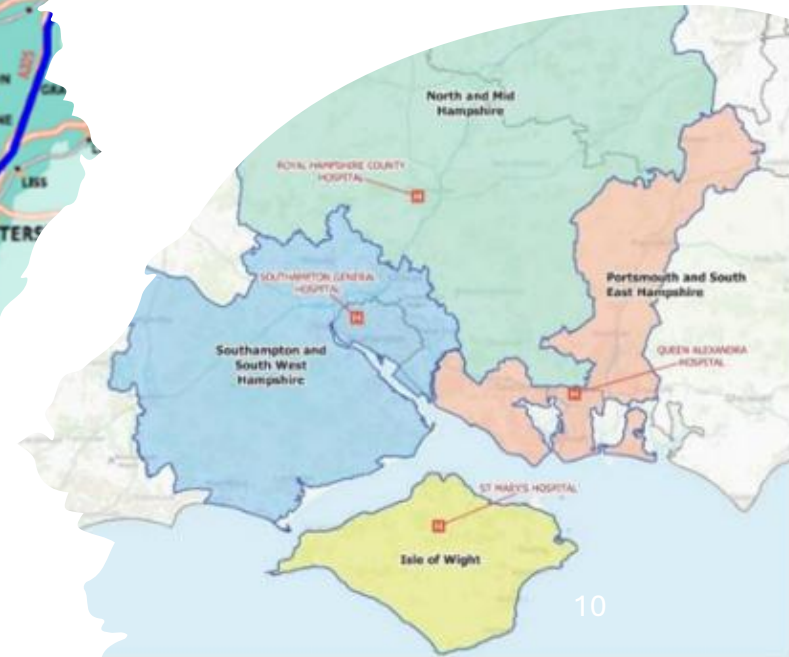
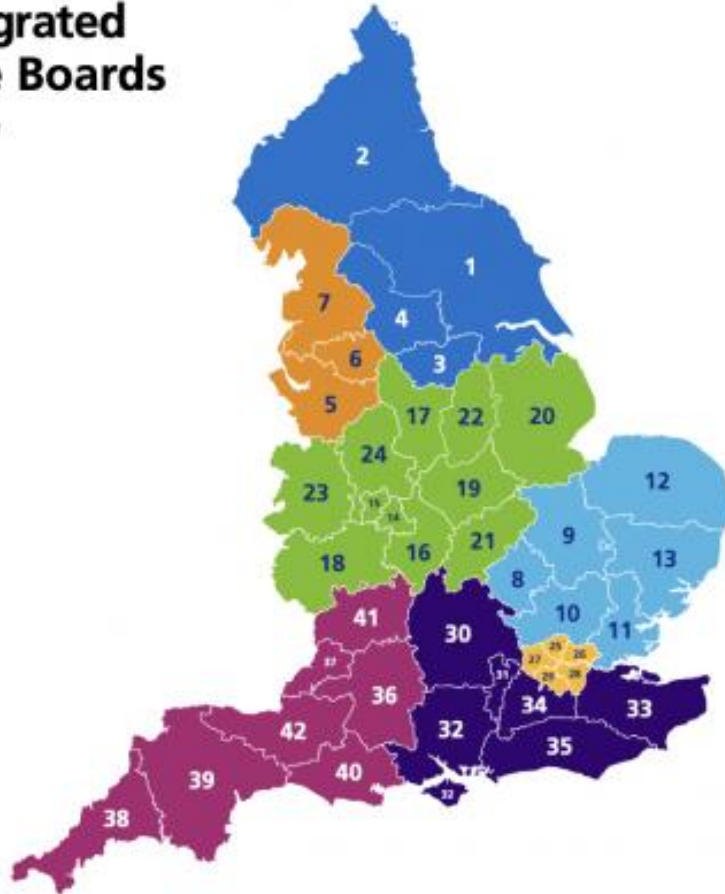
Vision for Health and Wellbeing – Fit for purpose



Multiple Journeys

Integrated Care Boards

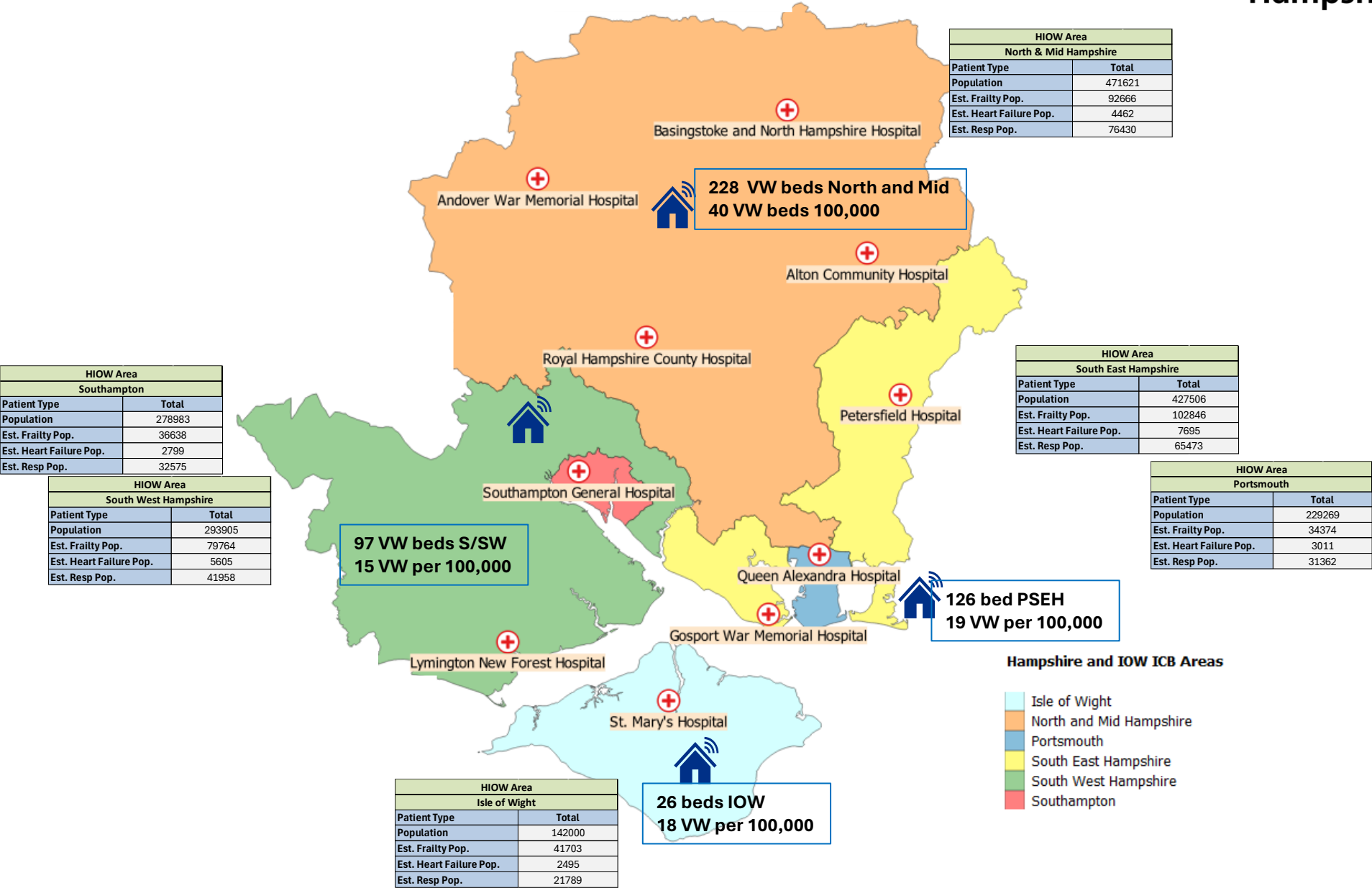
From 1 July 2022



Current landscape....

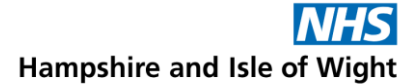


Hampshire and Isle of Wight



Virtual Ward Spectrum for acute illness

How does it work across our system



One team approach



Lower Acuity Illness

- Self Manage in Community
- Patient-led and managed
- Access to safety netting
- Online/supportive Info
- Clear guidance on how to action any deterioration

High Acuity Illness

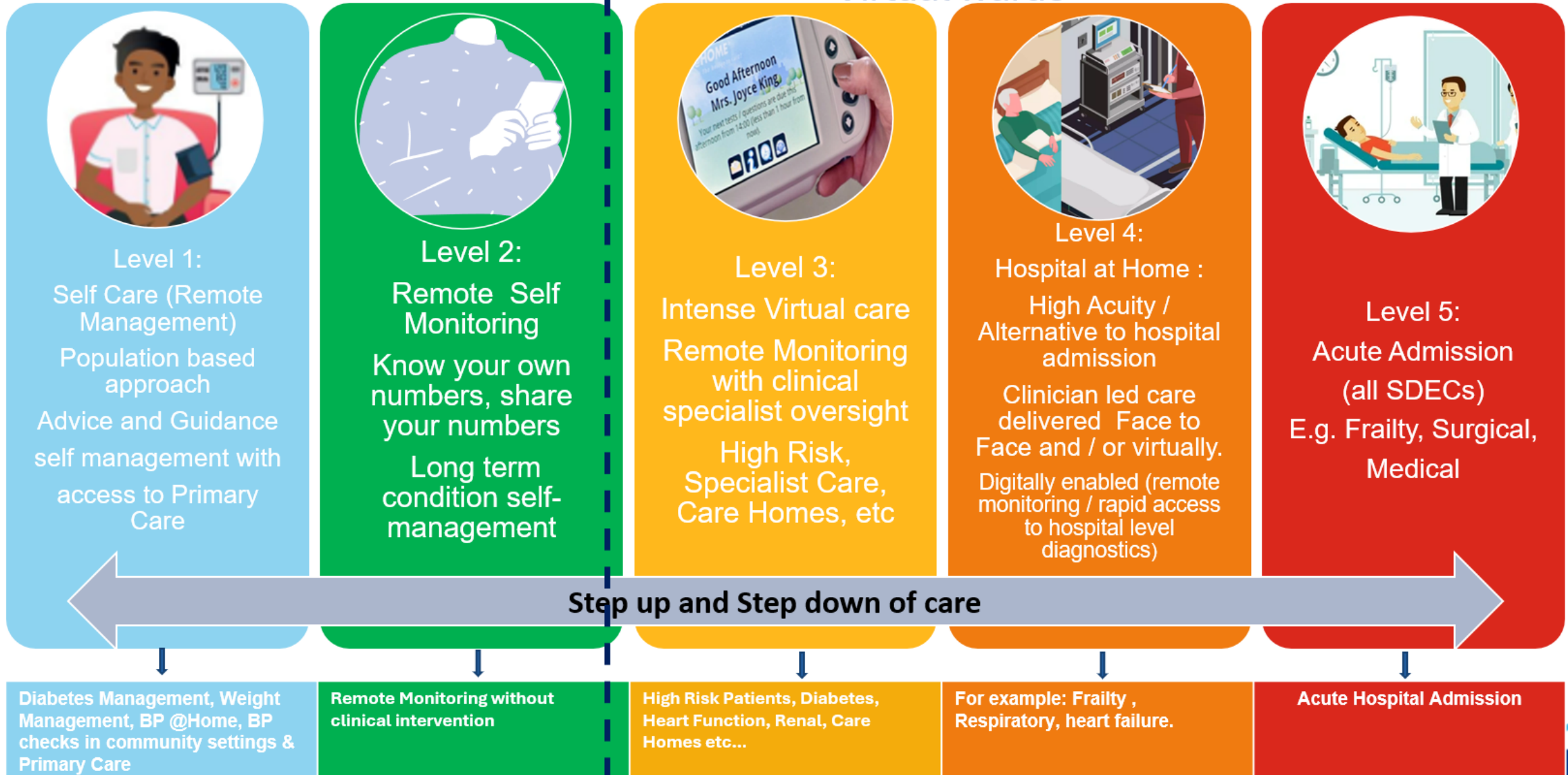
- Monitored by VirtualCare@Home team
- Regular monitoring
- Patient-led, daily submissions
- Clear guidance on how to action any deterioration
- IT enabled support
- Clinical team in place
- Specialist support available if needed

Hyper-acute illness

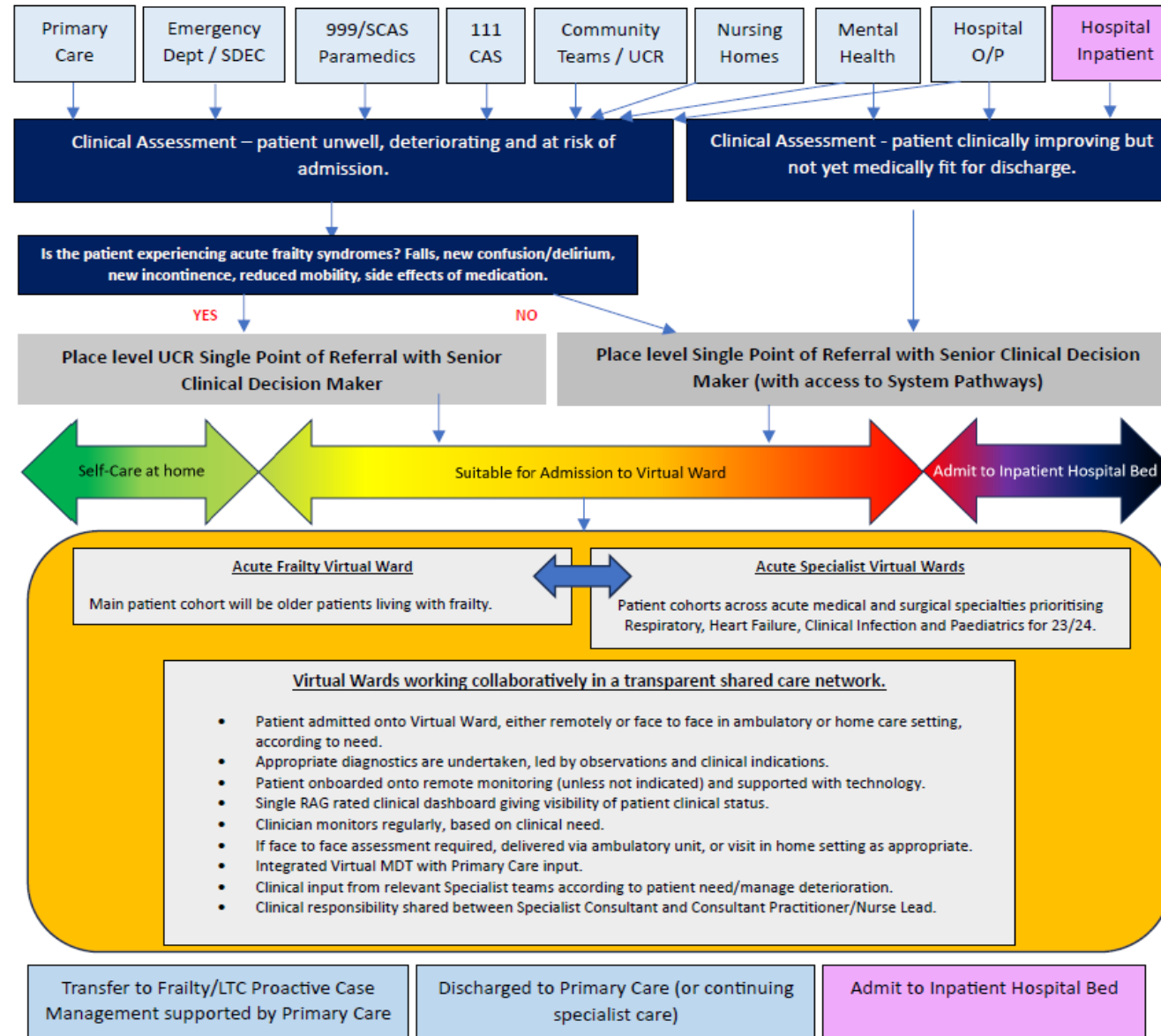
- Monitored by Virtual Ward team
- Active monitoring
- Clinician-led, with active support for deterioration
- IT enabled support
- Clinical team in place with specialist involvement

Virtual Care – care continuum

Virtual wards



Virtual ward vision



Our Journey

NHS
Hampshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

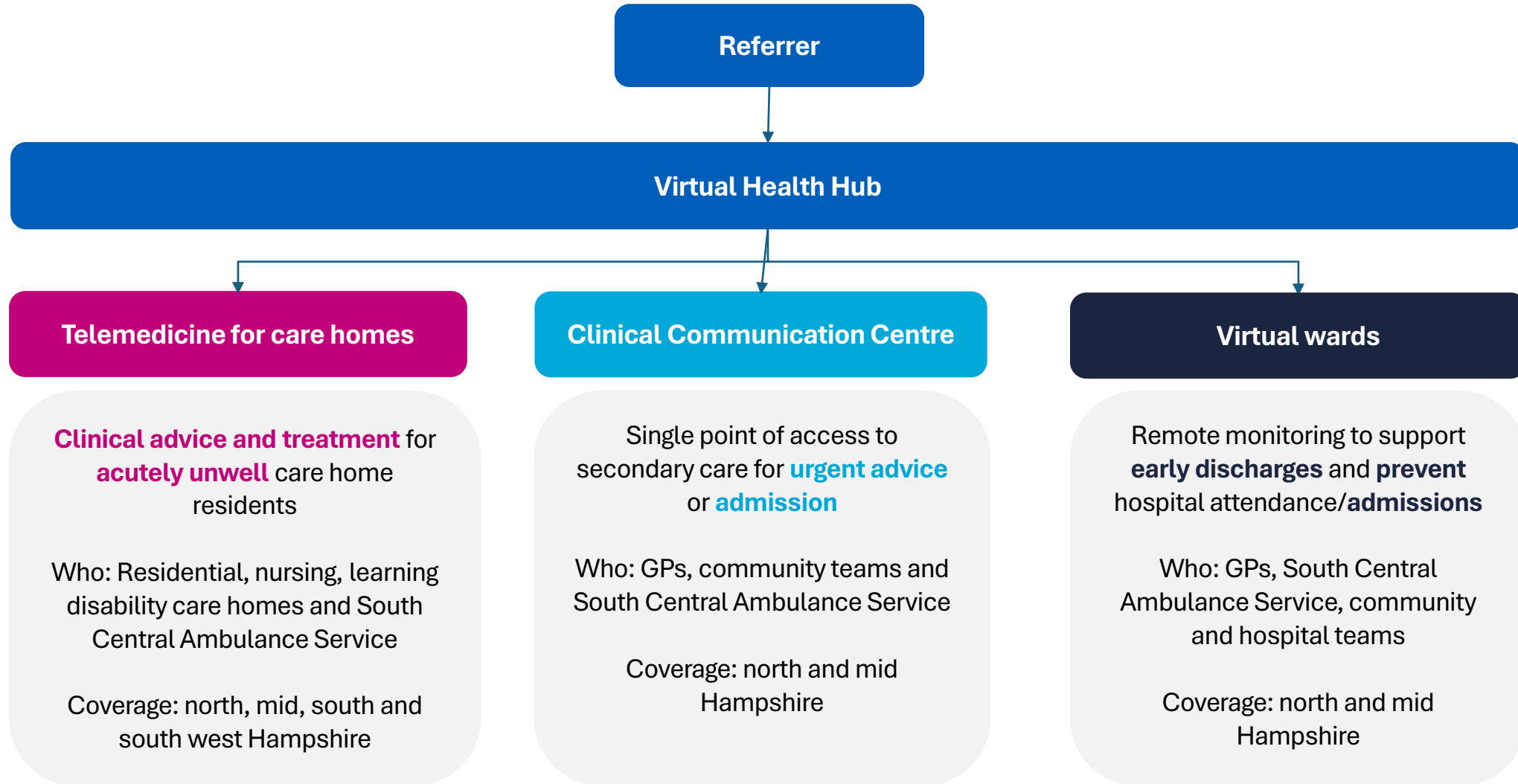


Virtual Health Hub



Our Virtual Health Hub:

How We Deliver Virtual Healthcare



Our Virtual Wards

Frailty/Orthogeriatric

Frailty

General Surgery

COPD

Care Home

Complex Wound

Acute Diagnostic

Paediatrics

OPAT Plus

High Intensity User

Infectious Diseases

ARI / Respiratory

Month	2024	2025
Jan	100	180
Feb	110	170
Mar	90	230
Apr	100	180
May	120	190
Jun	100	210
Jul	80	240
Aug	120	200
Sep	110	220
Oct	120	300
Nov	130	260
Dec	200	240

Virtual Ward E-purple Growth 2021-now

Number of E-purples

350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0

01/01/2021 01/03/2021 01/05/2021 01/07/2021 01/09/2021 01/11/2021 01/01/2022 01/03/2022 01/05/2022 01/07/2022 01/09/2022 01/11/2022 01/01/2023 01/03/2023 01/05/2023 01/07/2023 01/09/2023 01/11/2023 01/01/2024 01/03/2024 01/05/2024 01/07/2024 01/09/2024 01/11/2024 01/01/2025 01/03/2025 01/05/2025 01/07/2025 01/09/2025 01/11/2025 01/01/2026

—●— Data — Mean - - - Upper Control Limit — Upper Control Limit - - - Lower Control Limit — Lower Control Limit

[illegible]

Launch

Mixed clinical workforce of GPs,
nurses and administrators

January 2022

First consultant nurse employed

1 band 8b

1 band 8a

1 band 7

7 band 6

3 administrators

1 project manager

August - September 2022

Second consultant prac and B7 increase

2 band 8b

1 band 8a

3 band 7

7 band 6

3 administrators

0.5 project manager

May 2021

First month with all substantive staff

1 band 8a

1 band 7

6 band 6

3 administrators

1 project manager

May 2022

Band 7 work force increased

1 band 8b

1 band 8a

2 band 7

7 band 6

3 administrators

1 project manager

October 2025

Formalised OSM support and B6 increase

0.5 Operational services manager

2 band 8b

1 band 8a

3 band 7

8 band 6

3 administrators

0.5 project manager

High Quality Service Fit for Purpose



Adoption formula:

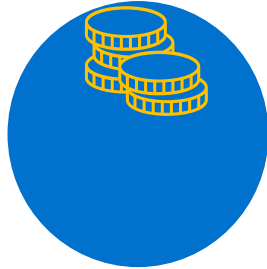
Clinical credibility + Reduced friction + Visible peer success + Protected autonomy = Adoption

THE VALUE OF VIRTUAL WARDS

Growing evidence base



Virtual Ward Rapid Evaluation with NHSe & Wessex AHSN



63 week quantitative data period = 1,113 patients were admitted to the VWs

- Overall estimated **VW cost saving of £1,678,297**
- Step down bed saving of 676 days (minimum), a **cost saving of £225,88**
- Step up inpatient bed day saving of 4,351 days, a **cost saving of £1,452,407**

- Length of inpatient stay (bed days) savings: **3.7 days saved/patient**
- Mean VW LoS for **step down** patients ranges between **7.8 days (covid early discharge) to 10.0 days (heart function)**
- Mean VW LoS for **step up** patients ranges between **5.5 days (COPD) to 8.5 days (heart function)**
- **30-day readmission rate** for step down patients for 21/22 is **16.1%**, lower than the 19.8% readmission rate for 20/21
- 22 patient deaths, a **mortality rate of 2%**, lower than the HHFT actual of 2.8% for a similar period.



Virtual Wards – Research Insights

**Little existing
research around
staff and patient
perceptions of
Virtual Wards**

Understanding the (perceived)
benefits and barriers of virtual
wards



Exploring the service
experience of virtual wards to
inform improvements



Developing messaging to
optimally communicate virtual
wards to different audiences

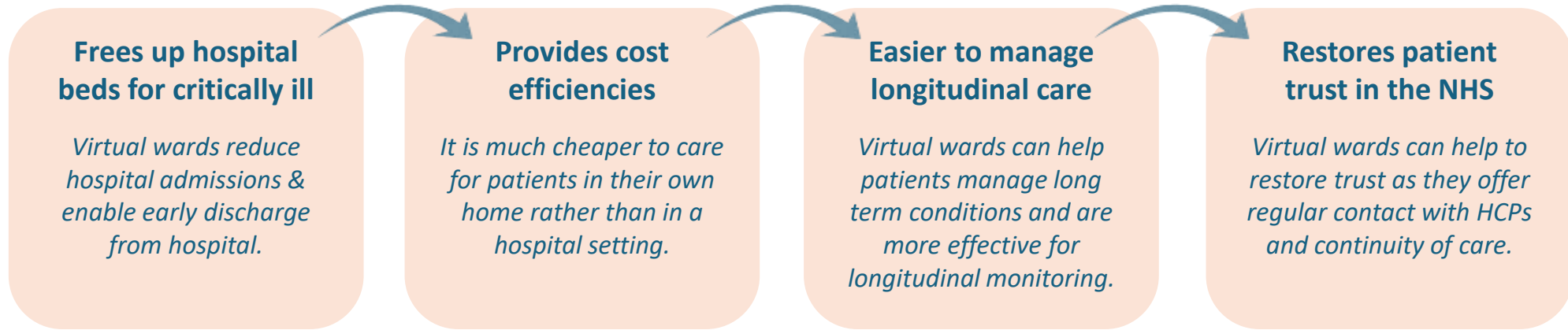


Strengthening partnership
work around virtual care
across all parts of the system



Joining the dots across health and care

Most importantly, virtual wards offer a huge benefit to the NHS



RELIEVES PRESSURE ON NHS

“Wards are desperate for beds and virtual wards free up beds in hospitals and help to ensure that the most critical patients are treated in hospital, so virtual wards make a lot of sense” – Sister, NHS at Home, BNSSG

“I’ve been a GP for a long time and in the 90s you would see a sick child and then because you’re worried you would say can you come back later today so I can check on them again. There isn’t the time and resources to do that now, but I suppose that the virtual ward is doing more of that and keeping a continual eye on the patient which is reassuring.” – GP in ED, HHFT

“Virtual wards staff say I’ll phone you back in 2 hours time and they do that – that is really surprising to patients and relatives. There is a big issue around trust in GPs ... so this can help change mindsets about the NHS.” – Frailty Consultant Nurse, HHFT

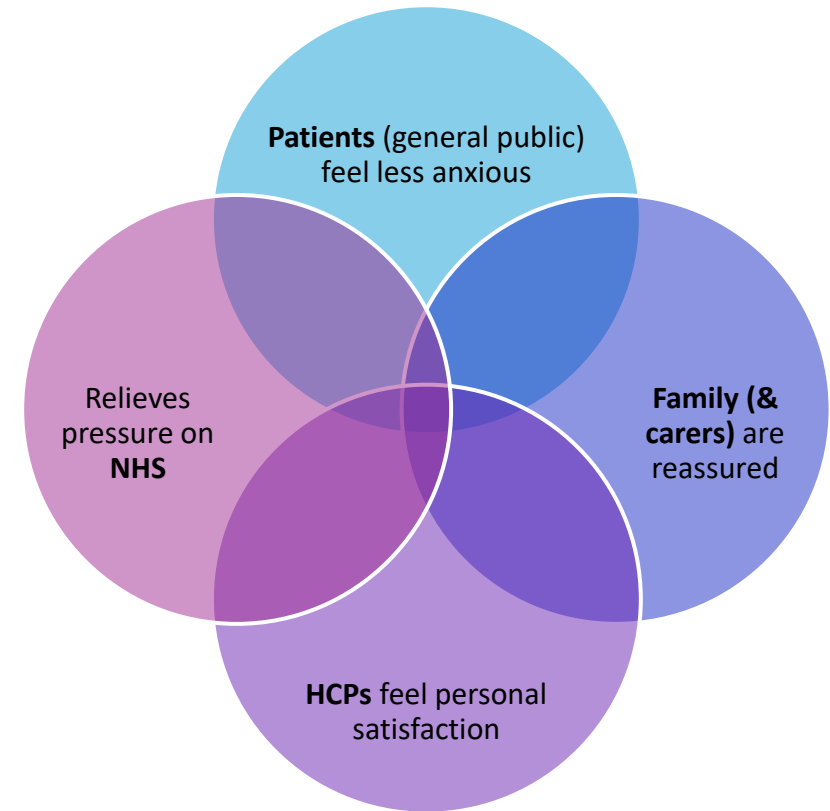
View of virtual wards

Patients, HCPs & General Public are more able to cite (perceived) benefits vs. barriers/downsides.

Indeed, the benefits of virtual wards are multidimensional.

They offer many positives for patients, the patient's family, carers, the NHS as well as HCPs working on virtual wards.

"Patients don't want to be in hospital. On a virtual ward they can have their home comforts and be with family, see their pets, and they remain active" –
Senior Clinical Assessor Virtual Ward, HHFT





May 2024

South East Region Virtual Wards Evaluation

Final Report

Key findings – impact and cost-benefit evaluation

Key conclusions

1. Virtual wards in South East England are **associated with a positive impact on non-elective (NEL) hospital activity** – on average 1 NEL admission 'avoided' was shown to be **correlated with 2.5 virtual ward admissions**, with some more mature virtual wards achieving a 1:1 association between the 'avoided' NEL admissions and virtual ward activity.
2. There is evidence of **positive net financial benefits** associated with the regional virtual ward provision – overall total **annualised** net benefit of £10.4 million, for the virtual wards analysed.
3. **It is clear that the longer they run, the more likely virtual wards are to show impact**, as volumes of admissions going through virtual wards increase, and costs per admission start to fall.
4. **Black & minority ethnic (BME) people are consistently underrepresented in virtual ward patient cohorts.** However, there is are significant gaps in ethnicity data recorded in patient level data.
5. **Core-20 representation in virtual ward patient cohorts is more mixed**, however it is more consistently reported.

The impact evidenced in this evaluation varies greatly between geographies and pathways – with our qualitative evaluation understanding reasons driving this variation.

Headline figures

Number of virtual wards analysed	29
% of all virtual ward admissions in the South East admitted to virtual wards analysed as part of this evaluation (as of 26 th February 2024 snapshot from national 'SitRep' report)	64%
Total annualised virtual ward admission avoidance admissions across virtual wards analysed	22,794
Estimated avoided NEL admissions per year associated with admission avoidance admissions of virtual wards analysed	9,165
Estimated gross benefit per annum associated with admission avoidance admissions of virtual wards analysed	£24.5m
Estimated gross cost per annum associated with admission avoidance admissions of virtual wards analysed	£14.2m
Estimated net benefit per annum associated with admission avoidance admissions of virtual wards analysed	£10.4m

Exploring the Carbon Footprint of Virtual Wards in Hampshire Hospitals ●●●●●

Digital health

Original research

Exploring the carbon impact of virtual wards in a large acute hospital

Kate Townsend ¹, Will Dougherty,² Rebecca Housley,² Jane Walker,² David Cruttenden-Wood²

ABSTRACT

Digitally enabled care is being implemented on a large scale across the UK's National Health Service (NHS), with technological advancements allowing the NHS to increase capacity and provide care to more patients in the comfort of their own homes. As the healthcare system becomes more digitally integrated, it is crucial to consider carbon emissions as part of the NHS's commitment to achieving net zero. While digital healthcare may initially appear to have a lower carbon footprint, factors such as travel and digital infrastructure need to be thoroughly evaluated to ensure a genuinely sustainable model of care. This article examines the carbon emissions associated with a virtual ward (VW) pathway for acute respiratory infection and frailty patients in a large acute trust through a retrospective cohort analysis. The findings suggest that VWs have a significantly lower carbon impact compared with traditional inpatient bed days. Additionally, we compare two methods for calculating carbon emissions: a manual data audit and a large business intelligence data extraction. The results show that manual data audits provide more detailed insights than automated processes. Consequently, we recommend enhancing automated data capture to include more comprehensive information on community and out-of-hospital care.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the widespread adoption of virtual wards (VWs) in England has introduced innovative care pathways, leveraging technology to alleviate inpatient bed pressures, streamline patient flow, and strive towards a "low carbon, high quality" care paradigm.¹⁻³ As the National Health Service (NHS) endeavours to become the world's first net zero national healthcare service,⁴ it becomes imperative to evaluate these pathways

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ This research is the first of its kind. To the authors' knowledge, no research has previously been done to fully evaluate and understand the carbon impact of virtual wards (VWs), or digitally enabled care pathways (such as 'Hospitals at Home').

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

⇒ This study is the first to look at the carbon impact of a digitally enabled care pathway. This completes the full evaluation of VWs in line with the triple bottom line analysis of high-quality care, value for money and now low carbon emissions. This study also critically analyses two methodologies for calculating carbon emissions, identifying that automated processes may not always identify all carbon activity points of a patient's journey.

HOW THIS STUDY MIGHT AFFECT RESEARCH, PRACTICE OR POLICY

⇒ This study positively reinforces the use of VW pathways as an effective way to manage acutely unwell patients. Given that we have an increased and ageing population, combined with the fact that current hospital capacity is at an all-time high, VWs are a promising way to care for more patients effectively, without the need to build more hospitals.

through the lens of the triple bottom line, assessing their impact on care quality, cost efficiency and carbon emissions. This is important to consider as it is vital to place importance not only on the health of patients today, but also on the collective population health of the future.⁴ While existing research on VWs has primarily focused on care outcomes and cost-effectiveness, there is a noticeable absence of studies examining their environmental impact and carbon footprint.

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FOR A GREENER **NHS**



Hampshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

'Virtual ward' bed uses 4 times less carbon than traditional inpatient bed



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Leading the global movement for sustainable health care

Health Care Without Harm seeks to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental impact, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

► Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjinnov-2024-001347>).

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Exploring the Academic/Educational benefits of Virtual Wards ●●●●●



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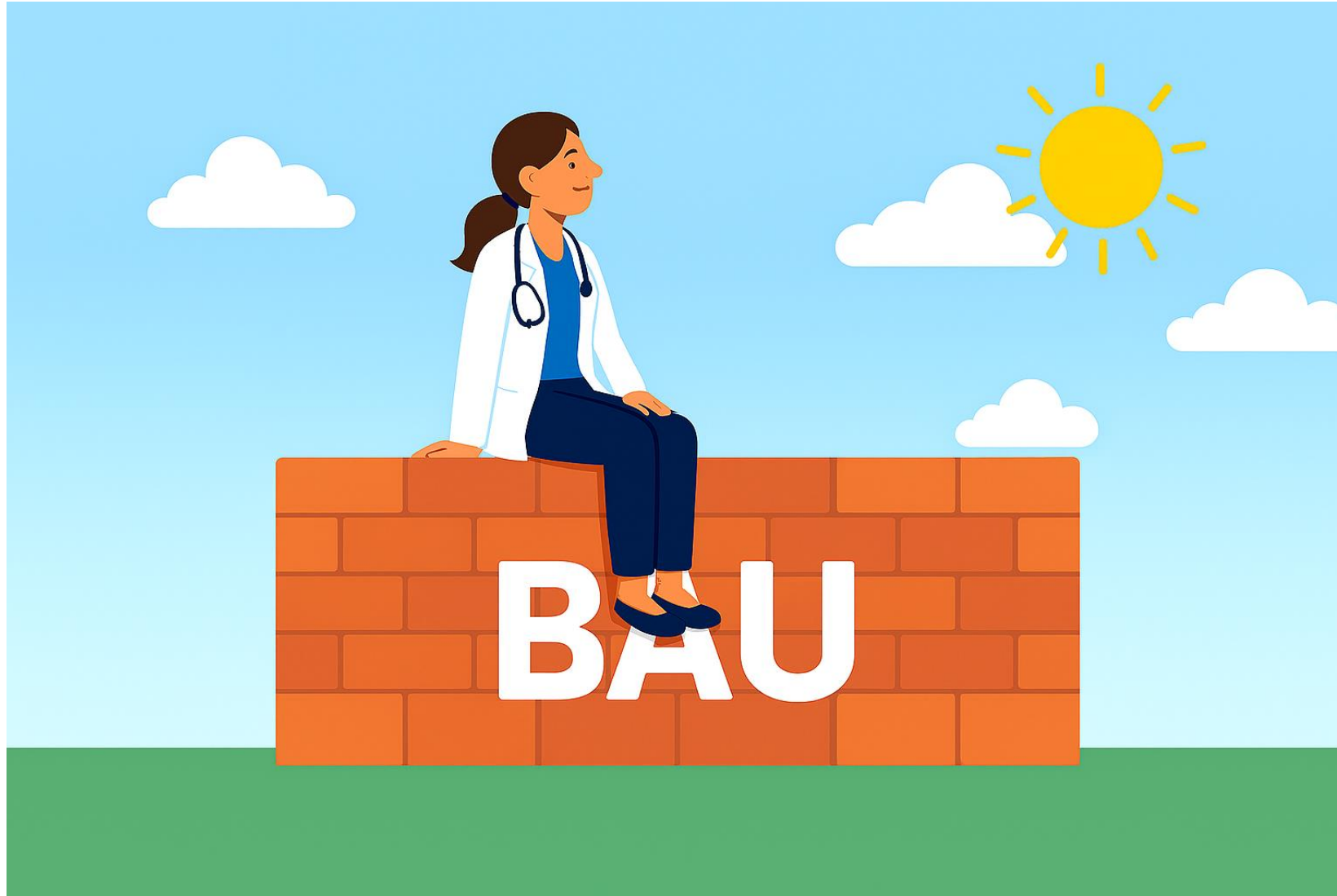
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Fit for the future?



Continuity of care to enable whole system left shift

Proactive case management

Dynamic integrator

Homeless and prison population

Unmet needs

Unmet needs

To proactively work with this cohort and really **understand what they need** and to **de-escalate issues before a crisis occurs**

To build **closer links** with health, social and community teams (including SCAS) and form **robust networks** creating true integrated working

To **reduce 999 calls** and possible **ambulance conveyances**

To identify those at **greatest risk of ED attendance** and **non-elective admissions**

To understand **gaps in current services** provision for future system support

Drive equality and individual voice - empower individuals to self-manage to enable sustainable discharge

To **prevent and reduce unnecessary GP attendances** and **avoidable non-elective admissions**

System left shift

GP practice	ED attendances	Patients	Average attendances per patient	Number of NEL admissions	Total LoS	Individual patients	Av LoS per patient
Adelaide Medical Centre	37	2	18.5	11	15	1	1.4
Badgerswood Surgery	0	0	0.0	11	148	1	13.5
Baltimore Park Surgery	0	0	0.0	10	62	1	6.2
Brambllys Grange Medical Practice	66	2	33.0	59	294	5	5.0
Branksomewood H/Care Ctr	38	1	38.0	17	88	1	5.2
Burdwood Surgery	0	0	0.0	10	32	1	3.2
Chawton Park Surgery	0	0	0.0	13	54	1	4.2
Chineham Medical Practice	20	1	20.0	47	265	4	5.6
Crown Heights Medical Centre	213	8	26.6	92	354	6	3.8
Friarsgate Practice	53	2	26.5	17	27	1	1.6
Gillies & Overbridge Medical P/Ship	141	5	28.2	44	117	4	2.7
HMP WINCHESTER	79	1	79.0	25	32	1	1.3
Kingsclere Health Centre	29	1	29.0	11	125	1	11.4
Mortimer Surgery	0	0	0.0	12	24	1	2.0
Park Surgery	0	0	0.0	11	17	1	1.5
Shakespeare Road	48	2	24.0	24	92	1	3.8
St Clements Partnership	45	2	22.5	28	212	2	7.6
St Mary's Road Surgery	100	3	33.3	48	105	2	2.2
St Mary's Surgery	45	2	22.5	20	100	2	5.0
St Paul's Practice	85	3	28.3	13	13	1	1.0
Stokewood Surgery	59	1	59.0	12	60	1	5.0
Tadley Medical P'Ship	75	3	25.0	38	126	2	3.3
The Andover Health Centre Medical Pract	22	1	22.0	28	174	2	6.2
The Fryern Surgery	0	0	0.0	31	204	3	6.6
Twyford Surgery	0	0	0.0	12	47	1	3.9
Western Elms Surgery	24	1	24.0	13	18	1	1.4
Wilson Practice	0	0	0.0	17	86	1	5.1
Castle Practice	46	1	46.0	0	0	0	0.0
Eastfield House Surgery	21	1	21.0	0	0	0	0.0
Greenway Community Practice	25	1	25.0	0	0	0	0.0
Shepherds Spring Medical Centre	27	1	27.0	0	0	0	0.0
St.Andrew's Surgery	62	2	31.0	0	0	0	0.0
Wickham Surgery	19	1	19.0	0	0	0	0.0
No GP/ GP not known	44	2	22.0	13	28	1	2.2
Total	1,423	40	35.6	687	2,919	50	4.2

Theme for proactive system support: patient one vs patient two

Patient one

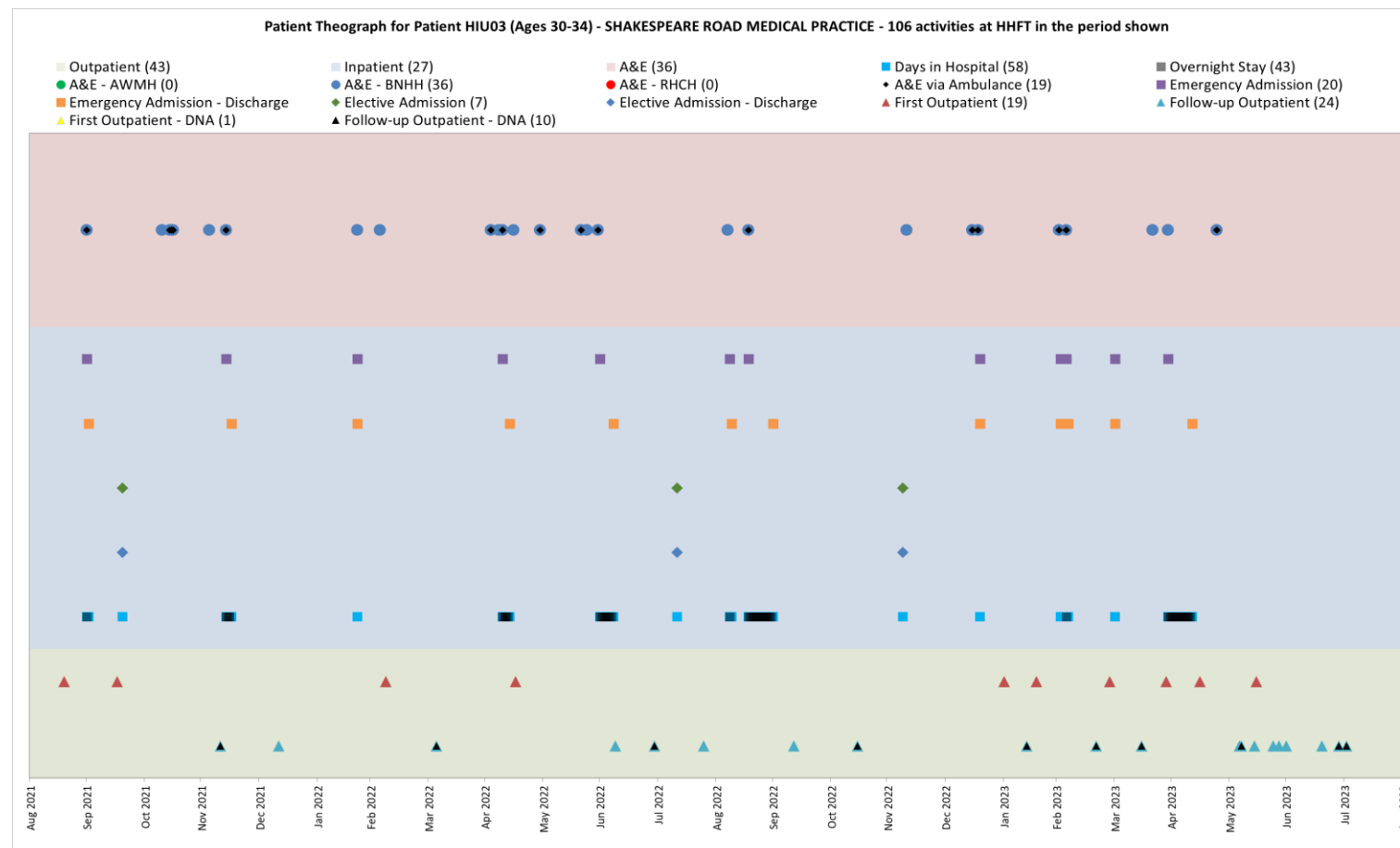
- Older, 56
- Unemployed
- Lives with working relative
- Debt
- Binge drinking, opiates.
- Polypharmacy
- Passive sick role, secretive, defensive
- Poor insight & no motivation
- Autistic?
- Deflected phone calls
- No M/H involvement
- Did not engage with pain clinic
- Needs reminding appointments

Patient two

- Younger, 31
- Unemployed
- Lives with working relative
- Supported by family
- Illicit drugs inc ketamine
- Polypharmacy
- Impulsive – regret
- Converses with comprehension
- ADHD?
- Changing phone numbers
- Engages with M/H
- Partial engagement with pain clinic
- Needs reminding appointments

Patient case study

- This chart outlines **the ED, inpatient and outpatient activity** which occurred in the three years up to 31st August 2023.
- We can determine that the **frequency of hospital activity has significantly reduced** since May 2023 with one ED attendance, no inpatient admissions.
- However there have been three outpatient follow ups which patient 2 did not attend.



Creating a paradigm shift in to drive virtual healthcare forward

1. Define a Clear Future Model (Not Just Incremental Improvement)

Paradigm shifts succeed when the target state is explicit and compelling.

Key action:

Define the future around patient journeys, not organisational structures.

2. Change Incentives Before Changing Behaviour

We are often rewarded by activity rather than outcomes.

Key principle:

People don't resist change—they resist misaligned incentives.

3. Break the “Silo Architecture” Problem

Siloed healthcare persists because:

- Data systems are fragmented
- Governance is fragmented
- Accountability is fragmented

Practical step:

Design workflows that cross organisational boundaries by default.

Creating a paradigm shift in to drive virtual healthcare forward

4. Make Digital the Operating Model (Not a Layer)

Many programmes fail because digital is added on top of legacy processes. This turns digital from a tool into the primary delivery mechanism.

5. Build Clinical-Led Transformation (Not IT-Led)

Healthcare changes only scale when clinicians own the model.

6. Create Visible Early Wins (“Proof of the Future”)

Large systems change when people see the new model working. Short-term proof reduces long-term resistance.

7. Treat Culture as Infrastructure

Technology transformation is often 20% technical, 80% behavioural.

How far along are we?

What needs to be true
to allow equitable,
fair & fluid healthcare
across neighbourhood's and systems
to maximise health & well-being?

A word cloud featuring various healthcare and organizational concepts. The words are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion. The largest words are 'Clinical_Trust' in blue, 'Shared_governance' in orange, 'True_one_team_approach' in blue, 'Shared_Values' in orange, and 'Transparent_care' in green. Smaller words include 'Strategic_consensus' in orange, 'Integrated_by_default' in green, 'Organised_around_pt_journeys' in blue, 'Proactive' in red, 'Digital_Fluidity' in blue, 'Virtual_1st_policy' in blue, 'One_language' in red, and 'Integrated_data' in purple. The background is white, and the words are in a sans-serif font.

Strategic_consensus

Clinical_Trust

Integrated_by_default

Shared_governance

Organised_around_pt_journeys

True_one_team_approach

Proactive

Digital_Fluidity

Virtual_1st_policy

Shared_Values

One_language

Integrated_data

Transparent_care

Thank you

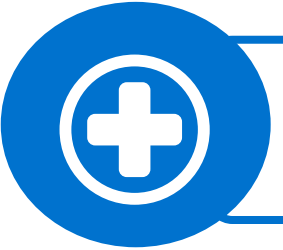
Questions?

Virtual Ward data



32,000

Patient consultations



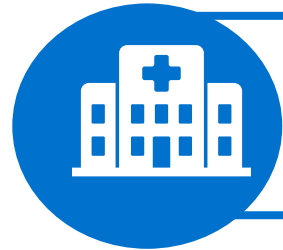
Over 8,000

Patients supported



LoS

Step down 5-7 days Step up 6-10 days



7%

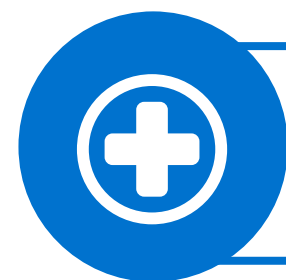
Required hospital escalation

January 2021 - Dec 2025

CCC and CBC data



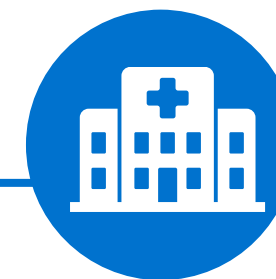
Over 50,000 Referrals



Over 11% Prevented attendance
with medical advice



11% Straight to SDEC as a planned
attendance



18%
Avoided
HHFT (CBC)

January 2023 – Dec 2025

Telemedicine



April 2020 - Dec 2025

Unified Wellness: Integrated virtual care for all

- **Session Overview:**

- Expanding safe, seamless, resilient wrap around care for the right people, at the right time in the best place.

- **Key Points:**

- To describe the journey we have all gone through to realise sustainable virtual care that has a strong governance structure.
- How best to reinforce and create the paradigm shift required to drive virtual care forward.
- What needs to be true to allow equitable, fair & fluid healthcare across neighbourhood's and systems to maximise health & well-being.
- Reimagining healthcare without walls fit for the future.



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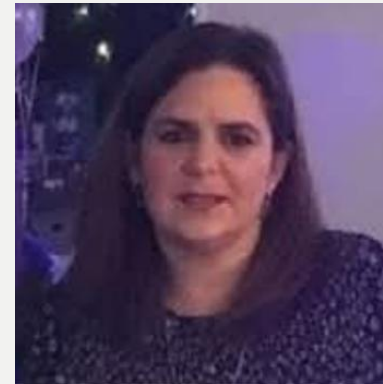




Skill Clinic

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Claire Beard
Virtual Ward Manager
Norfolk & Norwich NHSFT



Alison Davis
Clinical Quality Improvement Lead
University Hospitals of Leicester
NHS Trust



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WardAnywhere 2026

**The NHS Virtual Wards to
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Refreshments & Networking



Welcome to the NHS Virtual Wards to Virtual Hospitals Strategy Conference

WardAnywhere 2026

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05th March 2026

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- **What it is** – A secure, year-round platform bringing NHS professionals together across six specialist communities.
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Chair Morning Reflection

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



Gurnak Singh Dosanjh

Deputy CCIO | Digital Healthcare Consultant | CSO | ICB Clinical
Lead

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland



Case Study

docclaⁱ

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The NHS Virtual Wards to
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Case Study



Dr Elinor Beattie
Emergency Medicine Consultant

AF@home

The Gloucestershire Virtual Wards

docclaⁱ



Gloucestershire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



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Virtual Wards, Neighbourhood Teams and the space between



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Leadership Lessons from the Front Line

WardAnywhere 2026

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Rob Taylor-Ball
Consultant Nurse
Dorset HealthCare NHS
Foundation Trust



Simon Chambers-Bellis
Consultant Nurse
Dorset Healthcare



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Case Study

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Dr. Debashish Das

Consultant Cardiologist, Barts NHS Trust
CEO & Founder Ortus-iHealth



Making Virtual Wards Work at Scale

From evidence gaps to AI-enabled delivery



ortus-ihealth.com

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The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
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Lunch & Networking



Welcome to the NHS Virtual Wards to Virtual Hospitals Strategy Conference

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



05th March 2026

The Studio, 03rd Floor, 7 Cannon St,
Birmingham, B2 5EP



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SCAN ME



Chair Afternoon Address

WardAnywhere 2026

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Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



Gurnak Singh Dosanjh

Deputy CCIO | Digital Healthcare Consultant | CSO | ICB Clinical
Lead

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland



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Case Study

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Luscii
an OMRON Healthcare Service

Delivering the NHS Three Shifts at Scale: An Integrated Approach to Remote Monitoring

Phil Goodwin - Senior Business Development Manger,
Graphnet Health

What we do

- 1

Shared Care Records


- 2

Population Health


- 3

Remote Patient Monitoring


- 4

Care community workflow



Usage

- 1

11

11 Integrated Care Systems
- 2

20M

20,000,000 using our Shared Care Record
- 3

17M

17,000,000 patients using our Population Health Solution
- 4

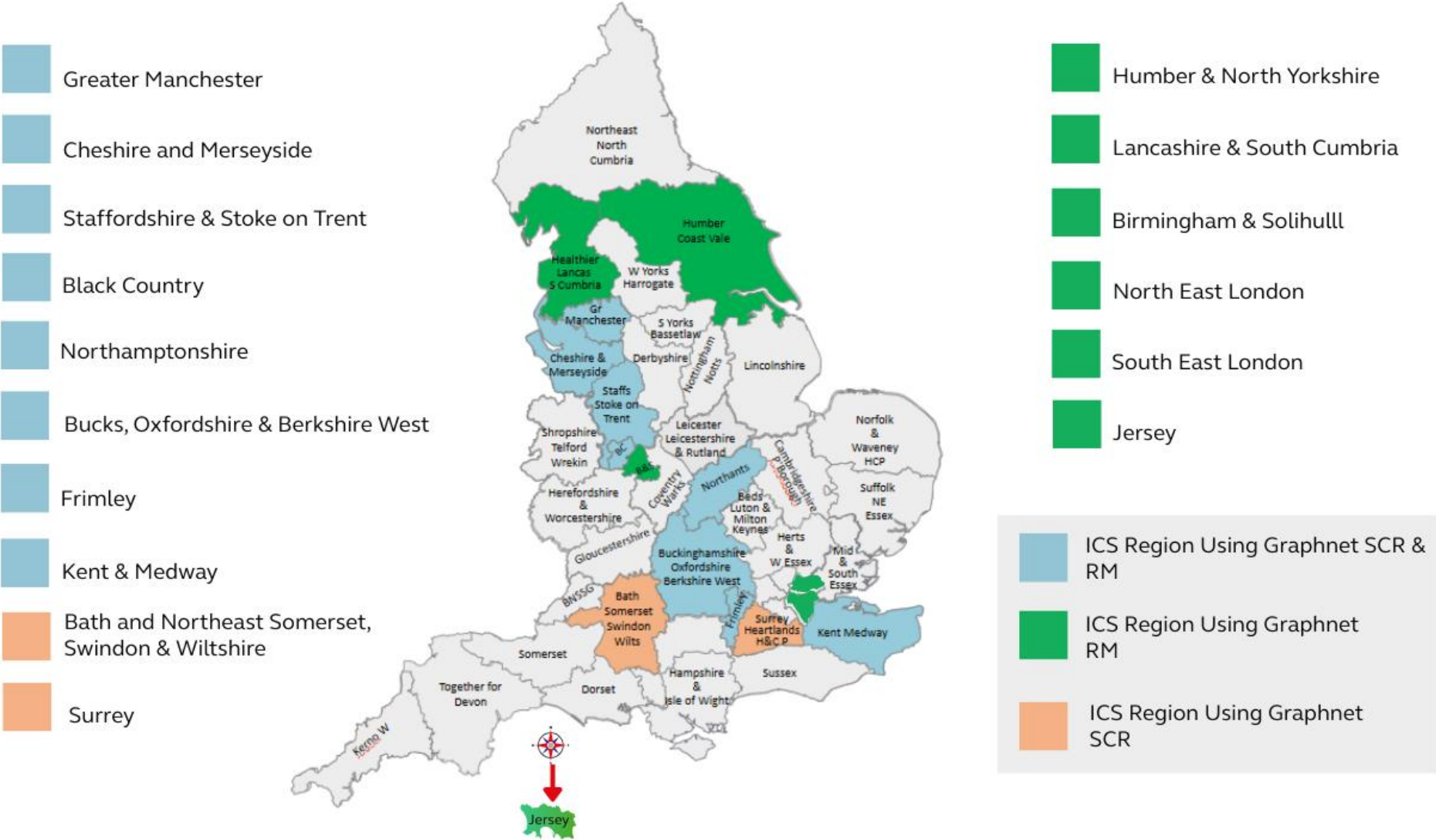
150,000

150,000 hands-on clinical users
- 5

150,000

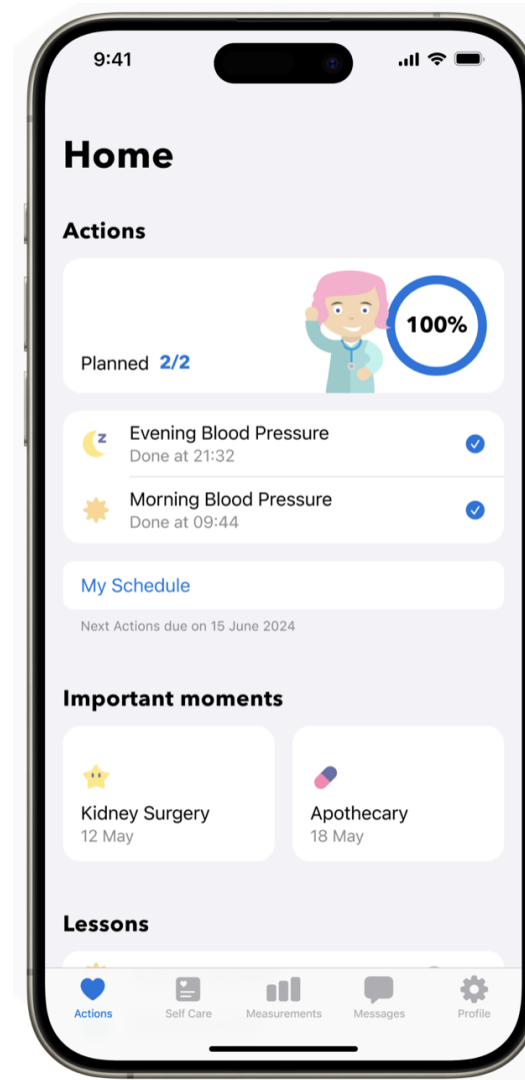
150,000 patients have been monitored remotely

Graphnet's Footprint in England



Three Pillars for Remote Patient Monitoring

- 1 Monitor
- 2 Coach & Guide
- 3 Support

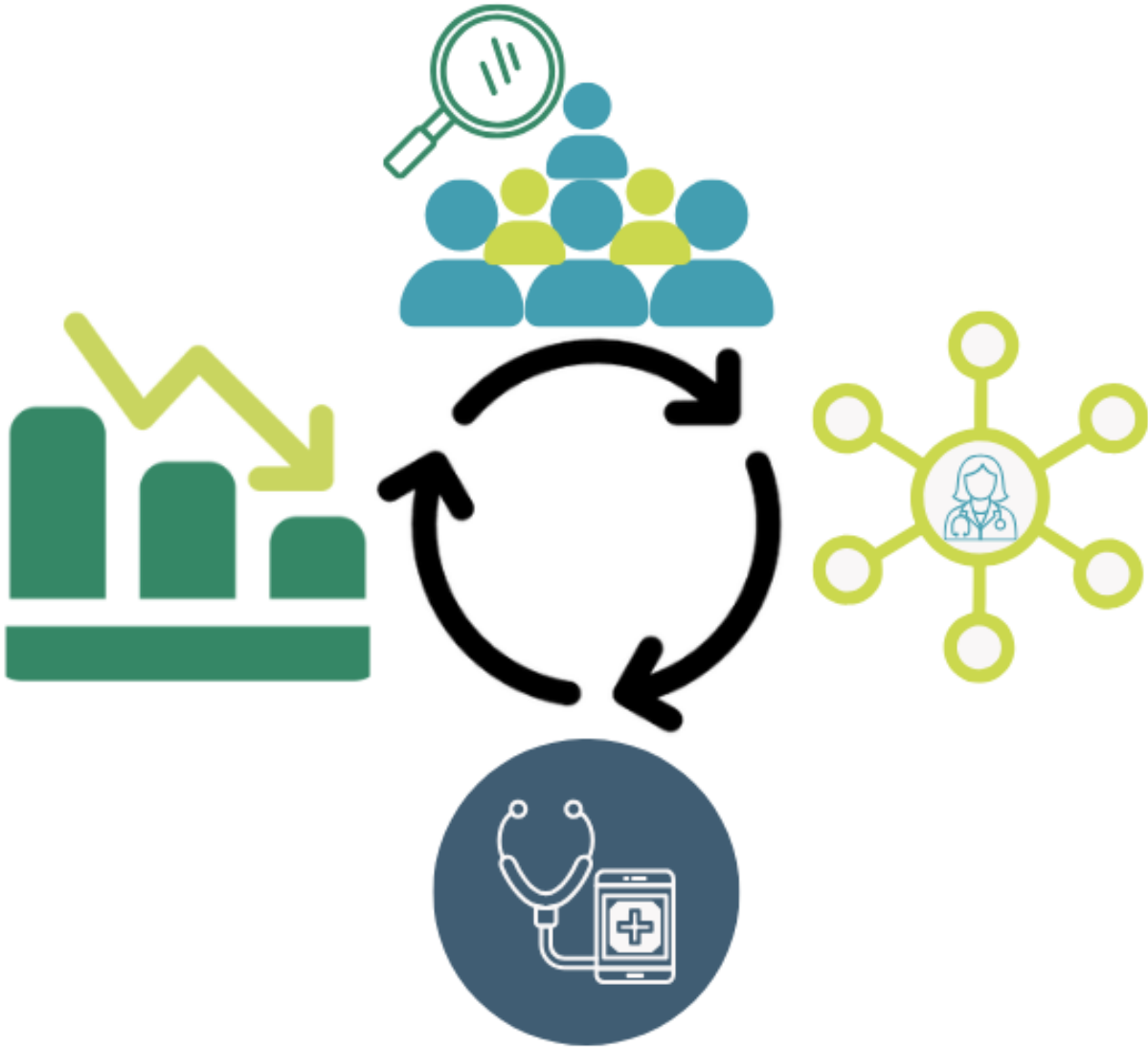


1. OMRON CONNECT

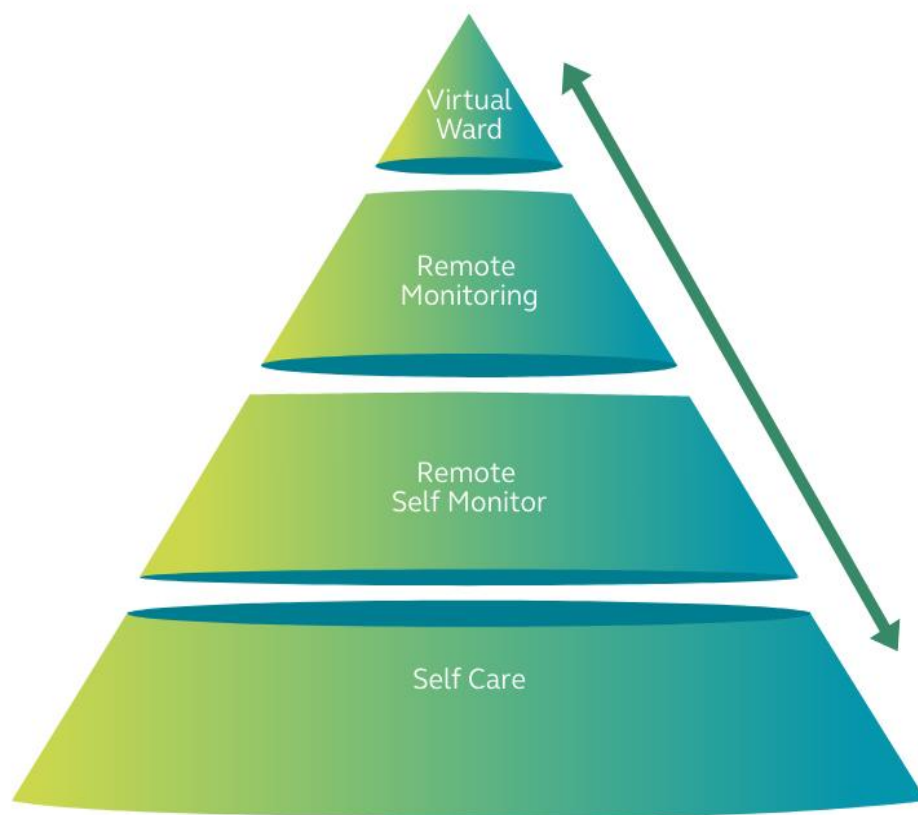
The clinically trusted health companion app **valued by consumers and professionals**

- COLLECT - Replacing the paper logbook via data from OMRON and non-OMRON devices
- GUIDE – Expert-led premium Health Programs built around Clinical Intelligence™
- SHARE – Easy sharing of data and insights with family, and healthcare professionals





Escalating & De-escalating across Virtual Care Pathways



System Wide Digital Tools

-  A single digital system allows residents to escalate up and down levels of care within the system
-  The Digital Health Team continue to support the resident and the escalation point may change as the resident's need change
-  Frequency of remote monitoring may increase as the resident becomes more acutely unwell
-  Residents are most likely to engage in virtual care with consistency and familiarity
-  Residents remain safe across transfer of care points as they are supported by the digital health care team using a single digital solution
-  Once residents are self-actualised and well, they can move to remote monitoring without clinical intervention

We know it works.....

Frimley Health and Care



38.6% reduction in A&E attendances 53.7% reduction in admissions

26.7% reduction in outpatient appointments £5–8m annual savings



We know it works.....



Kent and Medway

69 % reduction in emergency department visits

68.4 % reduction in walk-in centre visits

70 % reduction in emergency hospital admissions for the cohort



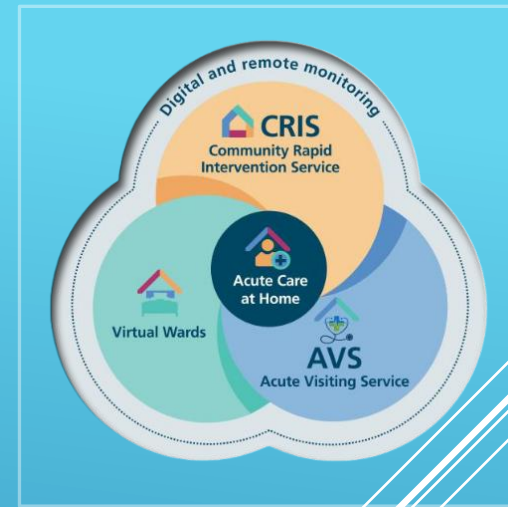
ACUTE CARE AT HOME VIRTUAL WARD *LUSCII TRANSITION*

Implementing innovative virtual care systems
effectively

Presented by:

Kingsley Marshall – Asst Programme Manager

Julietta Newton – Modern Matron



Who We Are – Our Role in the LUSCII Transition

As ACAH leads, we jointly coordinated and delivered the transition from Docobo to LUSCII:

- **Kingsley (Kings) Marshall** – Assistant Programme Manager: Led Programme planning, build, IG, SOPs and go-live readiness.
- **Gina Reynolds** – Operational Manager: Oversaw operational alignment, pathway workflow design and team readiness.
- **Julietta (Jules) Newton** – Modern Matron: Provided clinical leadership, pathway validation and safety assurance.

Together, we led the transition from an ACAH perspective, ensuring the move to LUSCII was safe, clinically sound and operationally robust.

We deliver Urgent Community Response (2hr UCR), Virtual Wards, and the Acute Visiting Service.

We serve Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

We operate consultant-led pathways across acute medicine, frailty, surgical, and respiratory cohorts.

Virtual Ward referrals are managed by North, Central and South teams.

Our designated Referral Hub coordinates UCR and AVS requests.

WHO WE ARE

ACUTE CARE AT HOME (ACAH)

Several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines extending from the right edge of the slide towards the center, adding a modern, graphic element to the design.

Docobo was being phased out nationally.

LUSCII supports flexible pathway design and remote monitoring.

Improved patient usability and mobile-first approach.

Aligns with Shared Care Record integration roadmap.

No additional costs incurred during the transition.

WHY WE MOVED FROM DOCOBO TO LUSCII

Ensure IG alignments
were in place

Updated SOPs for
onboarding,
monitoring, escalation
and discharge.

Rebuilt Docobo
pathways in LUSCII
with improvements.

VW teams (North,
Central, South)
trained before go-live.

Go-live completed 5
January 2026 with no
disruption.

HOW WE DELIVERED THE TRANSITION

Faster pathway updates and more flexibility.

Better clinical oversight through dashboards.

Improved patient engagement via app.

Stronger foundation for wearables and SCR integration.

**IMPROVEMENTS SINCE
TRANSITION**

Over 50 patients onboarded and actively monitored since go-live.

Additional LUSCII training delivered to all Virtual Ward teams.

Scoping work underway for wearable device development and evaluation.

Export and secure transfer of legacy Docobo data completed.

All remaining tablets updated and transitioned to LUSCII software.

Integration development for OHC (One Health & Care) now in progress.

HOW THINGS ARE GOING SINCE GO-LIVE

Several thin, white, parallel lines of varying lengths and angles are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

Our Thanks to Graphnet & LUSCII

We want to express our sincere thanks to both the Graphnet and LUSCII teams. Throughout the entire transition — from planning, build, testing, training and go-live — they have been incredibly supportive.

They provided rapid technical assistance, hands-on education, and patient-safety-focused guidance at every stage.

What's been equally important is the support that has continued post-transition. They've worked with us on pathway refinement, troubleshooting, and our future development plans, including wearables and enhanced reporting.

Their partnership has played a huge part in the success of this programme, and we can't thank them enough.



WHAT'S NEXT

- ▶ Expansion of respiratory, heart failure and surgical pathways.
 - ▶ Enhanced ICS reporting and data insights.
 - ▶ Wearable device integration.
 - ▶ Improved cross-site clinical connectivity.
- 
- Several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the bottom edge towards the right edge.



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NHS Deep Dive

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
Virtual Hospitals Strategy
Conference



Kirsty Osborn
Deputy Director Urgent Care
DHU Healthcare



Emma Wardale
Virtual Ward Clinical Lead
DHU Healthcare



Transforming Falls Management: Implementing Novel Pathways in the Community Virtual Ward

Wards Anywhere 2026 Convenzis NHS Virtual Ward Strategy Conference



Kirsty Osborn - Deputy Director Urgent Care, DHU Healthcare
Emma Wardale - Virtual Ward Clinical Lead, DHU Healthcare

We are DHU

DHU Healthcare is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company delivering NHS urgent and emergency care, primary care, community and out-of-hours services and NHS 111.

Operating 24/7 across the Midlands and beyond, DHU serves more than 15 million people and supports more than 3,500 colleagues to deliver compassionate, high-quality care.

January-March 2026



DHU Community Virtual Ward: From Pandemic to Permanent

Evolved Virtual Care

- Built from pandemic-era infrastructure
- Extended to frailty, falls, palliative, surgical and paediatrics
- 24/7 multidisciplinary oversight and remote monitoring
- 3,655 admissions since October 2022 – only 4% admission to hospital



The Virtual Ward Model: Core Components

- Defined inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Structured observation schedules
- Daily MDT review
- Rapid escalation protocols
- Remote and face to face contact



The problem: Frail older adults are often left on the floor too long after falls or head injuries

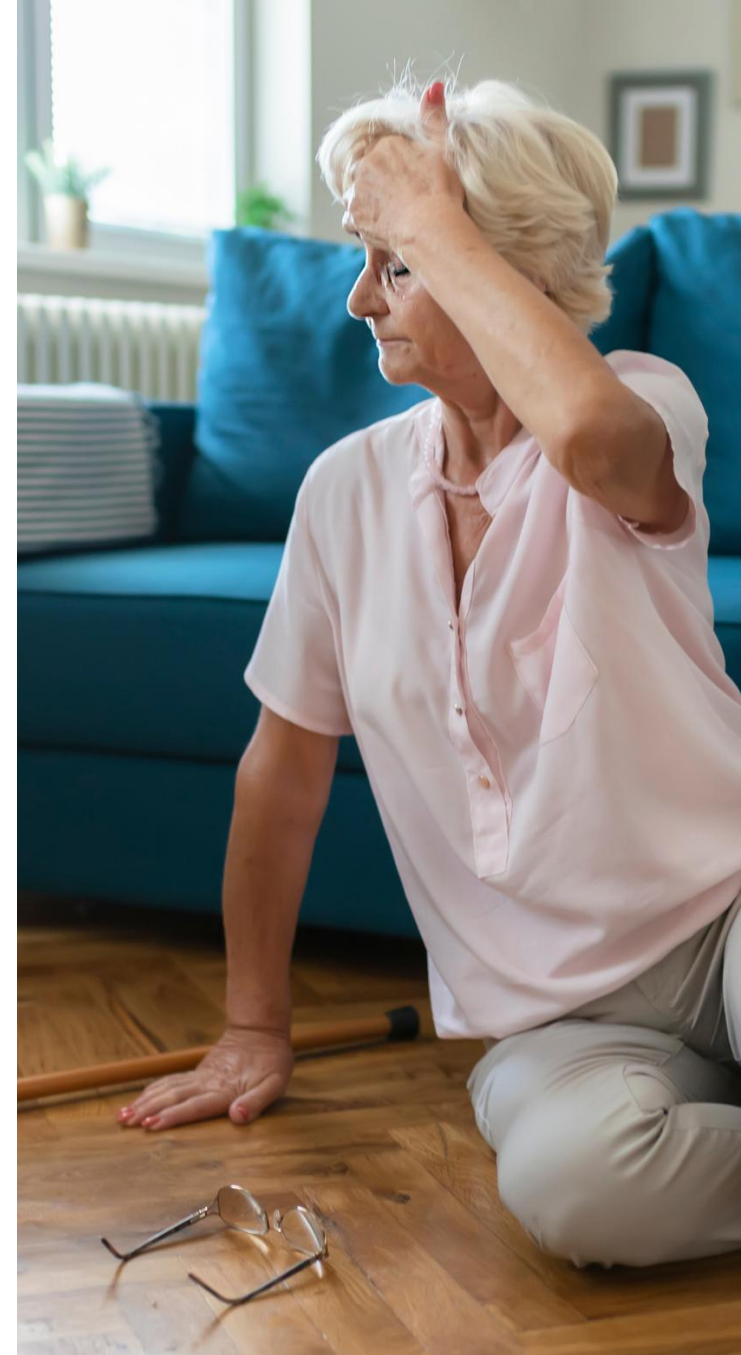
Patient Risks

- Dehydration
- Rhabdomyolysis
- Intracranial Bleed
- Unnecessary Hospital Admission
- Avoidable Harm (Long Lie)

Service Risks

- Ambulance Delays
- Emergency Department Overcrowding
- Unnecessary Hospital Admission

“Older people were waiting hours for help when they needed minutes.”

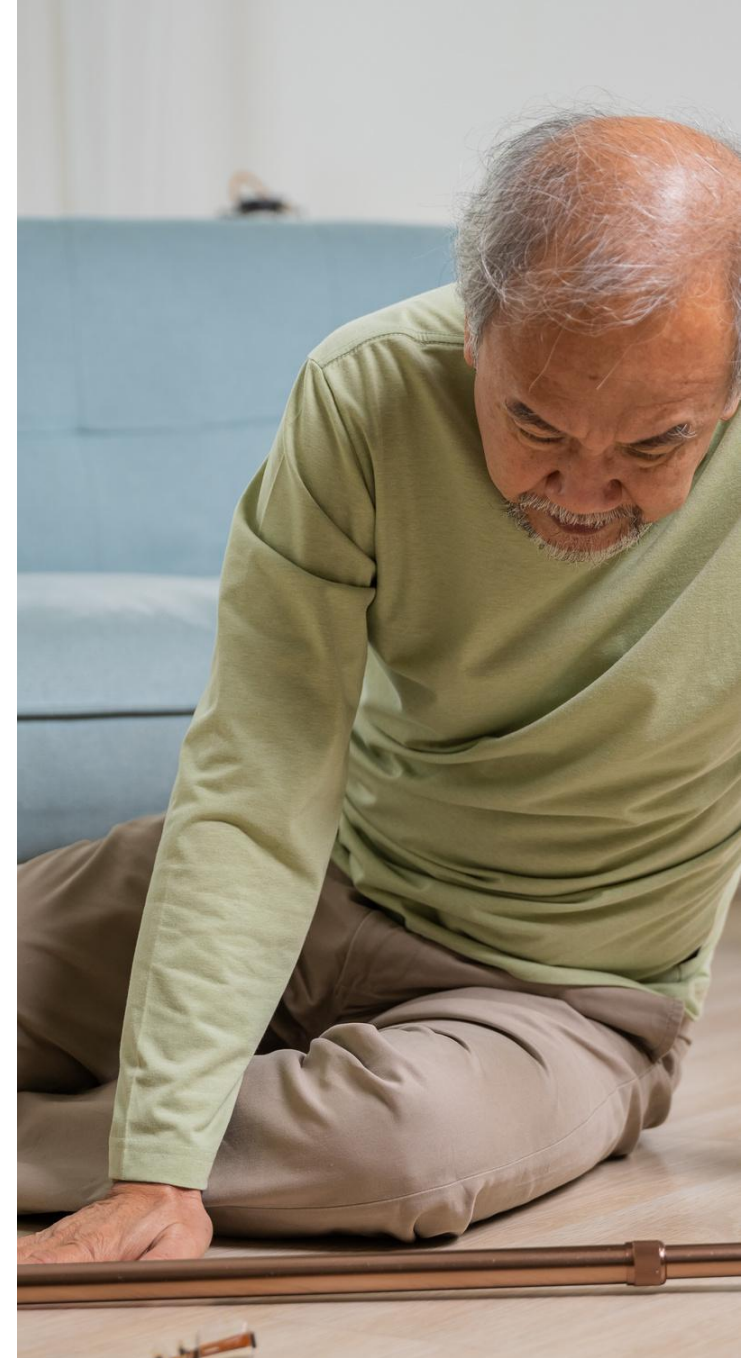


Why change was needed

Older adults disproportionately affected

Prolonged floor time → dehydration, rhabdomyolysis, fear

Anticoagulated head injury → precautionary admissions



The System Problem

Traditional model: risk-averse, conveyance-first pathways
No definition of 'long lie' – open to interpretation

Default conveyance → short-stay admission

Limited therapeutic benefit

Bed and ED flow pressures

Poor patient experience



Our innovation: What we did and how

Community Virtual Ward

Nurse-led
Roaming Car

Rapid At-Home Assessment

Point of Care Testing, Neuro
Observations, IV/SC Fluids, ECG,
Bladder Scan

Integrated Service

East Midlands Ambulance
Service, GPs, and
Community Nursing

Re-Imagining the Emergency Response

Falls and Long Lie Pathway, Fall and
(potential) Head Injury on Anti-
coagulation Pathway



Outcome Highlights

536 patients supported between
March 2025 – January 2026

Average **2-hour** response
time

**7.7 % transfer to
secondary care** - 2.9% of
these directly to place of
care

44% engaged with technology

100% referred to other services

Cost benefit per patient –
traditional pathway £6400, **new
pathway £425**



Further Outcomes

Fall and long lie patients managed: **n = 424**

Anticoagulated head injuries: **n = 112**

70-79 years - **41%**
80-89 years - **25%**

Living alone: **79%**

Referrals from ambulance: **58%**

Escalation to ED: **4.8%**

Overall admission avoided:
495 people

Deaths: **4**
(Expected)

CVW length of stay:
8.3 days





Impact Across the System: Benefits

Demand - avoids ambulance conveyance, ED attendances and non-elective admissions. Community shift

Equity and access - targets high-risk groups, delivers rapid care at home to reduce complications, neighbourhood working

Outcomes - improves patient experience, maintains independence

Cost - lower cost than an inpatient stay, shifts to proactive care

Key Enablers

Engagement with key providers including ambulance service, Falls response, 111/CAS, ED

Education to teams - ease of access e.g. direct line, QR code etc

'Perfect week' model Front door presence by ambulance/VW leads, challenge decision making

Face to face element is crucial to enable urgent assessment, point of care testing, prompt monitoring

24/7 service - access to overnight/weekend support
- Acute Response Car (ARC)
- Level 1 falls referrals

Links created into acute Frailty services to avoid ED admission (e.g., Frailty SDEC, AFU)

Local system support and effective **communication systems**

Patient and carer education and empowerment

Data and continuous improvement



Making a difference

Positive Patient Stories



Good Experiences and
Feedback



Improved Staff Morale

Margaret (pictured right), 79,
avoided admission

I got
hospital
quality care
at home.



Get in touch



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Virtual Ward Clinical Lead

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Chief Operating Officer

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NHS Deep Dive

WardAnywhere 2026

The NHS Virtual Wards to
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Conference



Dr Birte Morris

Service Line Director for Acute Virtual Ward |
Clinical Lead for SPOA, UHP Plymouth - Devon

WardAnywhere2026: The NHS Virtual Wards to Virtual Hospitals Strategy Conference

Patient flow & Care Coordination



Preventing the Front Door: Mobile X-Ray as a Gateway to the Virtual Ward

Preventing Admissions, Delivering Care at Home

A collaborative initiative between Derriford Hospital and Livewell Southwest.

Providing rapid community diagnostics, holistic assessment,
and proactive frailty management.



We put people first
We take ownership
We respect and value each other
We are compassionate
We listen, learn and improve



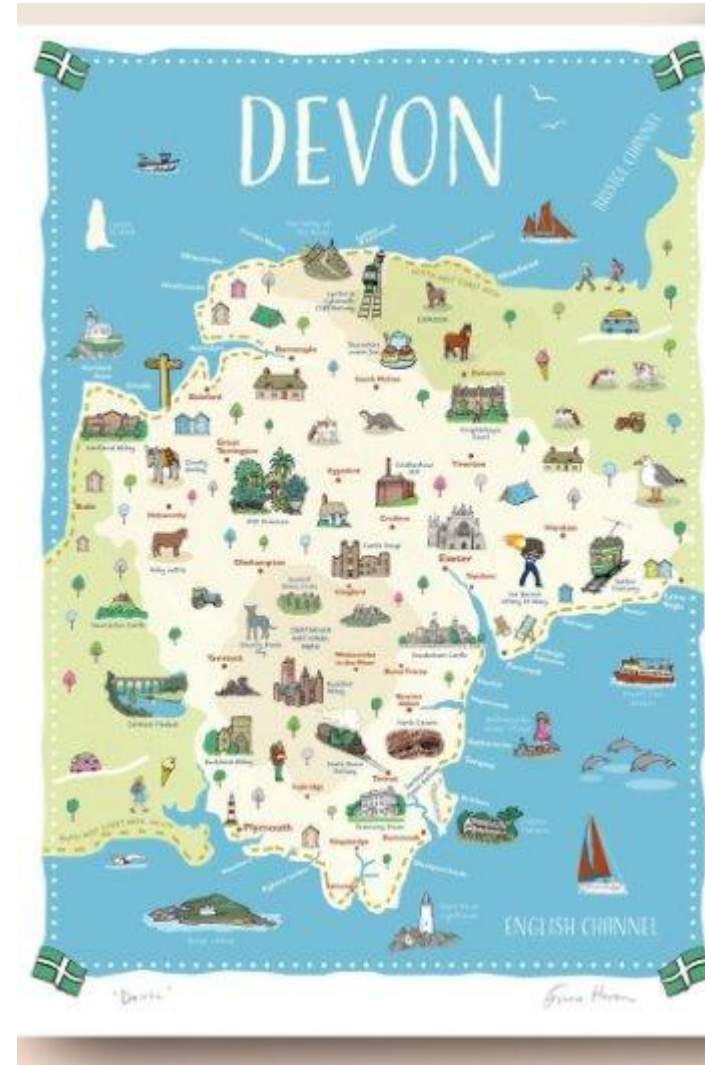
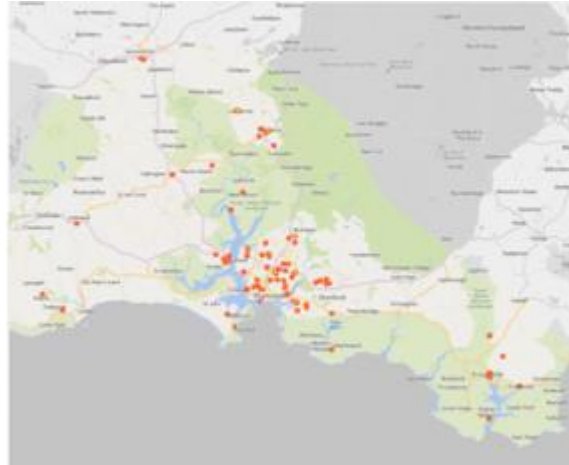
Sheila is:

- One of first patients
- Care Home resident
- 45min away from UHP
- Comfortable in her own surroundings
- Receiving full care with better outcomes

Play video from 2 mins 43 seconds to 3 min 40 -
Derriford Hospital's x-ray car service saves hundreds
of beds by treating elderly patients at home | ITV
News West Country



Not a
Geography
lesson but...



University Hospitals
Plymouth
NHS Trust

We put people first
We take ownership
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We listen, learn and improve

Why this matters?

Demand for change in management of falls

In 2023, 2000* patients aged 55+ attended ED following a fall, with no fracture found after examination

1,300 of those patients arrived by ambulance (3.5 per day)

1,000 we admitted as inpatient

Falls arrivals in the elderly population have also been increasing (chart 1)

On average this patient group stays 12-14 days once admitted to hospital

Patients with no fracture may not need admission

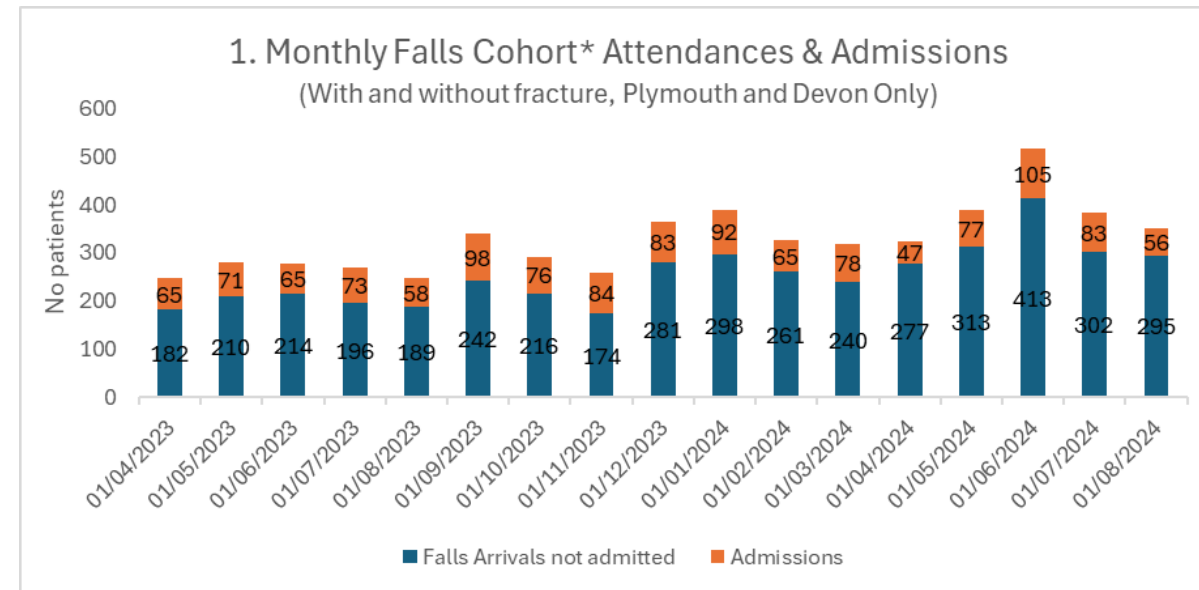
Some fractures can also be conservatively managed out of hospital

RHCT pilot

*55+ ED falls, excluding NOF, with XR, with and without fracture, excluding Ortho theatre, admits to ICU or CCU and deaths. Excluding Paeds, prisons or police admission



University Hospitals
Plymouth
NHS Trust



X-Ray car service: 12 month pilot



Attend frail and vulnerable patients who have had a fall at home or in a care home setting



Staffed by Radiographer/ Imaging Care Assistant
9am-5pm, 7 days a week



Clinical risk is held by the Acute GP Service,
supported by ED team and Virtual Ward



Livewell Southwest's Urgent Community Response
team attend for POC testing



Provide Multidisciplinary review
and holistic care planning



Service launched on 30th Oct 2024



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Plymouth
NHS Trust

We put people first
We take ownership
We respect and value each other
We are compassionate
We listen, learn and improve

Patient case study – initial x-ray and fracture clinic follow up all performed at patients' home



91 yr patient in care home, pain in ankle following witnessed fall

X-ray showed minimally displaced distal tibia #

PT transferred via hospital transport to local MIU for plaster

6 week later cast was removed by community care team and post cast images obtained via the x-ray car service

Discussed with Ortho, patient managed in boot with physio from community care team



What we have achieved in the first year

83% avoided hospital attendance

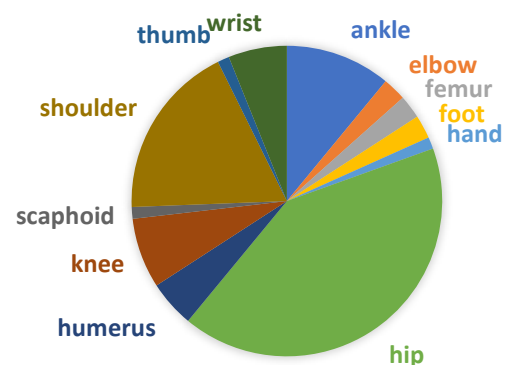
6% attended ED/MIU/UTC for
treatment (manipulation or cast)

5% admitted for surgery

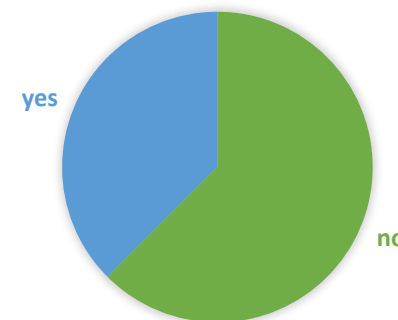
6% attended ED for further
imaging and senior review



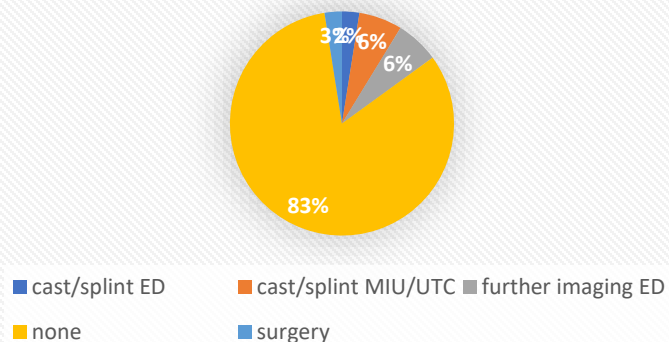
BODY PART IMAGED



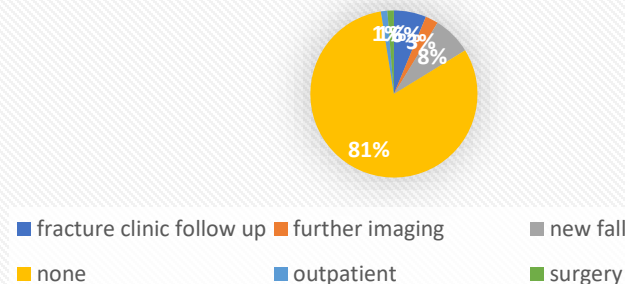
FRACTURE VS NO FRACTURE



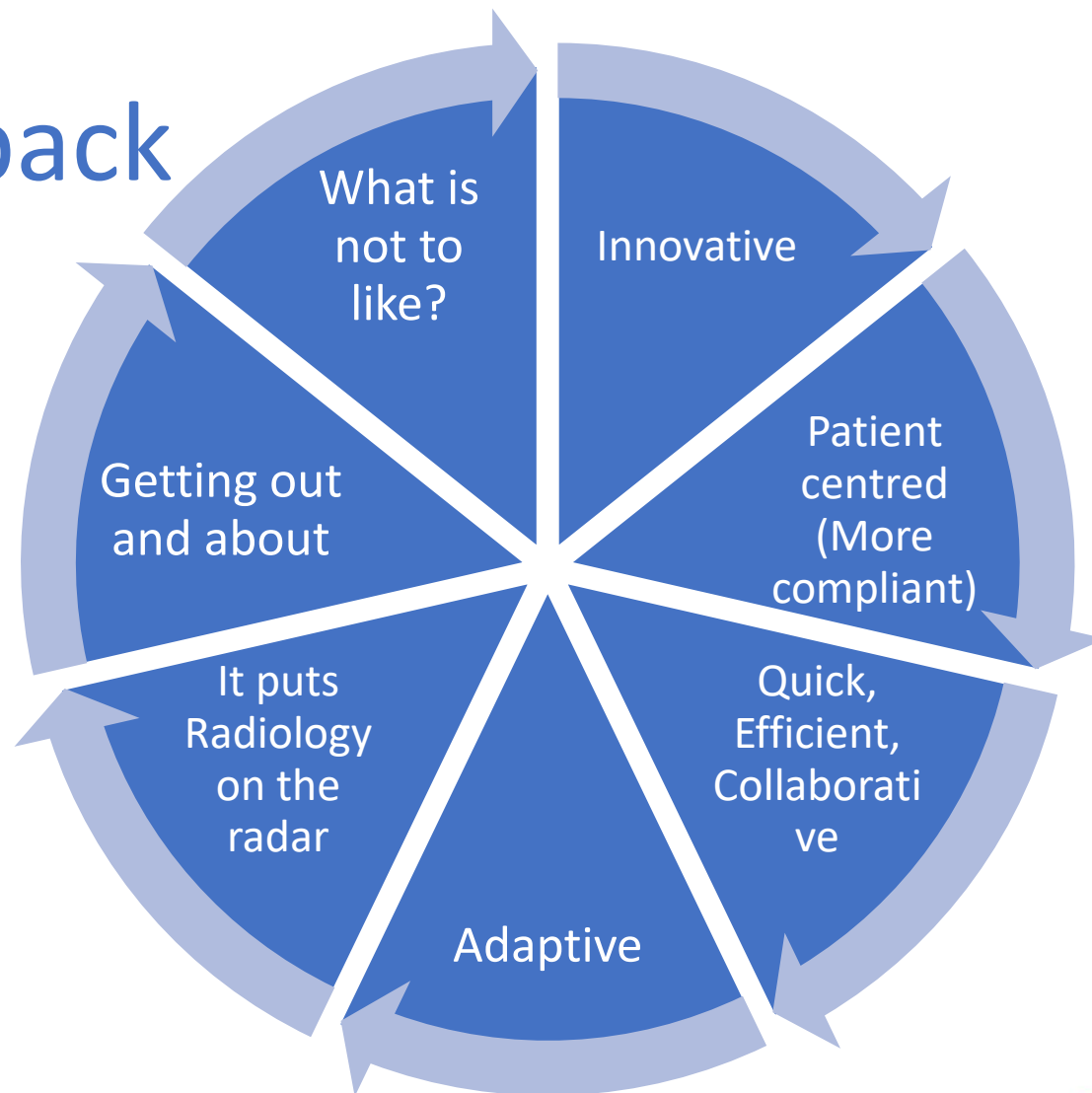
Patient had follow up for x-ray car fall (same day or day after)



Patient had follow up or hospital visit (within 1 month of x-ray or 6 weeks post #)

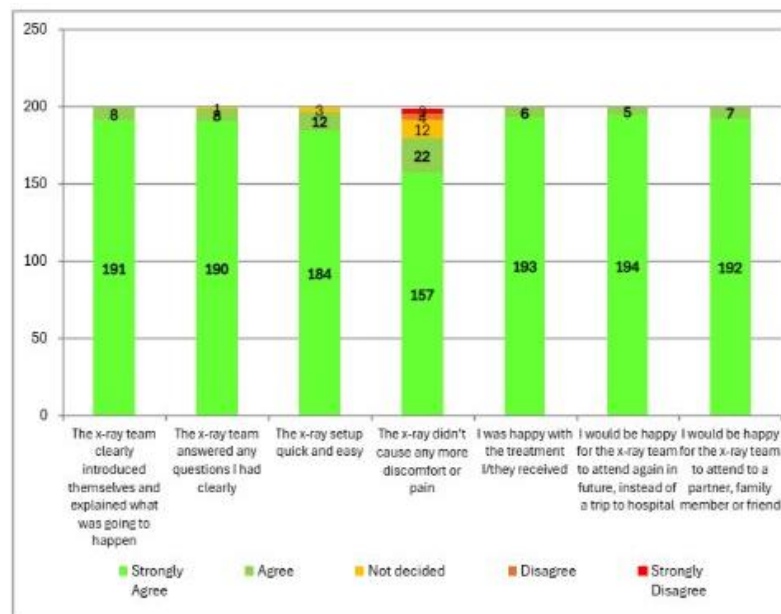


Staff feedback



Patient feedback

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not decided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
The x-ray team clearly introduced themselves and explained what was going to happen	191	8				199
The x-ray team answered any questions I had clearly	190	8	1			199
The x-ray setup quick and easy	184	12	3			199
The x-ray didn't cause any more discomfort or pain	157	22	12	4	3	198
I was happy with the treatment I/they received	193	6				199
I would be happy for the x-ray team to attend again in future, instead of a trip to hospital	194	5				199
I would be happy for the x-ray team to attend to a partner, family member or friend	192	7				199



- Quality service, excellent idea
- brilliant service, very personable thank you
- Brilliant and efficient service. everything explained and very thorough with all stages of x-ray being undertaken. mum in short term carehome had xray within an hour of request. thank you
- been good service
- Very satisfied with service provided, long may it continue
- Excellent service, Thank you :)
- amazing service, reassured resident and was very speedy :)
- completed by medical team at hospice. Fantastic prompt service! Thank you so much. This avoided sending my lady through when she is in her last weeks of life. It allowed us to make a conservative rx plan without using hospital resources
- the service was fast and convient for the resident

"Very good service and saved a trip to hospital."

"They were very professional and treated my resident with care. Process was quick."

"very understanding and patient with our resident and didnt rush him.."

"Very quick, great service thank you!!."

"Excelllent thank you"

"Quick and efficient service,"

We put people first
We take ownership
We respect and value each other
We are compassionate
We listen, learn and improve

Service success



HSJ
DIGITAL
AWARDS 2025
#HSJDigitalAwards

Improving Urgent
and Emergency Care
through Digital

WE ARE
PROUD WINNERS!

We put people first
We take ownership
We respect and value each other
We are compassionate
We listen, learn and improve

How did we succeed?

Collaboration with multiple teams

Extremely positive feedback from patients

Alternative pathway for suitable patients avoiding hospital admission, resulting in reduction in bed days for this cohort of patients

Link with Virtual Ward providing holistic, pro-active care in the community

Key enabler Gateway Hub/ SPOA

Winner of the HSJ digital award for “Improving urgent and emergency care through digital”



We put people first
We take ownership
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We are compassionate
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Where will we go from here?

Overnight referrals

Chest Xray

Xray in Community Hospital for NG tube

GP in a car

Extra funding for Community Services

MIU support



Case study - LD patient pathway

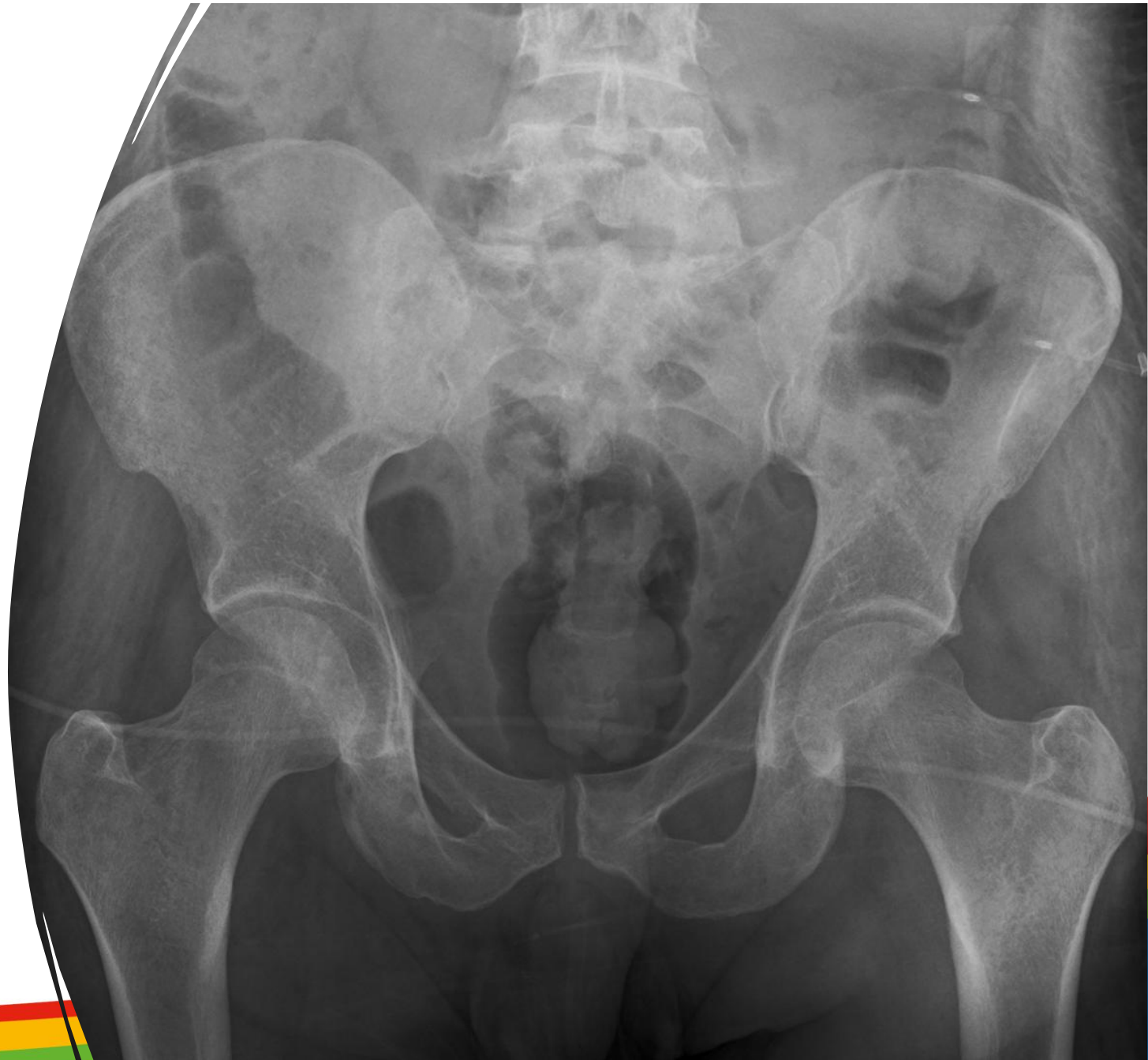


- 66yrs old patient with severe learning disability and health anxieties
- Admitted to hospital for surgery
- Patient very agitated throughout her hospital stay
- Managed instead conservatively in a cast
- Follow up Xray undertaken in patient's home
- Great example of how the x-ray car pathway can be used in bespoke ways to aid the treatment and care of patients with learning disabilities or complex needs.



Case study - St Luke's Hospice

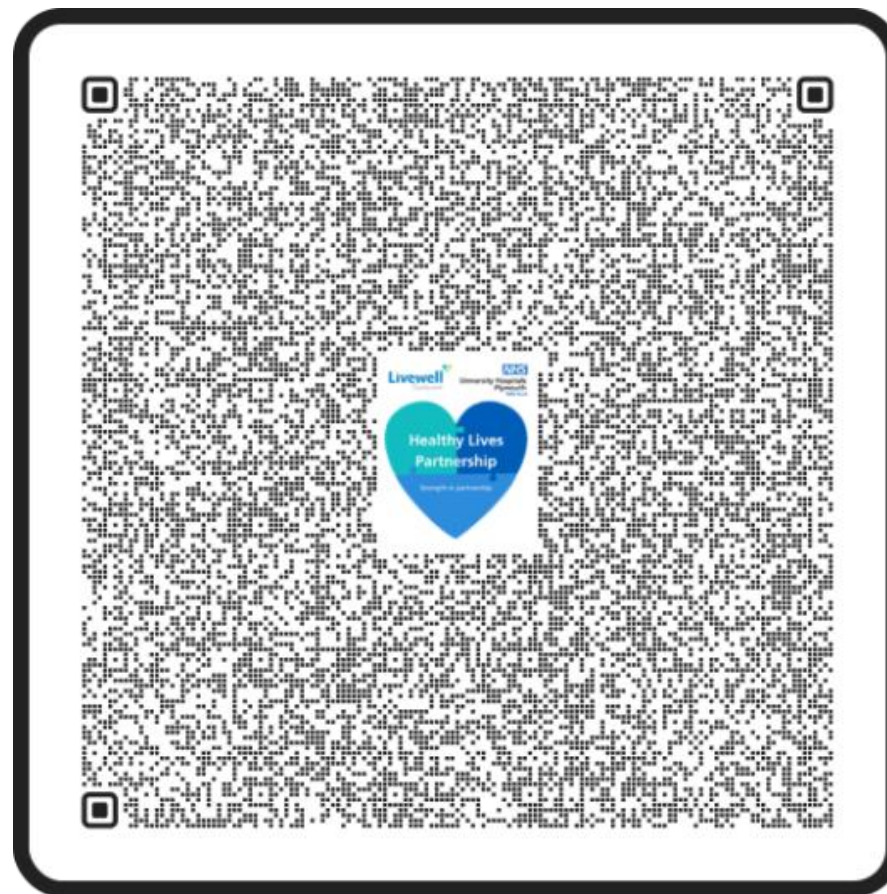
- 35-year-old patient with AML and end of life
- Sudden pain in left hip, worse on rotation, non weight bearing
- Pathological fracture
- X-ray normal
- Great pathway for this patient as no need to convey them to ED and pain was appropriately managed in hospice setting



Remember Sheila...



Any questions?





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Skill Clinic

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Francesca Markland

Senior Programme Manager, Remote
Monitoring & Virtual Wards
NHSE London Region Digital
Transformation Team



Alison Davis

Clinical Quality Improvement Lead
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS
Trust



Dr Elinor Beattie

Clinical Lead Virtual Wards
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS FT



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Food, Drinks & Networking



Scan here to claim your
CPD Certificate...

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05th March 2026
The Studio, 03rd Floor, 7 Cannon St,
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