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## Ambulance Handover Delays




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Embracing change  
Recognising success  
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## Introduction & structure

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- Poor patient experience
- Safety
- Previous limit on queue
- Complex root cause

Structure

- Context
- Performance
- Process delays
- Capacity delays
- Joint work underway & planned

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# Context

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Self-referring  
Ambulance  
Hospital


Streaming

Minor Injury and Illness  
Observational Medicine  
ED Not Admitted  
Majors  
Resus

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## Streaming

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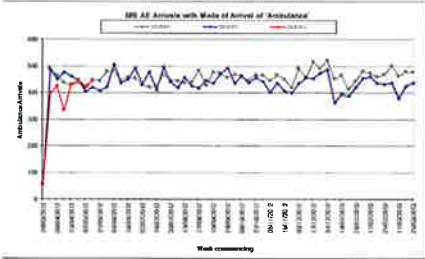


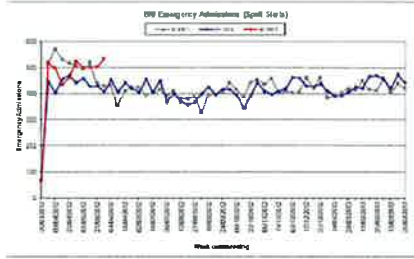
Minor Injury and Illness (Group 1)	•Minors stream, High Numbers (45% 4300p/m), Low acuity,
ED Not Admitted (Group 2)	•Major's or minors stream, High Numbers (38%, 3500p/m), Mixed acuity
Observational Medicine	•Fed from majors stream, Medium numbers (20+ per day), Mixed acuity and social
Majors (Group 3,4,t)	•Majors stream, Medium numbers (17%, 1700p/m), High acuity
Resus (Group 3,4,t)	•Low but increasing Numbers, Very high acuity

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## Demand & capacity

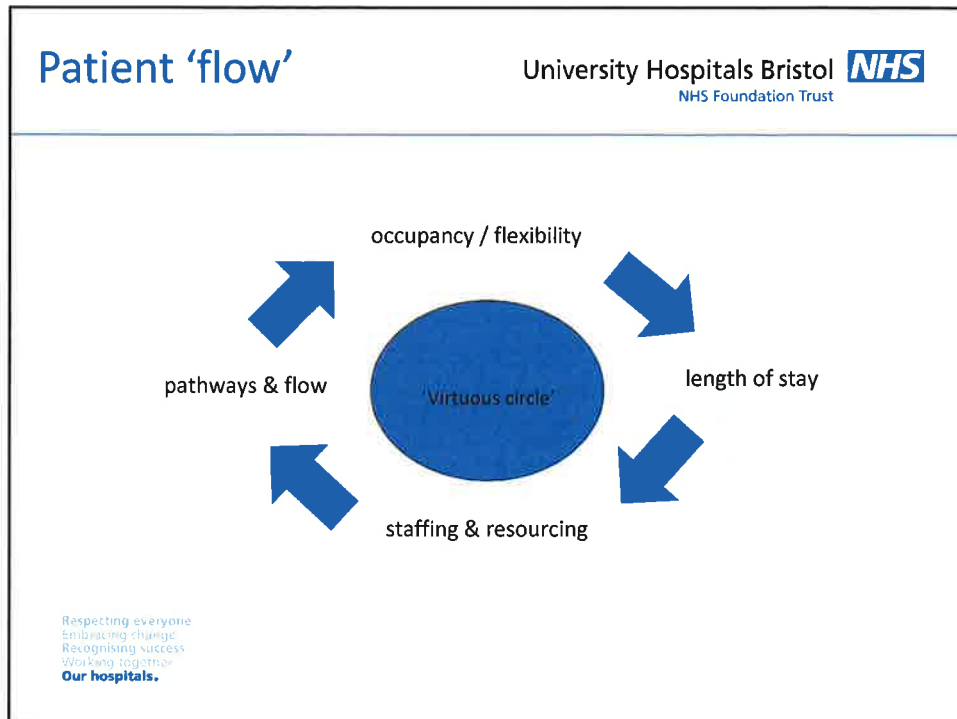
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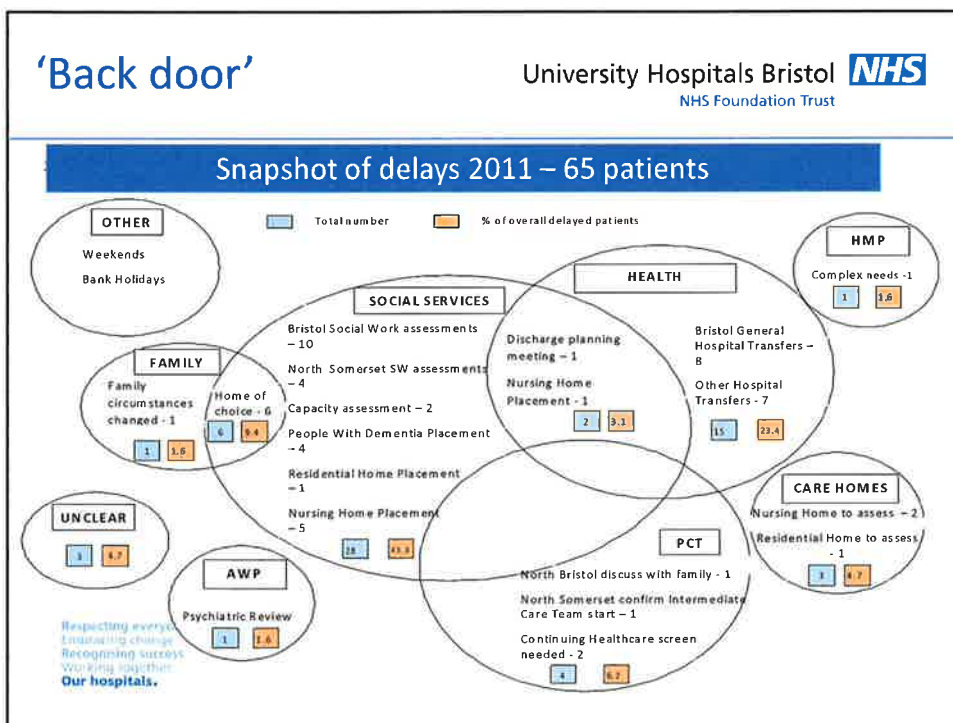
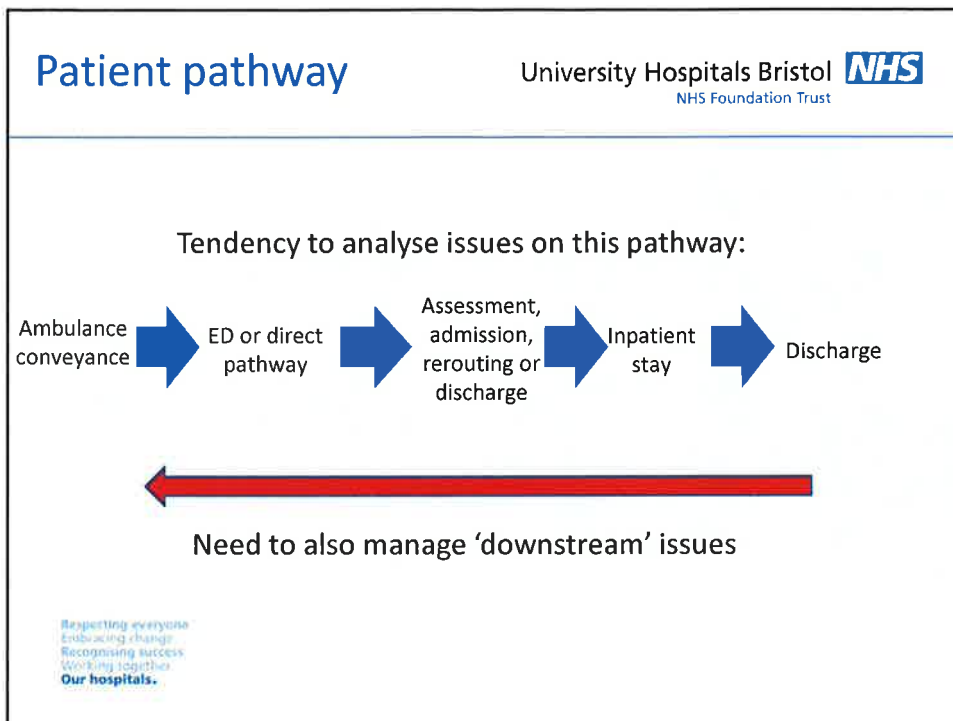




- Lower ambulance arrivals BUT rising emergency admissions 2012/13
- Increased elderly / frail & complex patients
- Community capacity to respond

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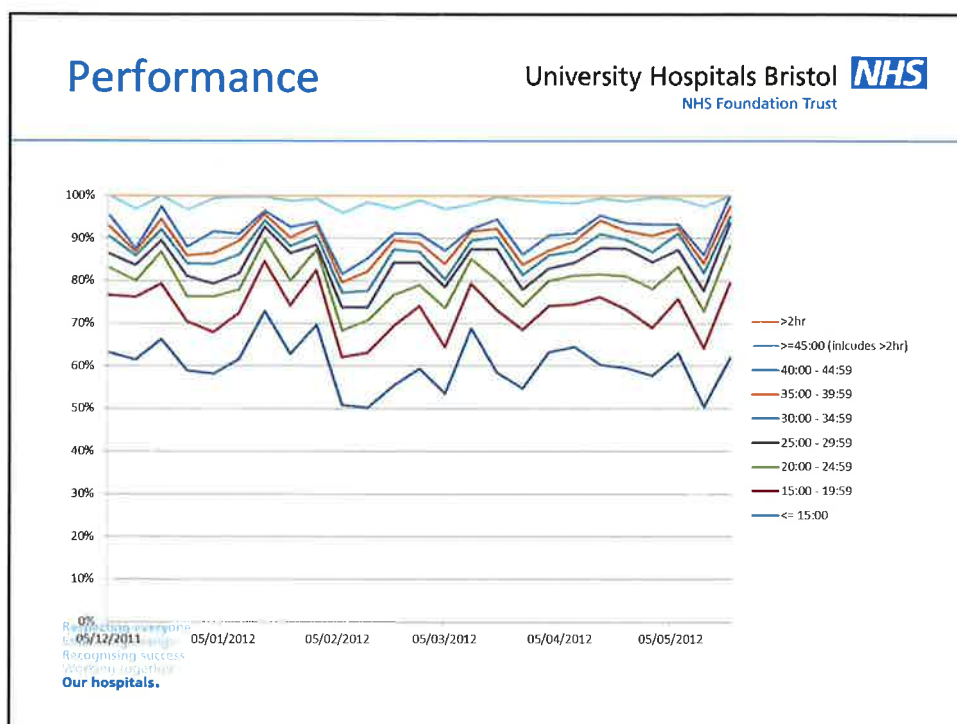




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## Ambulance Handover

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- Types of Delay
  - Process delays
    - Delays where the handover time took too long due to delays or inefficiencies in the system
  - Capacity delays
    - Delays where the limiting factor is the hospital is unable to take over clinical responsibility of the patient generally due to lack of physical space.

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## Reasons for delay

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- Handover Process delays
  - Wait for clinical co-ordinator decision
  - Wait for booking-in process
  - Wait for patient observations to be taken
- Capacity delays
  - No clinical space in the hospital to safely offload the patient

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# Process delays

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## Handover process

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**IMPROVED AMBULANCE HANDOVER PROCEDURE**

Joint work with GWAS to define & implement process capable of delivering a 15 minute handover

- Implemented with joint in-department training with GWAS
- Process supported by use of an electronic handover screen
- Process adopted by the rest of BNSSG

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**F** Find Ambulance screen – enter "At Hospital".

**A** Arrival time in ED noted on PCR (in "At Hospital" box) and signed by crew member and ED Coordinator

**S** Brief summary of assessment findings to ED Coordinator

**T** Transfer patient to agreed location.

**W** We no longer book-in at Reception.

**H** Handover to ED Nurse - time noted on PCR (in handover box at bottom of form) and signed by crew member and ED nurse

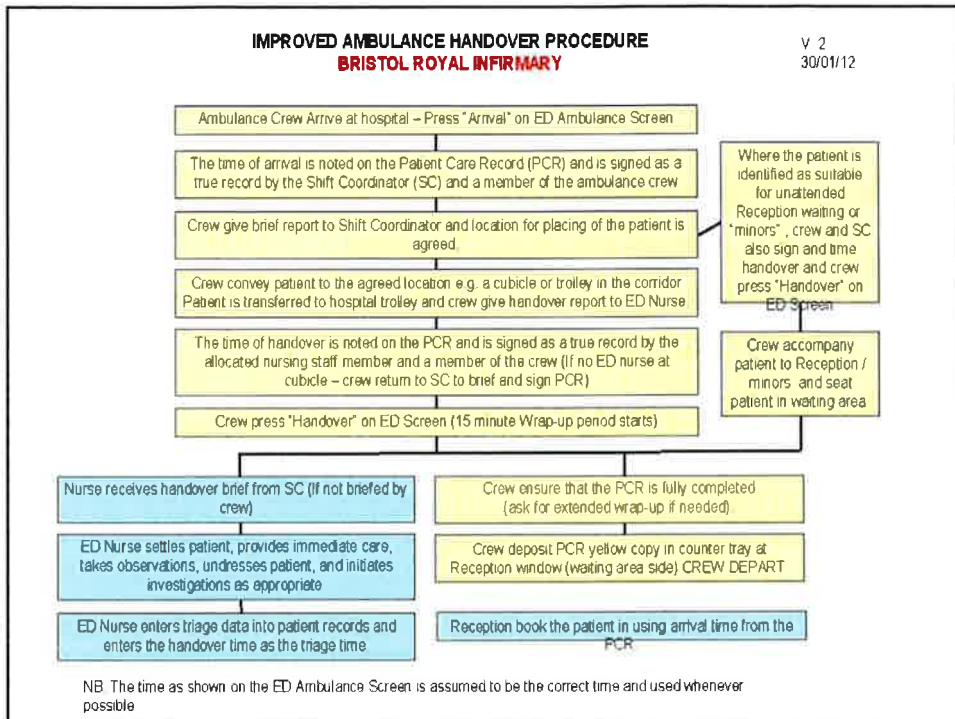
**E** Enter "Handover" on ambulance screen (Wrap-up time starts).

**E** Ensure PCR is fully completed and legible (request extended wrap-up if needed).

**L** Leave PCR yellow copy with Receptionist.

15 Minutes Handover - 15-01-12-12-12-12





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# Capacity delays

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## Capacity delays

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- No clinical space in ED
  - Due to bed access in the hospital
  - Due to the clinical capacity to process patients being too slow to keep up with demand
- No clinical space in assessment areas
  - Due to lack of bed access in the hospital

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## Clinical safety

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A group are currently working directly with GWAS to give clear guidance on patient management, clinical responsibility, escalation and information sharing.

- Fundamental principles for patient ownership and management
- Clinical Instructions for the GWAS crews
- A Standard Operating Procedure for the ED staff (which we expect to be based on the recent Royal College Best Practice Guidance)
- An outline of expected actions for both organisations based on escalation status
- Triggers for both escalation and tactical awareness
- Hierarchy of decision making which corresponds to relevant roles in each organisation

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## Factors affecting capacity

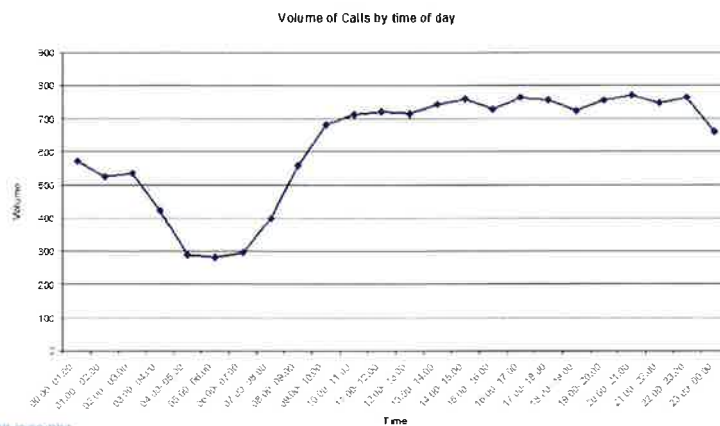
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- Reduction in ambulance arrival activity at the BRI this year
- Clinical & objective view that patients are sicker and require admission (higher conversion rate, increase in age profile)
- CMS (capacity management system) implemented to smooth activity to reduce pressure at hospitals , unclear effects
- Bunching of demand : the HCP (GP expected) calls arrive in the late afternoon compounding the pressure from 999 conveyances (more static through the day)
- In hospital 'flow'
- Discharge processes & community capacity

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## Typical demand pattern

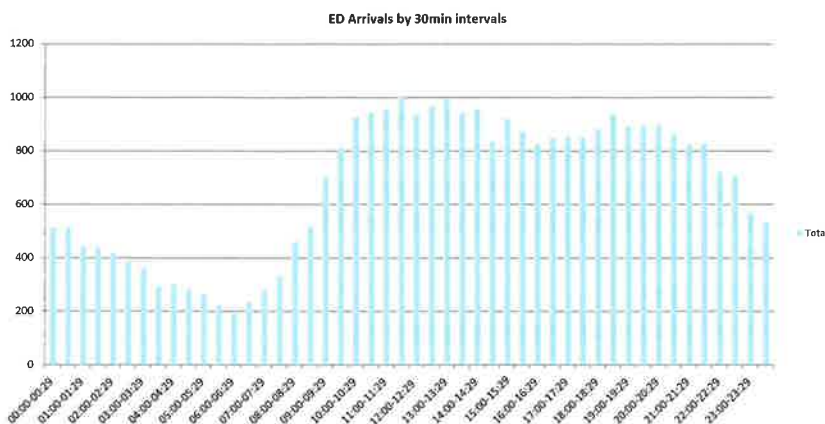
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## ED arrival profile

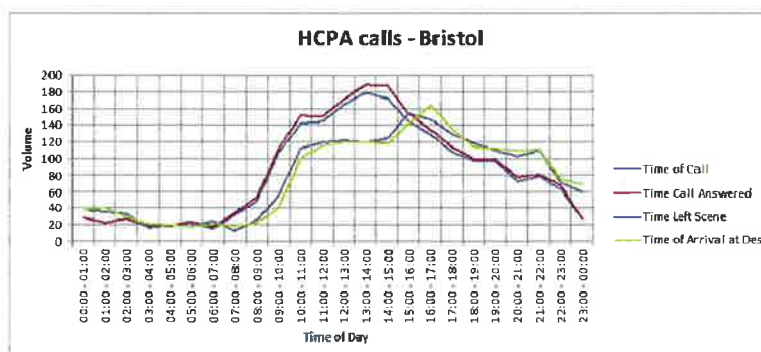
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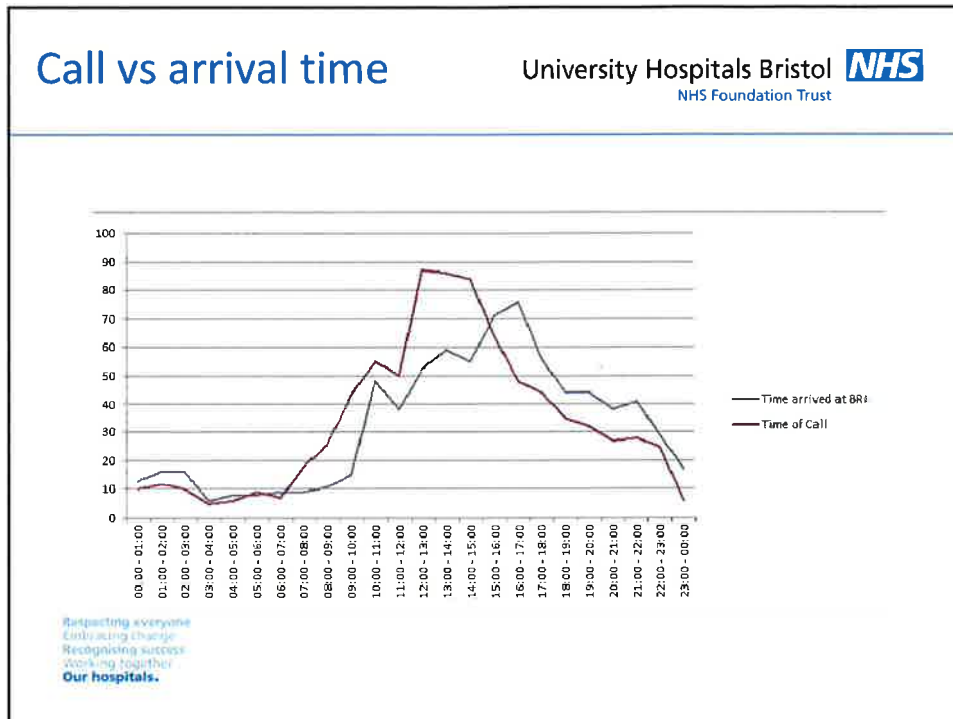
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## HCP demand

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## Further work / next steps 1

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### Discharge

Recognition of “back door” as the key to maintaining flow

- Management of increasing age and complexity
  - Creation of Hospital Hub
  - Increasing capacity for managing complex discharges
  - Changing ward management structure “Supervisory Sister” role
- Managing > 14 day LOS as the critical success factor in bed access

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## Further work / next steps 2

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### Ambulatory Care

- Maximise the use of existing pathways e.g. DVT, Low Risk PE.
- Creation of a an Ambulatory Care Unit
- Co-location of primary and secondary Care clinicians in shared service
- Potential alternative delivery/triage point for “referred” or redirected patients
- Increasing alternatives to admission

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## Further work / next steps 3

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### Assessment & admission

- Improving medical assessment and speciality input at the “front door”
  - Increasing senior resource at the front door to ensure appropriate assessment and avoid unnecessary admission (2 x WTE Consultants)
  - Redesign of the medical “take” to give greater priority to emergency flow

Delivery of greater 7 day working to reduce the weekend effect on bed access

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## Further work / next steps 4

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### Joint work

- Healthy Futures Programme – work with all urgent care partners to implement transformational system changes, e.g. care of long term conditions
- If conveyance required, increase access to appropriate destination within hospital: medical, surgical, hot clinics, oncology, chest pain
- Further development of patient care pathways: mental health, drug and alcohol services etc.
- Implement findings of IST report (June 2012) recommending how alternate care pathways could have greater impact

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Thank you

Questions?

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