

ealth and social care is facing many challenges including: medical staffing shortages, growing waiting lists, budget cuts, increasing demand for services and greater numbers of older people with complex care needs.

The regional and international shortage of medical staff is a long-standing issue not unique to Daisy Hill Hospital or the wider Southern Trust.

Our Senior Leadership and medical teams have been working with other staff and regional colleagues to immediately stabilise services - which have been at risk due to workforce challenges - whilst maintaining the acute status of the hospital.

We have now agreed options to immediately stabilise and reduce risk in the provision of inpatient medicine at Daisy Hill, across the Southern Trust and region.

Our plan aims to:

- Maintain safe, effective and accessible services for the local population of Newry,
 Mourne and Down;
- Support staff wellbeing and psychological safety;
- Maintain the 24/7 Emergency Department;
- Prevent and reduce inpatient medical admissions; improve patient flow and discharge and further development of 'Home as the Hub';
- Enhance post-graduate training of junior doctors and undergraduates.

PATIENTS

- ⇒ Patients should continue to use the hospital as referred by their GP or other health care professional.
- ⇒ The 24/7 Emergency Department continues to operate as usual assessing all patients with all symptoms.
- ⇒ Phone First with less urgent symptoms between 9am and 9pm Monday to Friday 0300 123 3 111.
- ⇒ With acute life threatening symptoms always phone 999 or take the patient to their nearest ED. Our dedicated team will assess the patient and ensure they get the most appropriate care.



Consultant Led 24/7 ED | Rehab Ward | Diagnostics | Laboratories | Pharmacy | Maternity and Obstetrics | Paediatrics | Renal | Cardiology | Mental Health

Key actions to stabilise our services



STROKE

Due to a shortage of stroke consultants at Daisy Hill Hospital, all suspected acute stroke patients being transferred to hospital by ambulance for assessment are being diverted to an alternative Emergency Department.

Always phone 999 with suspected stroke. Arrangements are in place 24/7 for patients who present at Daisy Hill ED and are assessed as having a stroke will receive appropriate treatment including thrombolysis, on site. Patients will be transferred to Craigavon Area or the Royal Victoria for acute stroke care and those who require continued rehabilitation will return to the Daisy Hill stroke/rehab ward.



INPATIENT MEDICAL BEDS

We continue to review and monitor inpatient medical beds in line with available staffing. We will have a minimum of 83 commissioned medical beds (from 104).



ADDITIONAL PRIVATE AMBULANCE COVER

Secured for transferring patients between Craigavon and Daisy Hill.



APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR DAISY HILL HOSPITAL

Mary Burke, who has significant experience working in Medicine and Unscheduled Care across our acute hospitals has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer to oversee these developments.

Key actions to stabilise our services



SPECIALIST INPATIENT CARE

Patients who require inpatient care for some specialist conditions for example gastro intestinal and Stroke may be transferred to Craigavon Area Hospital.



TRAINING AND SUPPORT

We are working with regional colleagues and Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency to support postgraduate educational teaching, training and examination preparation support for doctors in training.

This has been a difficult time for staff but we are encouraged by their enthusiasm to work with us to modernise and improve services for patients.

This is still very much a work in progress but we will keep everyone updated with developments.

MEDICAL COVER



Recruitment for consultants continues. A number of Craigavon Area Hospital doctors are providing support to inpatient care at Daisy Hill and to develop Acute Care at Home in the area. These will be backfilled by additional locum staff. Three senior medical consultants from Craigavon Hospital will be providing support to the Daisy Hill team.

Enhancement packages will be made available for Consultants to work in Daisy Hill Hospital. We are liaising with regional colleagues to provide support with outpatient gastro intestinal clinics. We are working improve timely patient discharge and improve patient flow our hospitals.



We sincerely thank all colleagues who have been sharing suggestions on a range of proposals to keep medical patients safe.

This plan focuses on immediately stabilising services for the summer months in light of challenges with senior medical cover.

Whilst a level of ongoing risk is acknowledged, there is acceptance that these temporary contingency arrangements will provide short term sustainability and support, whilst a model for future services on the site is developed.

We are now more optimistic about stabilising services for the short term, rising demand for services, financial and workforce pressures and the need for modernisation, remain very real challenges across health and social care. We continue to work with regional colleagues to address these issues and on agreeing a permanent plan for the future of all local hospitals.

We are currently working on our longer term vision for the hospital, which, building on recent developments like the electrical investment, Monaghan Row acquisition, Community Care and Treatment Centre and regional elective surgical hub, aims to maintain and promote Daisy Hill as an essential part of the regional acute network.



Stabilization Plan Summary

Daisy Hill Hospital

Temporary Contingency Arrangements – June 2023



HR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Whilst there may be some changes to inpatient medical services, no one will lose their jobs.

Some staff may be asked to work in different ways and there will also be career opportunities through new developments on the site.

The Human Resources and Organisational Development Team are available each day in Committee Room 1, Daisy Hill Hospital for staff information and advice or email daisyhillhospital.hrsupport@southerntrust.hscni.net











Keep up to date on our plans:



<u> https://southerntrust.hscni.net/home/daisy-hill-hospital-update/</u>





