



Daisy Hill Hospital Interim Stability Plan Update



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Staff have been working on the implementation of the interim stability plans for acute medicine at Daisy Hill Hospital over the summer.

The aim of this work is to stabilise and find a sustainable way forward for the hospital. Ensuring patient safety and supporting our staff are central to this process.

Throughout July, August and September, Daisy Hill, like Craigavon and other hospitals across Northern Ireland, at times experienced severe pressure, with overcrowding in its ED, high numbers of sick patients requiring admission and significant numbers of patients in beds on wards, medically fit but delayed with discharge.

Whilst progress has been made, continued demand on services and ongoing workforce issues remain significant challenges.

This continues to be a difficult time for staff but we are encouraged by their enthusiasm to work with us to modernise and improve services and thank them for their hard work and dedication to caring for our patients.

**Click on each box below
for more information...**

Medical Model



Medical Beds



Focus on Frailty



**Discharge
Lounge**



**ED Short Stay
Unit**



Ambulatory Unit



**Urgent Care
Centre**



**Preventing Admission and
Supporting Discharge**



Paediatrics





Future of Emergency General Surgery

The Trust has recommended that all Emergency General Surgery Services for the area are delivered from the Craigavon Area Hospital site on a permanent basis. The decision was made at the September Trust Board meeting following the presentation of a feedback report on a 12 week consultation.

Daisy Hill has been appointed as a regional elective overnight stay centre for patients requiring planned surgeries.

With emergency surgery concentrated at Craigavon, we now have additional theatre time at Daisy Hill to benefit more people waiting on planned procedures. Daisy Hill's surgical team has been working hard to increase theatre activity over recent months and are looking forward to welcoming their first regional patients in the coming weeks.

[Read more](#) 

Medical recruitment

With significant vacancies and continued challenges recruiting and retaining doctors, nationally, regionally and locally, the Trust Medical HR team are working with a specialist international agency on a recruitment drive to India.

[Read more](#) 



Medical Training

We continue to work with Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency and the General Medical Council and appreciate their support in improving postgraduate educational teaching and training.

Our latest allocation of medical trainees started placement with the Trust in August. Like other Trusts, operational challenges remain to fully fill rotas.



Under Graduate Medical Education



Over the summer we have welcomed 144 medical students from both Queens University Belfast and Ulster University to the Trust, placed across both Daisy Hill and Craigavon hospitals.

We currently have third and fifth year Queens medical students

rotating through surgery and general medicine, whilst fourth years work across mental health, aging and health, reproductive health and child health.

We also welcomed our first cohort of penultimate year medical students from Ulster University. Placed across both acute hospitals, they are rotating through acute surgery and gastroenterology, acute medical unit, medical specialties, trauma and orthopaedics, urology, breast, ENT, psychiatry, paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology.

Expert Panel

The Expert Panel has met four times throughout the summer, considering developments and progress on all aspects of the Trust's stability plan.



Hospital Reconfiguration

Trust representatives are participating in the regional Hospital Reconfiguration Blueprint Project. Led by the Department of Health, Senior Trust staff along with colleagues from across the HSC, are contributing to four sub groups to review and make recommendations on the future of the hospital network across Northern Ireland.



Winter Plan

A plan is being developed to set out arrangements to respond to anticipated additional pressures during the winter months 2023/24.

Key challenges remain ensuring resilience and delivering against winter pressures including workforce, finance, aging hospital infrastructure, capacity to deliver core services and continued risk of COVID-19 outbreaks.

We are working closely with colleagues across the HSC to take a regional approach to managing winter pressures and finalise our plans.

For further information:

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