

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP) TARGETS  
QUARTERLY TRUST BOARD REPORT  
*NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORES (NEWS)***

***4 November 2021***

# National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)

## Progress to Date

NEWS systems record vital signs observations of respiratory rate, oxygen saturation levels, heart rate, blood pressure and consciousness level. NEWS systems provide a standardized approach to identification of a sick patient and support consistent clinical decision-making and appropriate clinical response.

Appropriate and accurate use of a NEWS system requires staff to

- Record vital signs observations correctly
- Follow approved escalation plan and call for appropriate help within an agreed timeframe
- Different grades of nursing and medical responders (as per approved escalation plan) must then assess the patient within a specific timeframe and record interventions.

In November 2019 NEWS2, an updated chart from the Royal College of Physicians, was adapted for and implemented in the South West Acute Hospital and Altnagelvin Hospital. Further roll out of NEWS2 to Cardiac Assessment Unit (CAU) and Urgent Care & Treatment Centre (UC&TC) in OHPCC was completed in March 2021 with work currently ongoing with the Mental Health & Learning Disability Directorate, the PCOP wards in the Waterside Hospital and Acute Care at Home to implement NEWS2 to these areas.

Within the Trust, wards were requested to complete NEWS audits 5 times a year - February, April, June, August and October. This was to coincide with the introduction of NEWS2. This also provides additional assurance that the patients' vital signs were accurately recorded and appropriate help sought if required. As there are a number of changes between NEWS and NEWS2 a number of wards across the Trust are piloting a draft updated NEWS2 audit tool and feedback is awaited on this.

There is also a process where wards are required to detail what actions they are implementing to improve and provide assurance to the Trust if their score is below standard when audited – an example of this is specific targeted training and additional snap shot audits. These audit scores and subsequent actions plans are discussed at the monthly safe and effective care meeting.

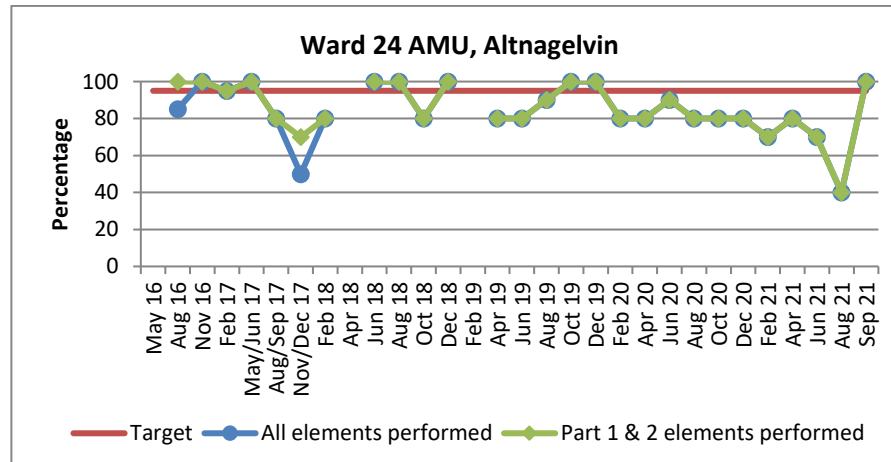
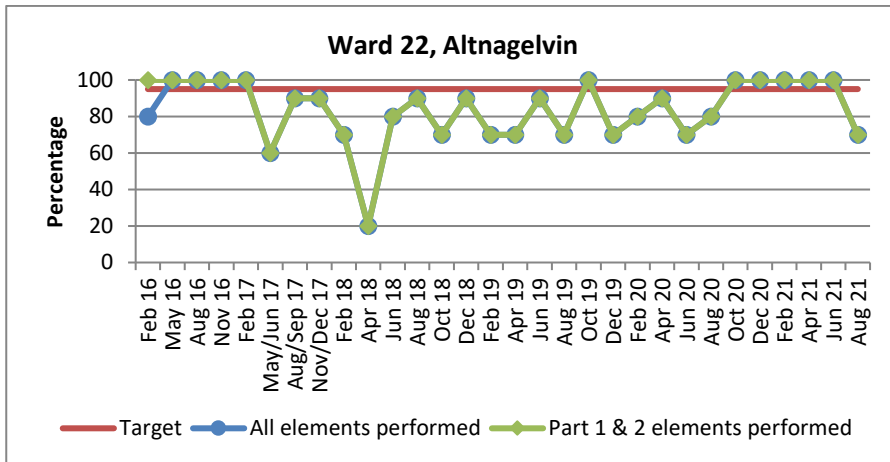
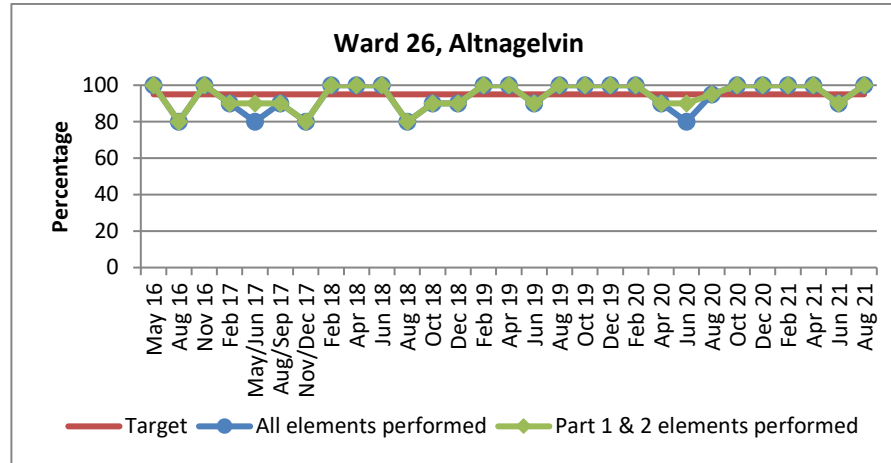
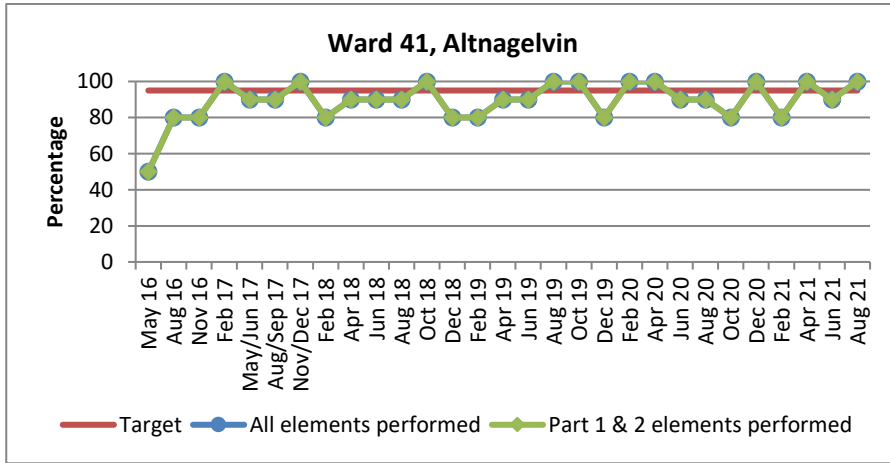
COVID-19 challenges led to a review of requirement for NEWS2 continued audits. Within the WHSCT the decision was taken to continue audits to provide ongoing assurance during these challenges.

An audit of 10 patient charts is completed bi-monthly by each adult inpatient ward and compliance is recorded in the run charts below. Frequency of audits may be increased for individual wards based on results.

## Bi-monthly Audits by Ward

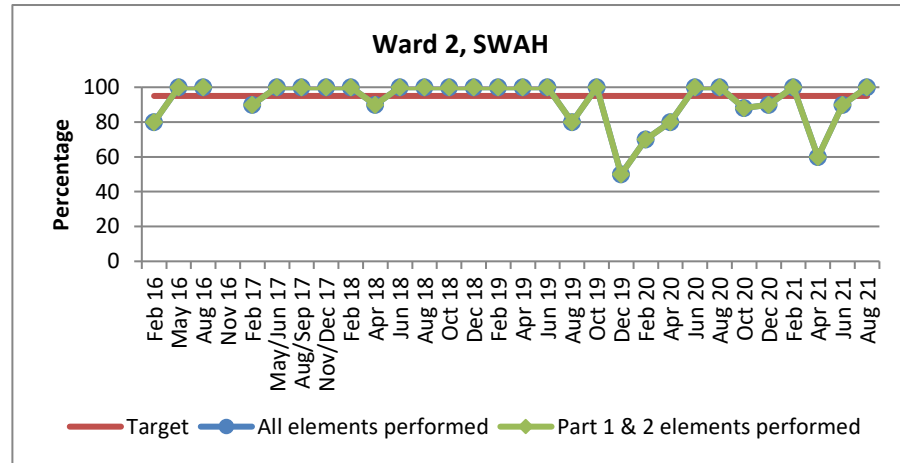
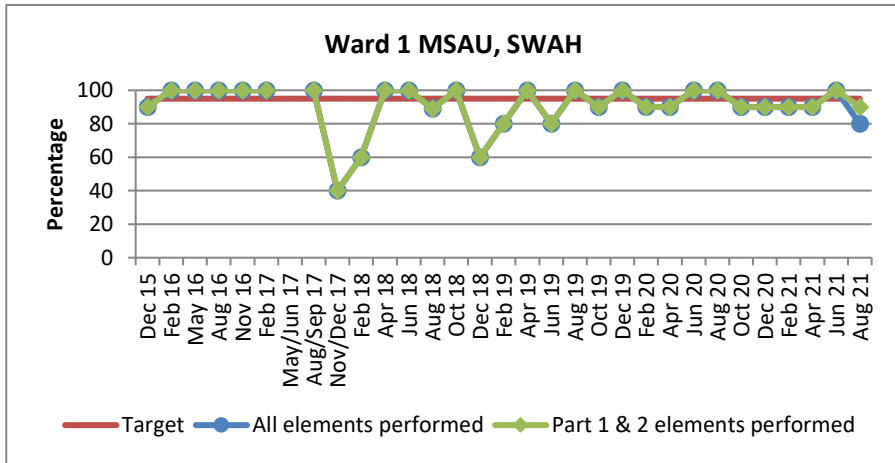
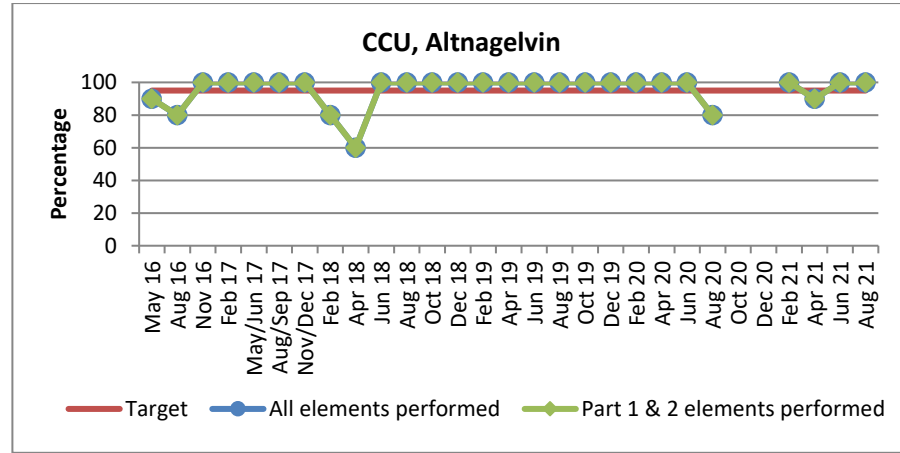
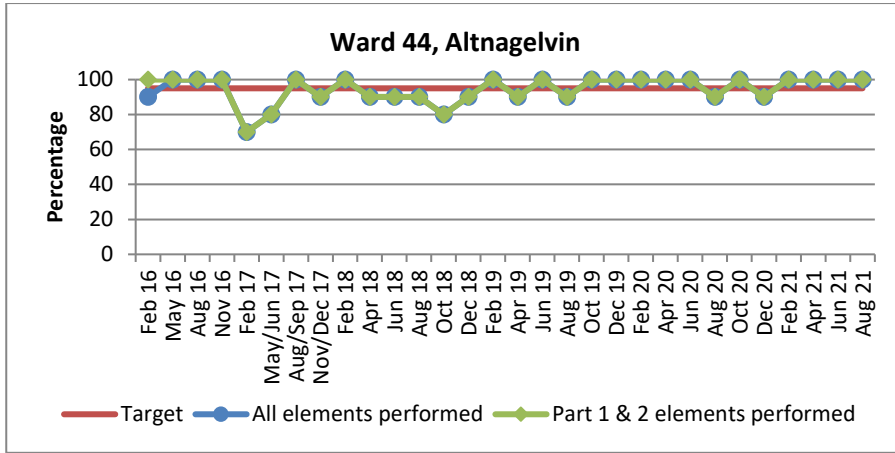
### National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)

**Target: To achieve 95% compliance with accurately completed NEWS charts in all adult inpatient wards.**



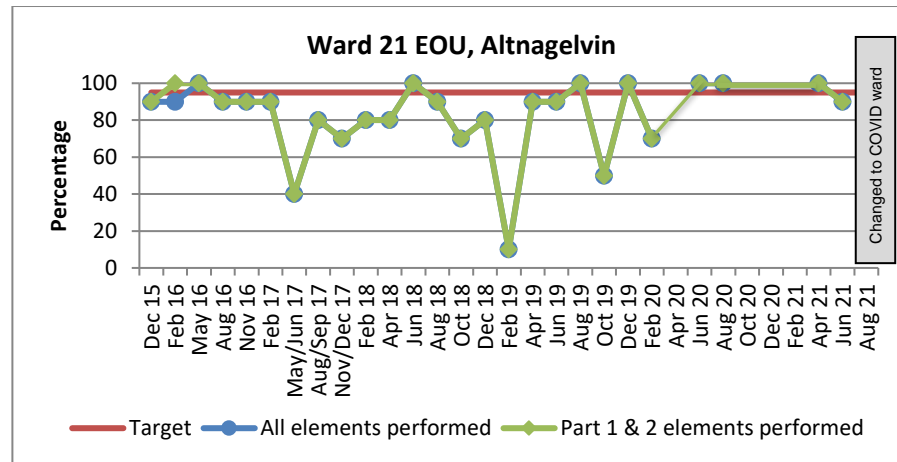
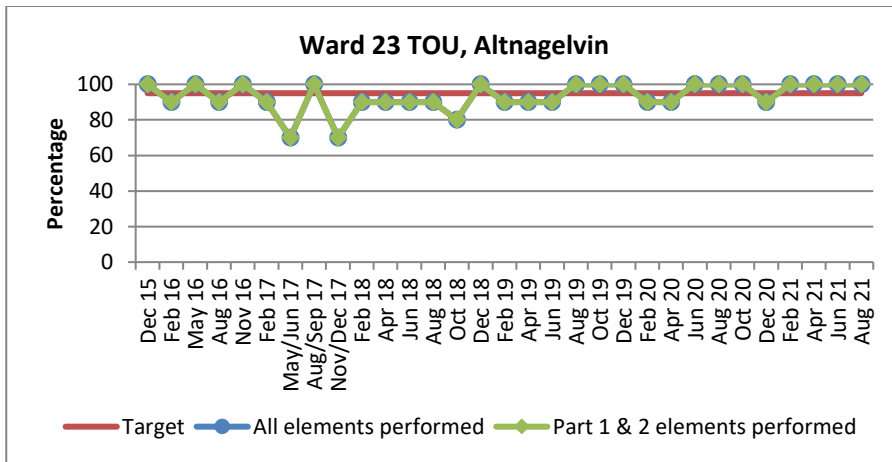
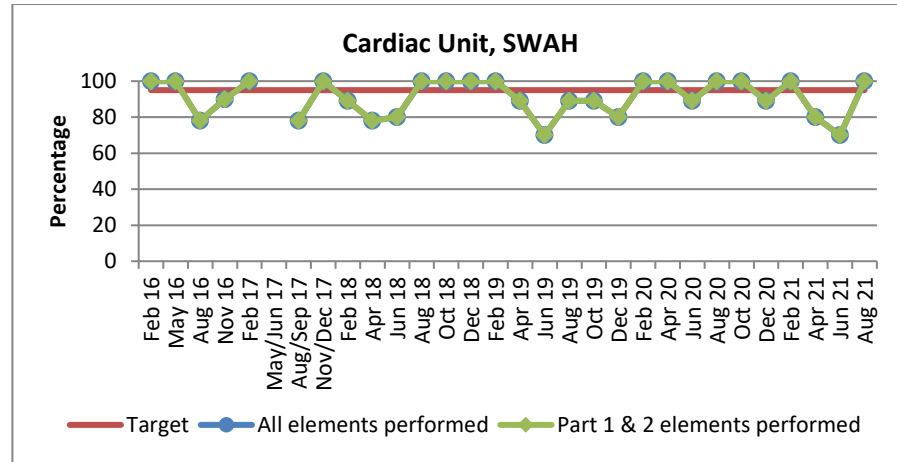
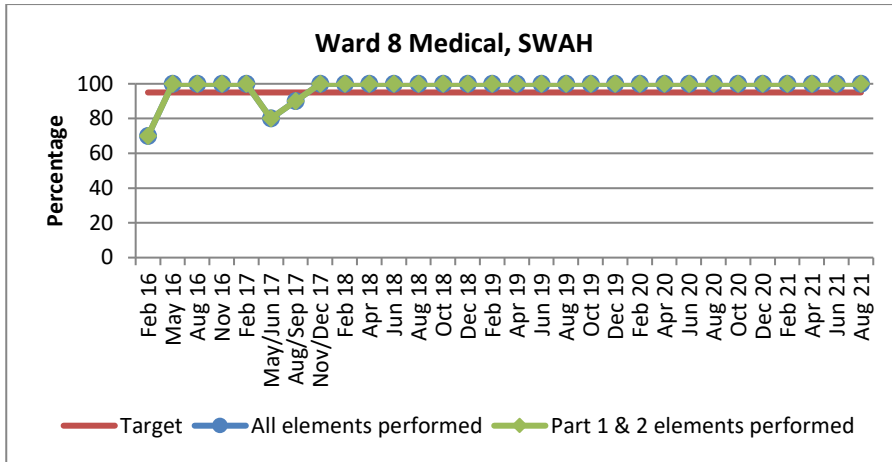
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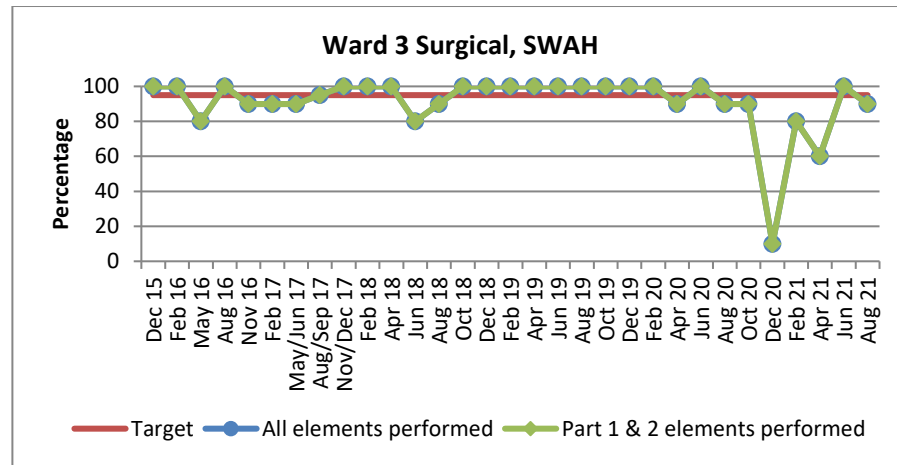
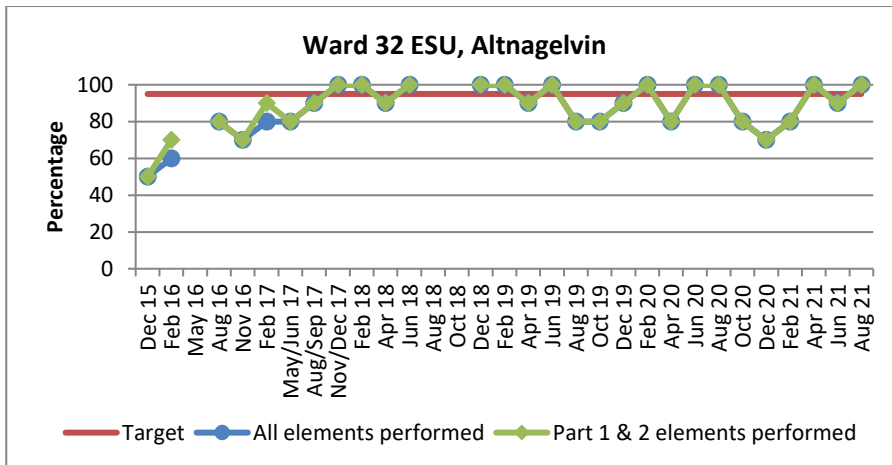
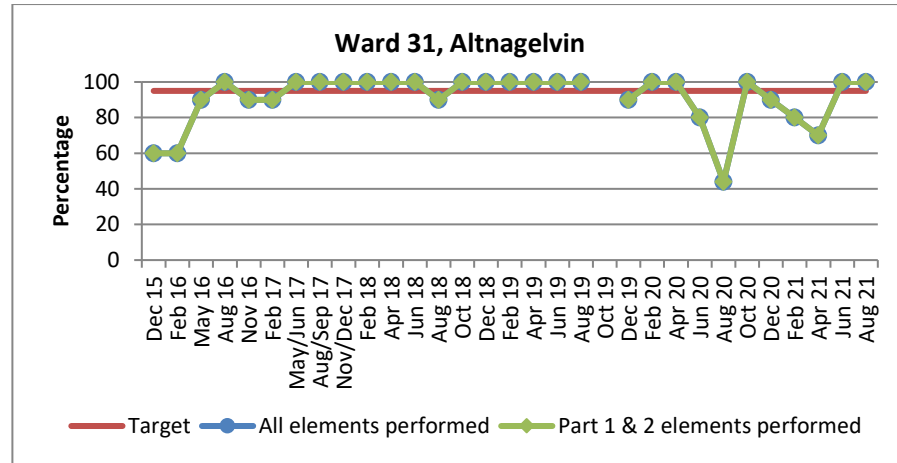
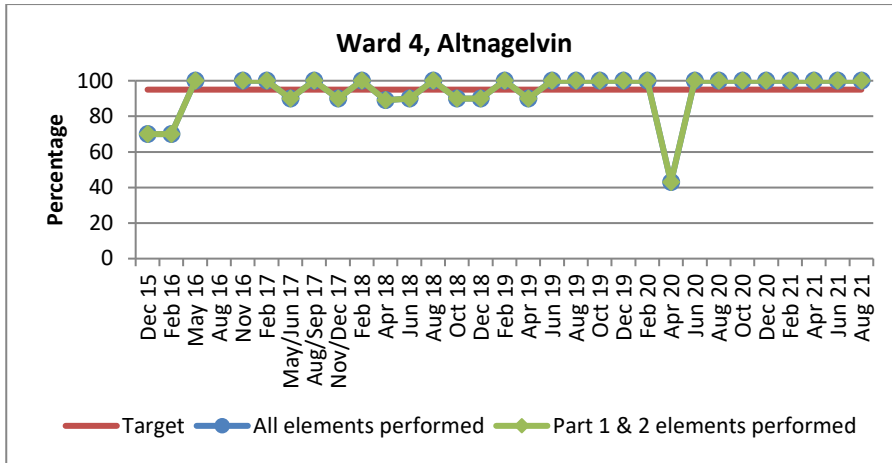
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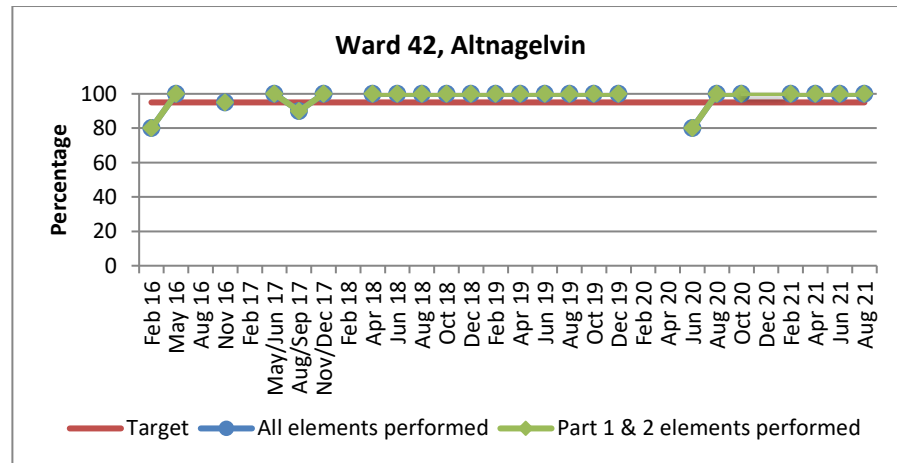
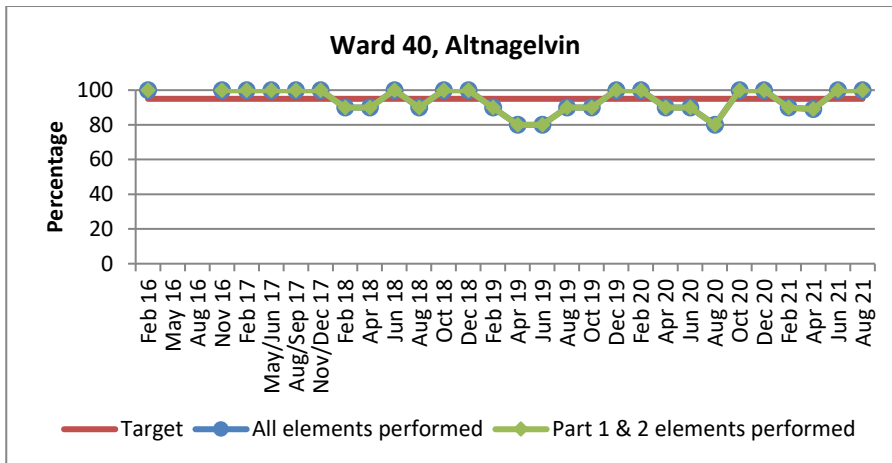
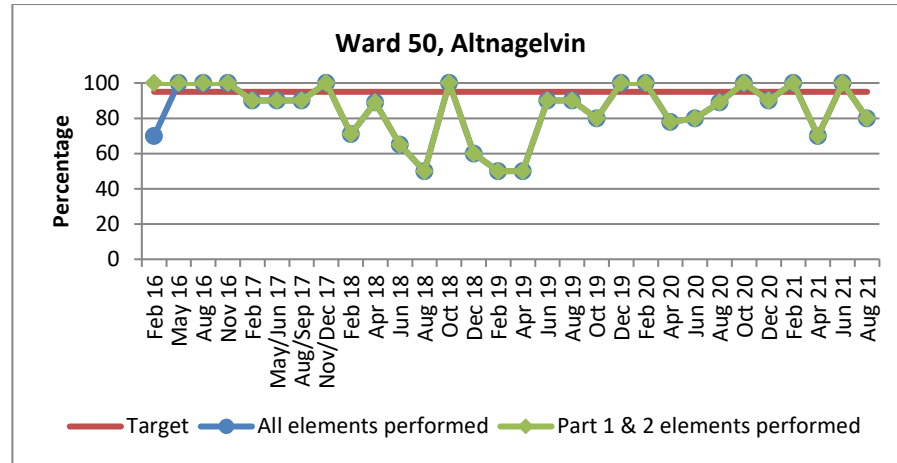
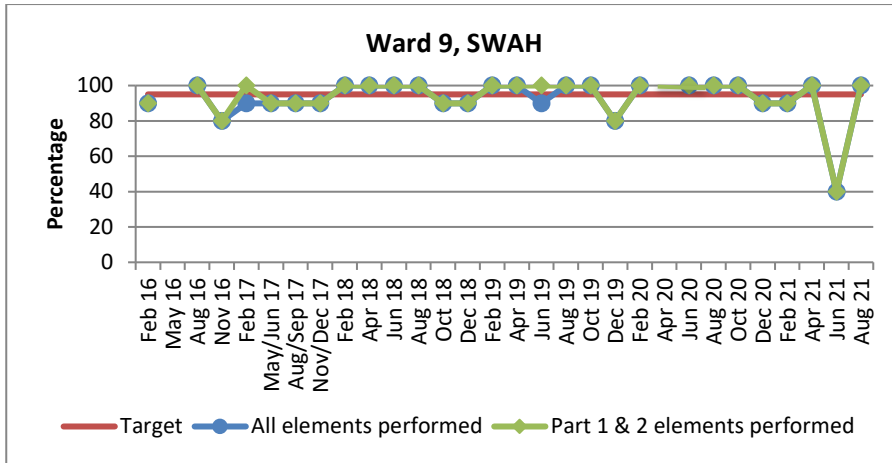
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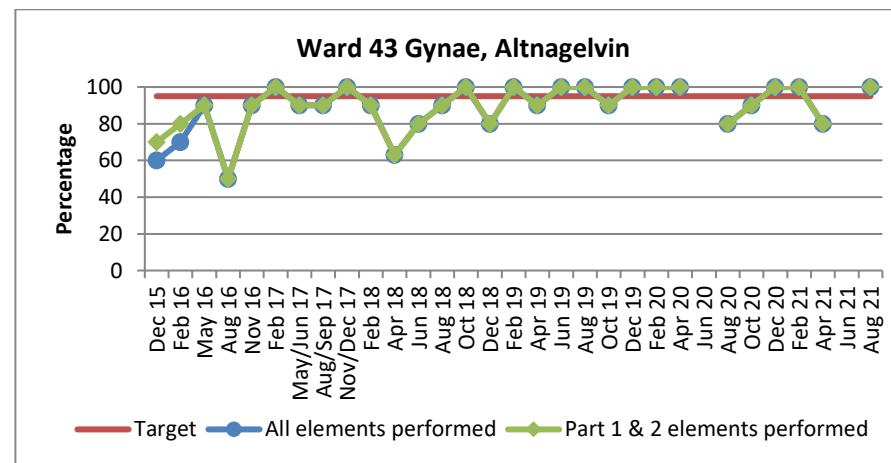
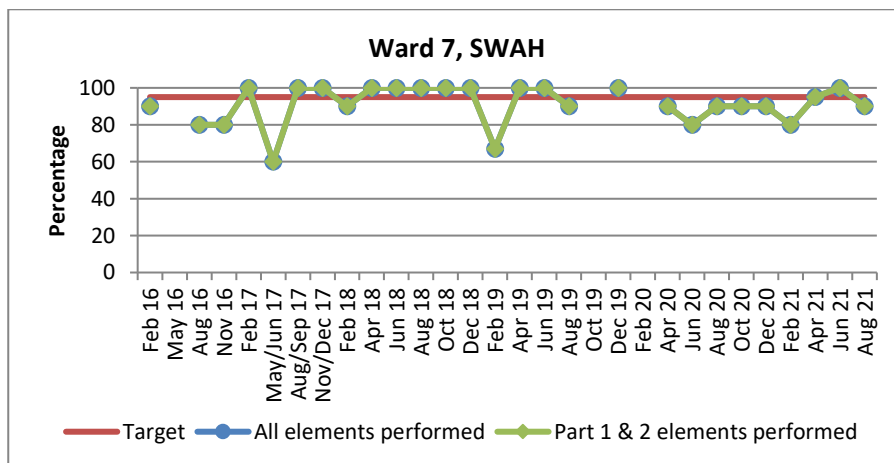
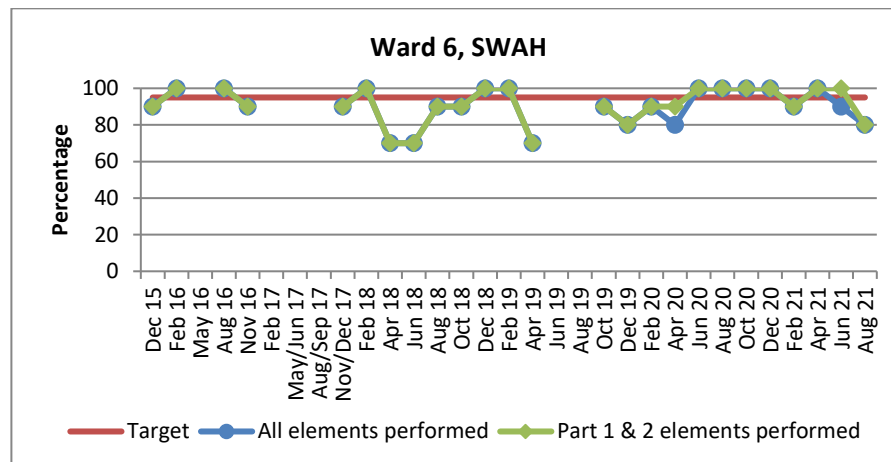
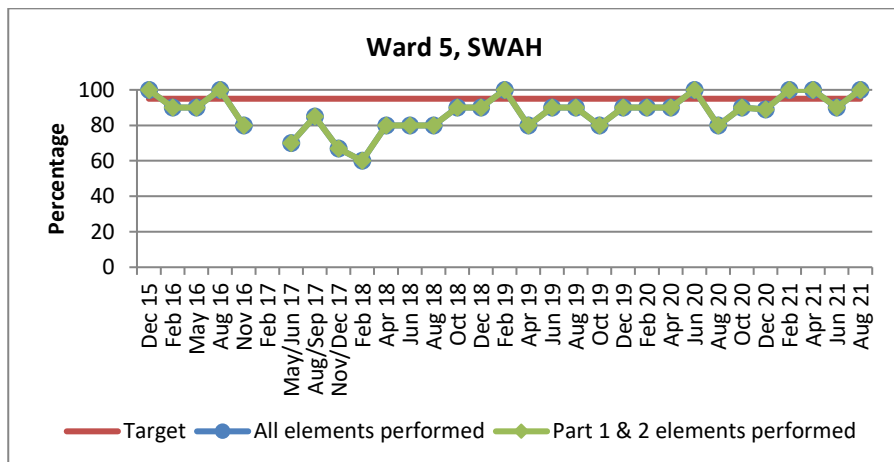
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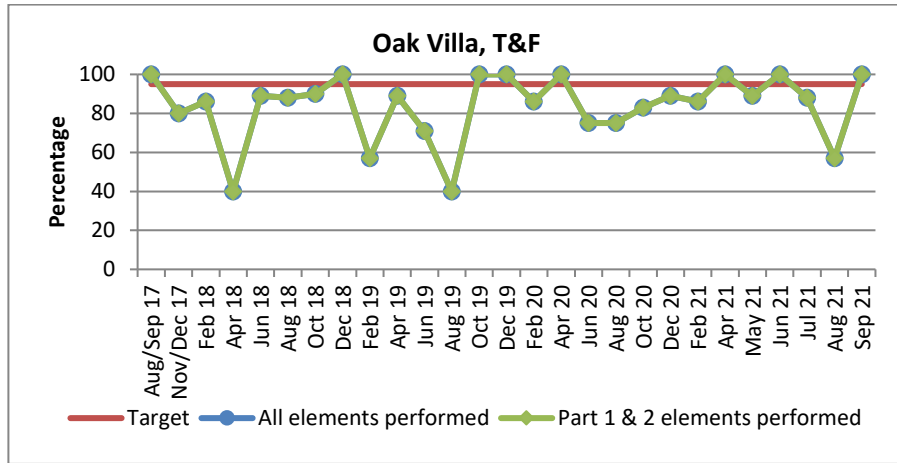
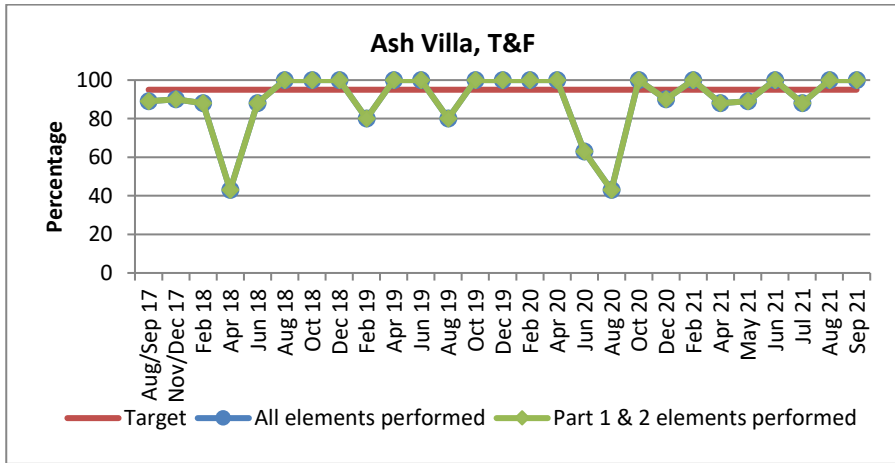
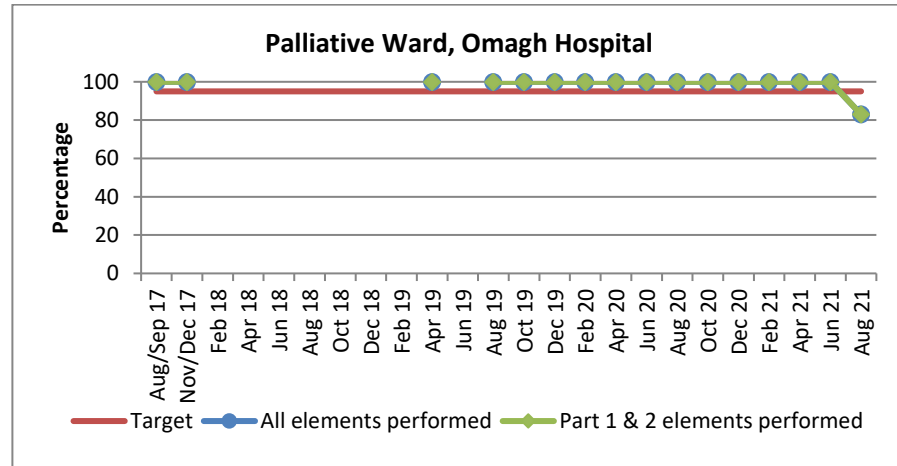
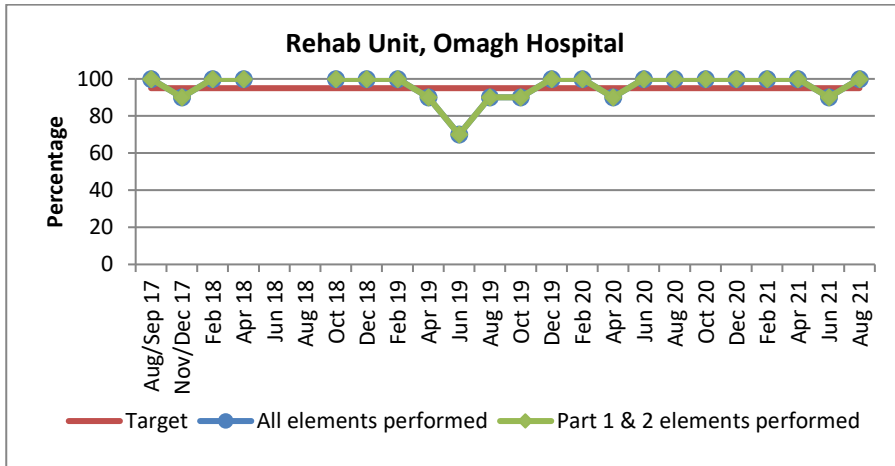
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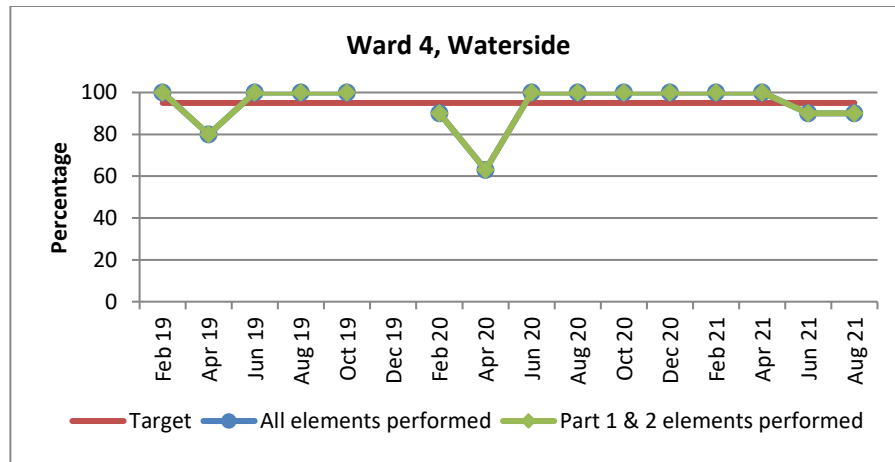
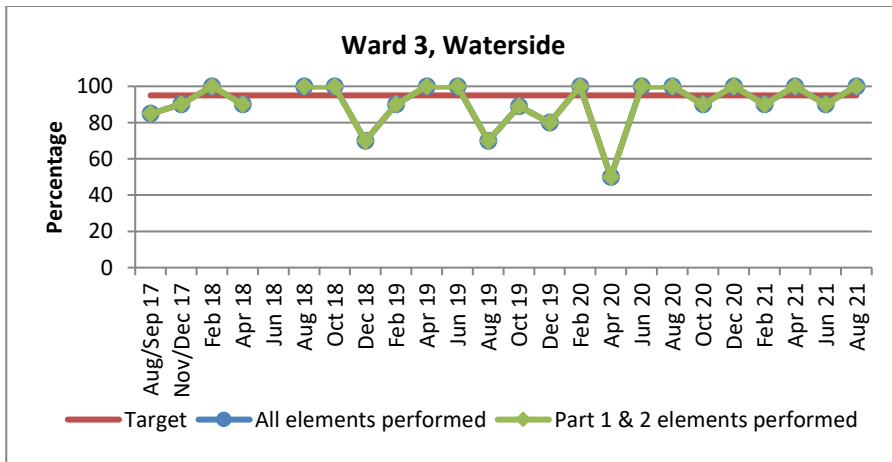
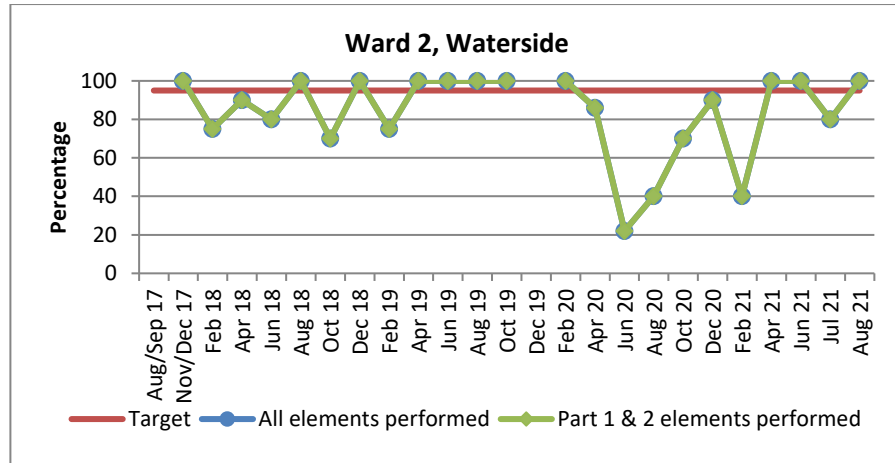
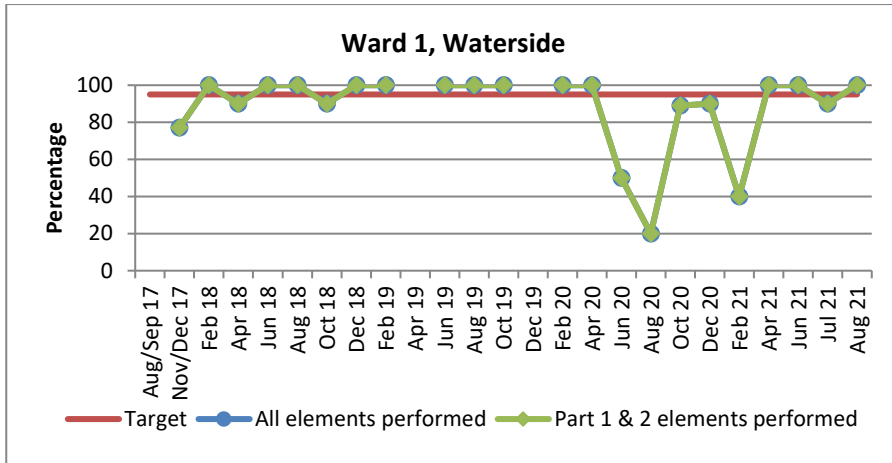
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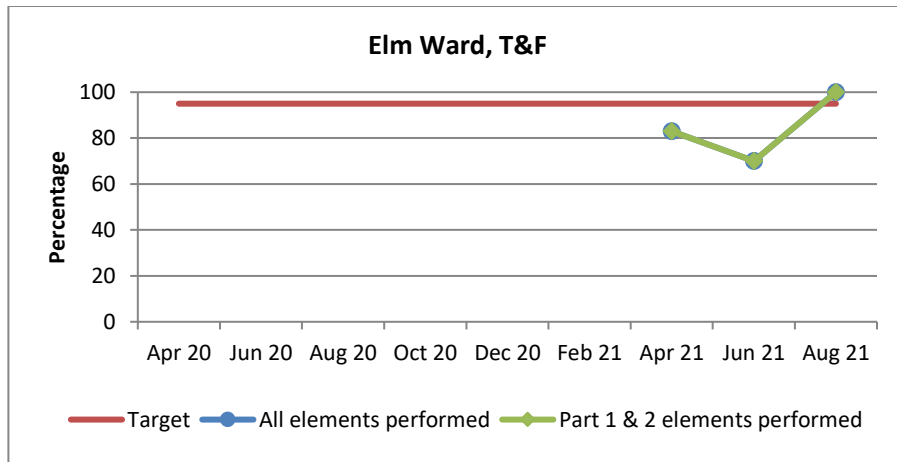
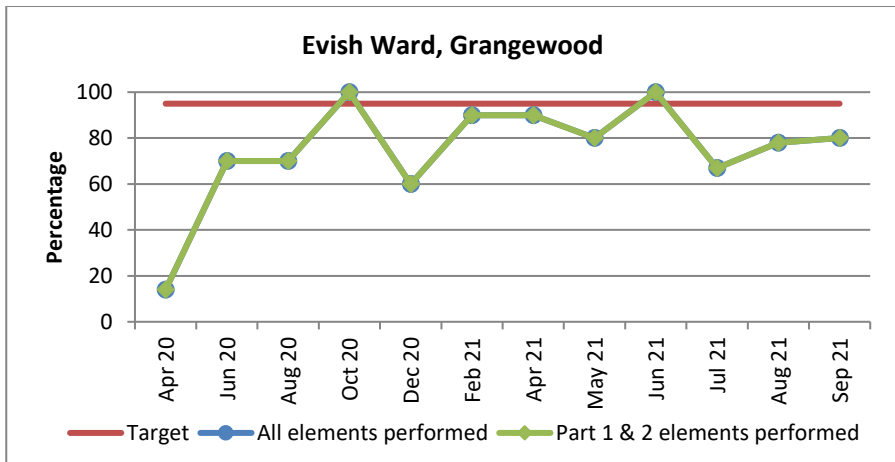
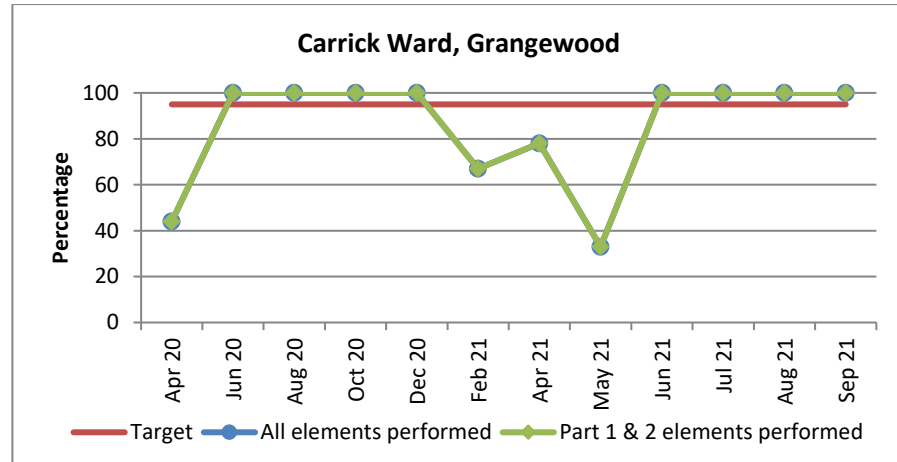
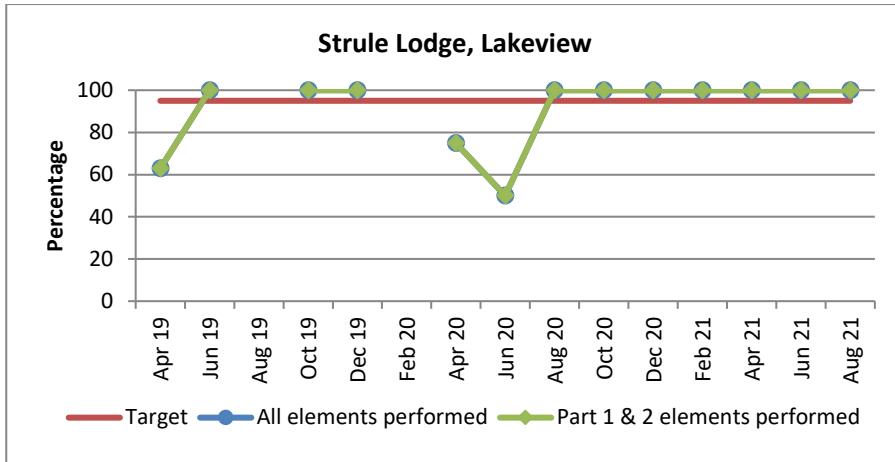
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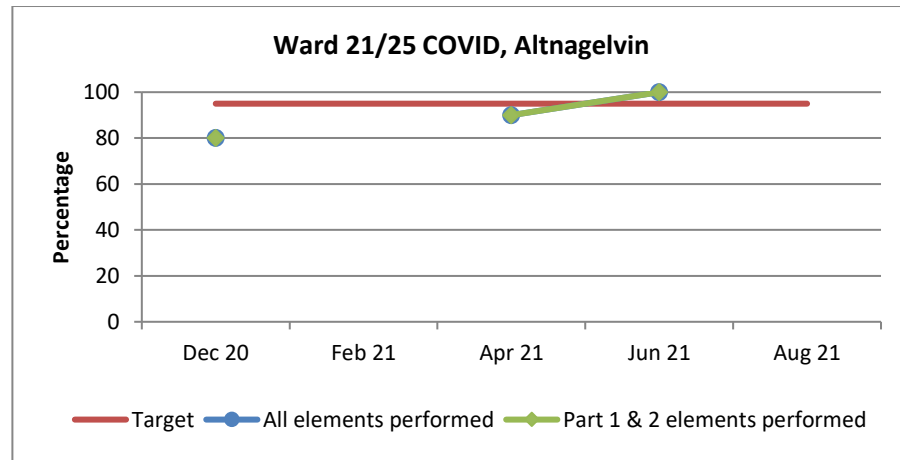
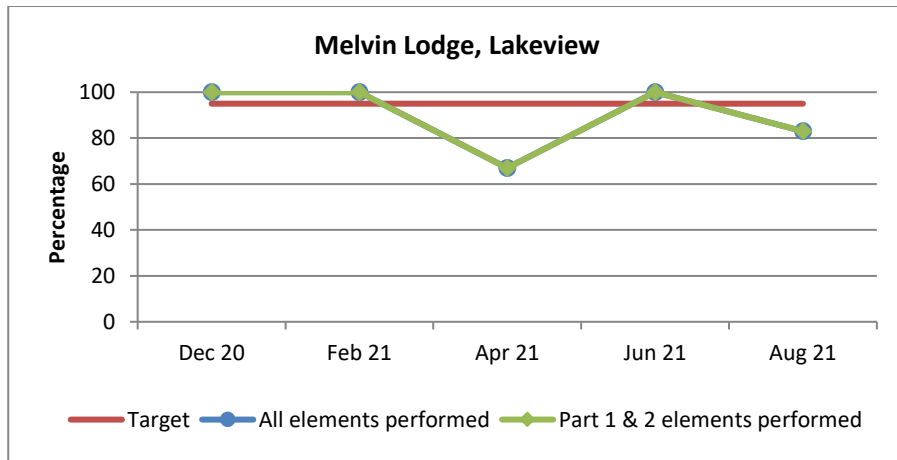
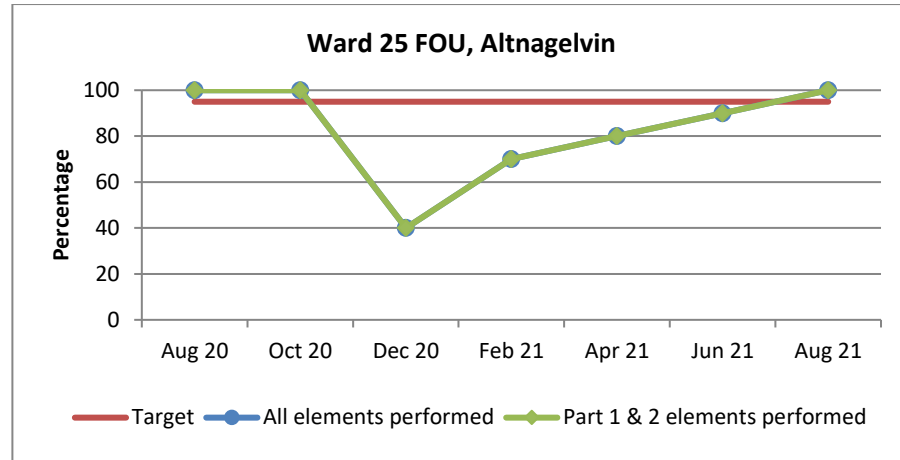
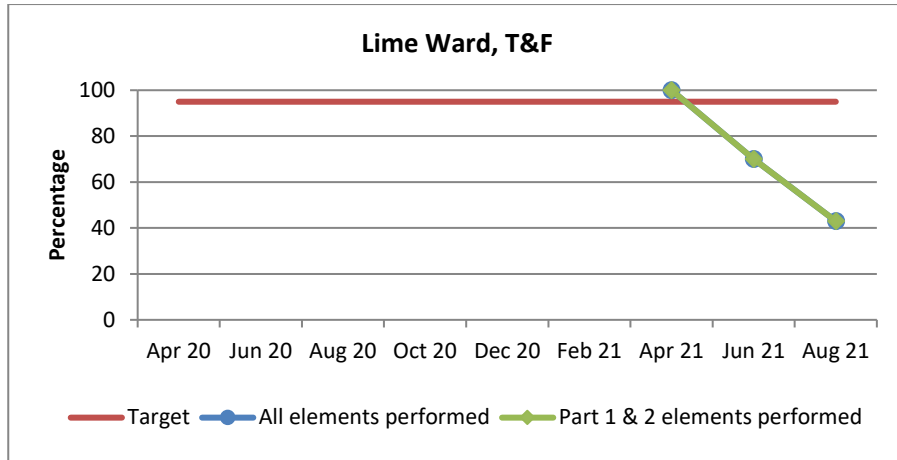
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