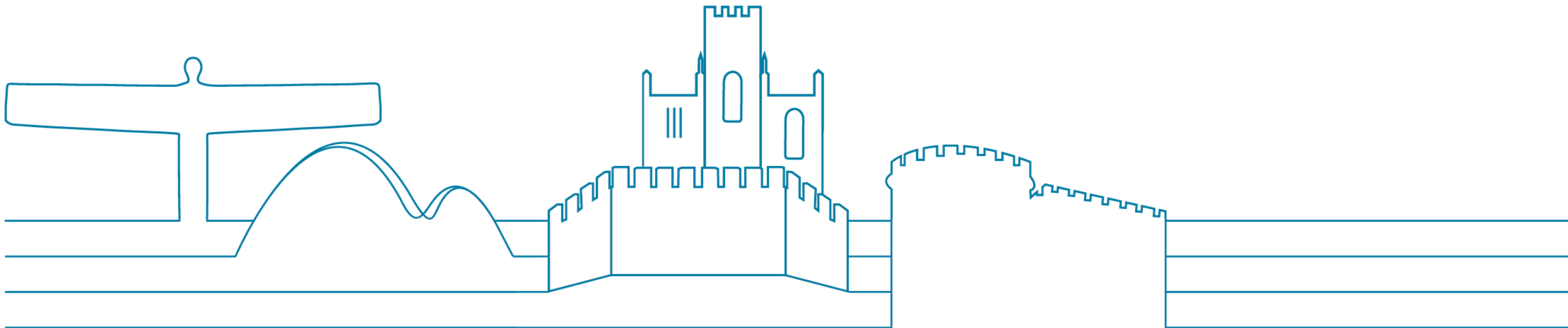


NHS North East & North Cumbria ICB – Sunderland

Performance Update – October'23



Key points

- Industrial action, winter and staffing pressures across the health and care system continues to impact on the delivery of a number of key national and local performance indicators
- Planned care performance deteriorated slightly based on the latest information due to the impact of industrial action and seasonal pressures
 - Referral to Treatment (RTT) continues to be strong in Sunderland with very long waiters relatively low compared to other areas. Patients continue to be supported whilst waiting via the Waiting Well initiative across North East and North Cumbria
 - Diagnostics is improving after a period of deterioration linked to increased demand in Non-obstetric ultrasound. Additional capacity is in place and a plan has been agreed to undertake education and engagement with referrers
- Urgent care continues to be under significant pressure, linked to flow and staffing pressures across the health and care system
- Ambulance service performance remains volatile but locally and nationally due to increased demand and workforce pressures
- Access to mental health services remains an ongoing issue, particularly for children and young people and inpatient admissions
- Cancer performance remains volatile due to increased referrals and the impact of diagnostic pressures. Despite the pressures, Sunderland continues to deliver the Faster Diagnosis Standard

Urgent Care

Accident and Emergency- performance continues to be **challenging** due to workforce issues, industrial action and increased demand linked to seasonal pressures (e.g. respiratory disease)

Performance Standard: 95% of patients to be treated within 4 hours. *Improvement trajectory for 2023/24 76% by Mar'23*

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD
Sunderland 2023/24	67.0%	68.5%	69.0%	70.6%	73.6%	69.4%							69.7%
Sunderland 2022/23	69.0%	71.7%	70.5%	70.3%	74.1%	74.0%	65.7%	65.6%	57.9%	63.9%	70.5%	67.6%	71.5%
National Standard	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%
North East and North Cumbria	79.8%	79.7%	77.4%	78.2%	78.8%	77.0%							78.5%
England	77.3%	76.8%	73.3%	74.0%	73.0%	71.6%							74.3%

Mitigations:

- Partnership approach across Sunderland and South Tyneside to manage flow and pressures across the health and care system
- Winter plan agreed and additional capacity mobilised across the system including additional community beds, additional transport, support to general practice and in social care.
- Additional national funding for health and social care being use to support hospital discharge which will see the implementation of a new transfer from hospital service in Sunderland.
- Co-location of GP Out of Hours within the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) to provide additional resilience in the UTC

Planned Care (1)

Referral to Treatment (RTT) – performance continues to be **strong** in Sunderland, but pressures increasing due to the impact of industrial action and seasonal pressures.

Performance Standard: 92% of patients to be treated within 18 weeks of referral and reduction in very long waiters (those waiting less than 2 years (104 weeks), 78 weeks and 1 year (52 weeks))

Standard	Target	Performance	Previous Month	Previous Year
%age Patients Waiting Less than 18 Weeks	92.0%	75.2%	76.4%	78.2%
Over 104 Week Waiters	0	1	1	1
Over 78 Week Waiters	0	3	1	30
Over 52 Week Waiters	< 2021/22	359	347	264

*** Sunderland over 78-week waiters are due to the national waiting list for corneal grafts. Over 104-week waiters are due to pressures in specialised spinal services**

Mitigations:

- Additional capacity secured in the NHS and Independent Sector through the Elective Recovery Fund
- Waiting Well initiative in place supporting patients who are waiting longer than they would normally

Planned Care (2)

Diagnostic waiting times – performance is **improving** but pressures remain in key diagnostic test areas due to some capacity constraints and increased demand

Performance Standard: No more than 1% of patients waiting longer than 6 weeks for a diagnostic test

Standard	Performance	Previous Month	Previous Year
%age Patients Waiting More than 6 Weeks	23.3%	21.1%	30.8%
Patients Waiting Over 6 Weeks	1,027	1,020	1,095
Patients Waiting Over 13 Weeks	335	310	254

Mitigations:

- Improvements made in echocardiography and sleep studies due to increased capacity to deliver reductions in the backlog
- Additional capacity in place for Non-obstetric ultrasound and education and engagement programme to be implemented to help improve waiting times.
- Working group in place looking at increasing direct access to radiology in Sunderland
- Additional capacity in the process of being mobilised in South Tyneside District Hospital for CT and MRI

Cancer

Diagnostic waiting times – performance remains **volatile** due to pressures in diagnostic imaging and increased demand for cancer services

Performance Standard: National standards included in the table below. National move to the Faster Diagnosis Standard expected from November'23

Standard	Operational Standard	Performance	Total Treated	Total Breaches	Previous Month	Previous Year
Faster Diagnosis Standard	75.0%	86.2%	1,185	163	83.1%	81.4%
Two Week Wait	93.0%	92.0%	1,123	98	93.6%	87.9%
31 Day First Treatment	96.0%	93.7%	143	9	96.6%	98.1%
62 Day Treatment	85.0%	68.8%	77	24	65.7%	66.7%

Mitigations:

- Continued focus on reducing delays across cancer pathways and implementing faster diagnosis standards including Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) programme implemented in Sunderland which will improve early diagnosis of lung cancer and improve the survival rate for those diagnosed with cancer.
- Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) in place with for bowel screening to improve bowel cancer diagnosis
- Direct to test pathways implemented to improve diagnosis and reduce delays in urological pathways. Increased capacity in the urology pathway to undertake biopsy which will improve
- Work has commenced in Primary Care Networks to focus on hard-to-reach communities to improve screening and improve diagnosis

Mental Health

Children and Young People's Mental Health - performance remains **challenging** as demand continues to outpace pre-pandemic levels, impacting on access standards

- Working with providers to improve pathways and handoffs between services. iTHRIVE workshops have been held in Sunderland which are helping build relationships across the City.
- Support to schools in place via a Mental Health Support Teams with an additional teams coming on stream in October'23
- Additional funding to recruit additional staff and Social Prescribing in place to support CYP on the waiting list
- Additional funding for counselling services to employ additional staffing to help reduce the backlog

Adult Mental Health – performance remains **challenging** in a number of areas linked to demand, bed availability and workforce pressures

- IAPT services have seen a significant increase in demand over the last couple of months and expecting further increases linked to the cost of living crisis. New single point of access in place with additional support to practices via additional roles for MH workers
- Continued focus on the most vulnerable with health checks being delivered for learning disabilities and people with serious mental illness. Sunderland continues to deliver higher health check rates compared to peers and continues to have exemplar status.
- Work ongoing via ATB to support the transformation of community mental health services – 'no wrong door' approach.