

HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STAFFING REPORT

Trust Board date	13 March 2018	Reference Number	2018 – 3 - 9		
Director	Mike Wright – Chief Nurse	Author	Mike Wright – Chief Nurse		
Reason for the report	The purpose of this report is to inform the Trust Board of the latest position in relation to Nursing and Midwifery staffing in line with the expectations of NHS England (National Quality Board – NQB’s Ten Expectations) and the Care Quality Commission				
Type of report	Concept paper		Strategic options		Business case
	Performance		Information	✓	Review

1	RECOMMENDATIONS The Trust Board is requested to:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive this report • Decide if any if any further actions and/or information are required 				
2	KEY PURPOSE:				
	Decision		Approval		Discussion ✓
	Information		Assurance	✓	Delegation
3	STRATEGIC GOALS:				
	Honest, caring and accountable culture				✓
	Valued, skilled and sufficient staff				✓
	High quality care				✓
	Great local services				
	Great specialist services				
	Partnership and integrated services				
	Financial sustainability				
4	LINKED TO:				
	CQC Regulation(s): E4 – Staff, teams and services to deliver effective care and treatment				
	Assurance Framework Ref: BAF 1 and BAF 2	Raises Equalities Issues? N	Legal advice taken? N	Raises sustainability issues? N	
5	BOARD/BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW The report is a standing agenda item at each Board meeting.				

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1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Trust Board of the latest position in relation to Nursing and Midwifery staffing in line with the expectations of NHS England (National Quality Board – NQB's Ten Expectations)^{1,2} and the Care Quality Commission.

2. BACKGROUND

In July 2016, the National Quality Board updated its guidance for provider Trusts, which set out revised responsibilities and accountabilities for Trust Boards for ensuring safe, sustainable and productive nursing and midwifery staffing levels. Trust Boards are also responsible for ensuring proactive, robust and consistent approaches to measurement and continuous improvement, including the use of a local quality framework for staffing that will support safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led care.

The last report on this topic was presented to the Trust Board in January 2018 (December 2017 position). This report presents the 'safer staffing' position as at 31st January 2018 and confirms on-going compliance with the requirement to publish monthly planned and actual staffing levels for nursing, midwifery and care assistant staff³.

3. NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STAFFING - PLANNED VERSUS ACTUAL FILL RATES

The Trust Board is advised that the Trust continues to comply with the requirement to upload and publish the aggregated monthly average nursing and care assistant (non-registered) staffing data for inpatient areas. These can be viewed via the following hyperlink address on the Trust's web-page:

<http://www.hey.nhs.uk/openandhonest/saferstaffing.htm>

These data are summarised, as follows:

3.1 Planned versus Actual staffing levels

The aggregated monthly average fill rates (planned versus actual) by hospital site are provided in the following graphs and tables. More detail by ward and area is available in **Appendix One** (data source: Allocate e-roster software & HEY Safety Brief). This appendix now includes some of the new metrics from Lord Carter's Model Hospital dashboard. These additions are: Care Hours Per Patient Day (CHPPD), annual leave allocation, sickness rates by ward and nursing and care assistant vacancy levels by ward.

¹ National Quality Board (2012) How to ensure the right people, with the right skills, are in the right place at the right time - *A guide to nursing, midwifery and care staffing capacity and capability*

² National Quality Board (July 2016) Supporting NHS providers to deliver the right staff, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time – Safe sustainable and productive staffing

³ When Trust Boards meet in public

The fill rate trends are now provided on the following pages:

Fig 1: Hull Royal Infirmary

HRI	DAY	Average fill rate - care staff (%)	NIGHT	Average fill rate - care staff (%)
	Average fill rate RN/RM (%)	Average fill rate care staff (%)	Average fill rate RN/RM (%)	Average fill rate care staff (%)
Apr-16	80.86%	88.23%	85.26%	103.39%
May-16	80.58%	91.24%	86.70%	105.93%
Jun-16	80.25%	89.41%	85.20%	102.22%
Jul-16	82.28%	90.96%	86.30%	103.33%
Aug-16	80.56%	89.30%	87.74%	99.85%
Sep-16	86.38%	93.40%	93.28%	101.70%
Oct-16	88.51%	100.79%	90.58%	106.38%
Nov-16	91.30%	97.10%	95.70%	107.30%
Dec-16	91.23%	100.10%	97.00%	100.76%
Jan-17	93.00%	103.50%	99.10%	101.10%
Feb-17	90.10%	98.10%	94.80%	100.30%
Mar-17	86.80%	95.90%	89.60%	102.10%
Apr-17	85.20%	97.61%	89.15%	102.19%
May-17	83.70%	94.20%	89.20%	102.60%
Jun-17	90.40%	94.20%	93.90%	102.90%
Jul-17	84.00%	89.60%	91.30%	100.90%
Aug-17	78.40%	93.20%	88.00%	100.80%
Sep-17	77.50%	96.70%	87.60%	101.80%
Oct-17	83.72%	95.68%	88.29%	100.49%
Nov-17	82.20%	95.90%	92.60%	103.20%
Dec-17	82.50%	93.50%	92.30%	100.30%
Jan-18	84.30%	93.00%	93.80%	101.00%

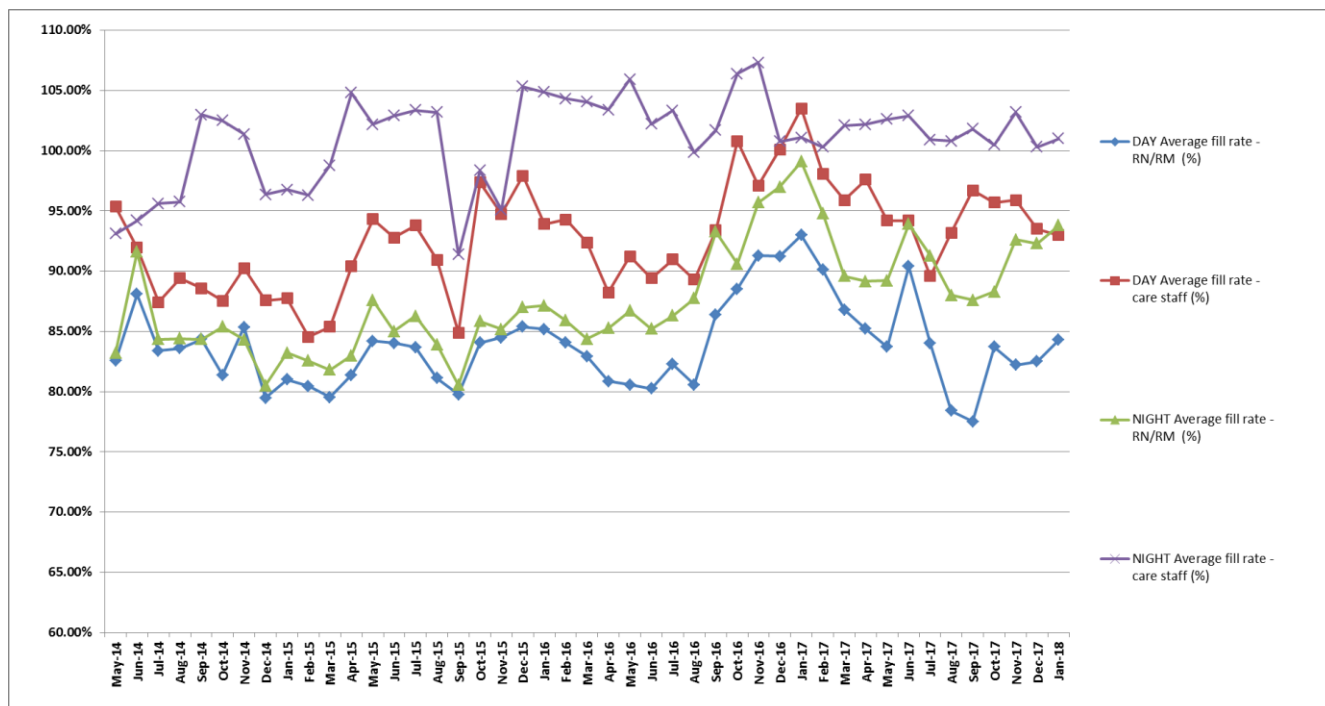
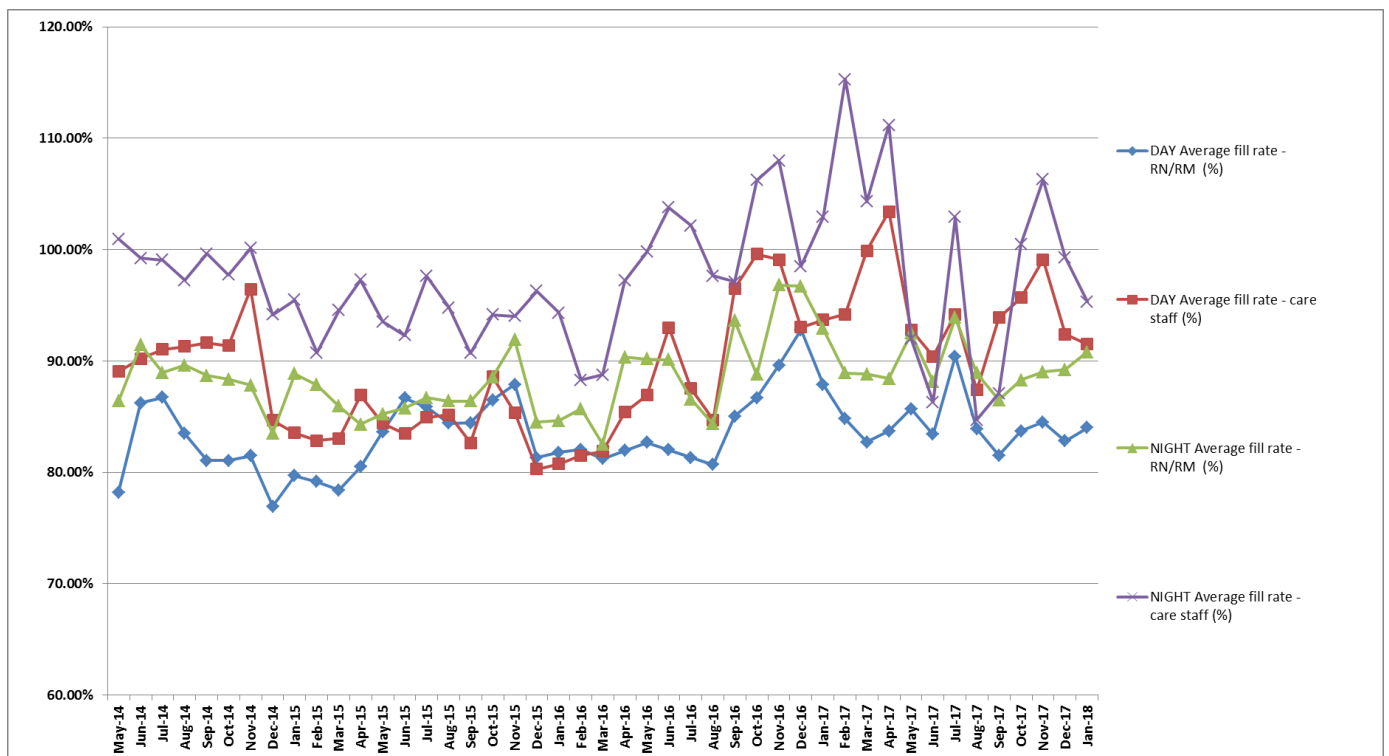


Fig 2: Castle Hill Hospital

CHH	DAY		NIGHT	
	Average fill rate RN/RM (%)	Average fill rate care staff (%)	Average fill rate RN/RM (%)	Average fill rate care staff (%)
Apr-16	81.96%	85.40%	90.34%	97.19%
May-16	82.68%	86.93%	90.19%	99.79%
Jun-16	82.01%	92.99%	90.12%	103.78%
Jul-16	81.33%	87.53%	86.56%	102.15%
Aug-16	80.70%	84.70%	84.35%	97.64%
Sep-16	85.02%	96.52%	93.61%	97.09%
Oct-16	86.70%	99.59%	88.79%	106.24%
Nov-16	89.60%	99.10%	96.80%	108.00%
Dec-16	92.79%	93.03%	96.70%	98.50%
Jan-17	87.90%	93.70%	92.90%	102.90%
Feb-17	84.80%	94.20%	88.90%	115.30%
Mar-17	82.70%	99.90%	88.80%	104.30%
Apr-17	83.71%	103.40%	88.41%	111.16%
May-17	85.70%	92.80%	92.50%	92.00%
Jun-17	83.40%	90.40%	88.10%	86.30%
Jul-17	90.40%	94.20%	93.90%	102.90%
Aug-17	83.90%	87.40%	88.90%	84.70%
Sep-17	81.50%	93.90%	86.50%	87.10%
Oct-17	83.72%	95.68%	88.29%	100.49%
Nov-17	84.50%	99.10%	89.00%	106.30%
Dec-17	82.80%	92.40%	89.20%	99.30%
Jan-18	84.00%	91.50%	90.80%	95.30%



As indicated in the aforementioned tables, the fill rates for both HRI and CHH have remained at reasonable levels overall.

From an international recruitment perspective, the Trust has 17 international recruits that are working as healthcare assistants and preparing for the Objective Structured Clinical Examination [OSCE]. The OSCE is the exam that the recruits must pass in order to become fully registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). To support the international recruits, the clinical education team is supporting the nurses with an intensive training programme for 2.5 days per week, focussing on specific clinical skills. For the remaining time, the nurses will be working within a clinical area under the supervision of a Registered Nurse in order to consolidate these skills.

The Trust has also had approval for 5 further certificates of sponsorship, it is therefore anticipated subject to visas being issued, this group of candidates should arrive in the UK by early March 2018. However, it is understood that there are challenges with some of these nurses not getting through OSCE process. This is not just at this Trust but also across the country. This is of concern and is being looked into. A fuller description will be provided in the next version of this report.

The Trust Board has been advised of actions that continue to be taken to balance shortfalls, including:

- The closure of identified beds within Family & Women's Health Group (9 beds) and Clinical Support Health Group (6 beds).
- The redeployment of staff from CHH to support HRI.
- Reduction in the number of Ward Sister/Charge Nurse supervisory shifts within all of the Health Groups on a temporary basis to support the areas where there are significant vacancies. (Additional managerial support is being provided by the Senior Matron for the clinical areas).
- The placement of Senior Matrons into clinical shifts across all Health Groups to help boost direct care-giving hours
- Support being given to wards by specialist nurses
- Utilisation of some agency shifts, albeit on a controlled basis. This has required the Trust to pay over the NHSI 'capped rate' on a small number of occasions in order to ensure patient safety.

Robust recruitment continues within a number of specialities through the development of bespoke advertising campaigns. Following successful interviews, the Trust is currently pursuing 78 student nurses who are due to complete their training in September 2018. A further interview date is scheduled for March 2018, and it is anticipated an additional 60 student nurses will be interviewed then offered posts if successful.

The Chief Nurse has introduced a Nursing Workforce Committee focused on the delivery of the following:

- Improving retention by understanding why staff leave and what can be done to address that beforehand.
- Focused work with those approaching 55-year age/early retirement to see if anything can be done to persuade such staff to stay on, including part-time and flexible hours
- Considering more flexible working opportunities in general
- Looking at skill mix; as one key reason for leaving is due to the apparent lack of career progression opportunities

- Undertaking time/motion work to understand the roles and tasks that RN's are doing compared to that of the non-registered workforce and other healthcare professionals with a planned pilot to commence early May 2018.
- Review of nursing shift patterns (underway currently)
- Undertake staff surveys about what would make the difference to help keep nurses working here.
- The possibility of pursuing an alternative entry point to nurse training using the apprenticeship route. However, this would require funding from the Trust to support in terms of paying the apprenticeship salary and backfill costs. Options to look at this more closely are being developed and a proposal to support this will be going to the Executive Management Committee for consideration in March 2018. Although this will not produce a short-term solution to the registered nurse supply chain, the options for training more nurses into the future through nationally-available and nationally-funded routes are not available. Unless other national monies and entry routes are to be made available to support this in the future, trusts are going to need to supplement the development of registered nurses from their own budgets. This will only add further financial pressures to already-challenged trust budgets.

In terms of strategic context with nurse staffing, the future supply of registered adult nurses remains the primary concern for the Trust's Chief Nurse and many other chief nurses, certainly across the Yorkshire and the Humber region. All have similar ageing nursing and care assistant workforces, with many still having the option to retire at 55 yrs. of age. This continues to be a risk to the local health economy.

The Chief Nurse for the North of England held a Nursing workforce summit/think tank on 13th December 2017 to consider the solutions to the registered nursing shortfalls. The Trust's Chief Nurse has been requested to chair the North of England Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Group. This group met for the first time on Friday 23rd February in Leeds. The early work of this group is focusing on retention of nurses and a fuller analysis of the impact of the ageing nursing workforce.

4. ENSURING SAFE STAFFING

The safety brief reviews, which are now completed six times each day, are led by a Senior Matron with input from a Health Group Nurse Director (or Site Matron at weekends) in order to ensure at least minimum safe staffing in all areas. This is always achieved but is extremely challenging on some occasions. The Trust has a minimum standard, whereby no ward is ever left with fewer than two registered nurses/midwives on any shift. Staffing levels are assessed directly from the live e-roster and SafeCare software and this system is working well.

Other factors that are taken into consideration before determining if a ward is safe or not, include:

- The numbers, skill mix, capability and levels of experience of the staff on duty
- Harm rates (falls, pressure ulcers, etc.) and activity levels
- The self-declaration by the shift leader on each ward as to their professional view on the safety and staffing levels that day
- The physical layout of the ward
- The availability of other staff – e.g. bank/pool, matron, specialist nurses, speciality co-ordinators and allied health professionals.
- The balance of risk across the organisation

5. RED FLAGS AS IDENTIFIED BY NICE (2014).

Incorporated into the census data collected through SafeCare are a number of 'Nursing Red Flags' as determined by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE 2014).⁴

Essentially, 'Red Flags' are intended to record a delay/omission in care, a 25% shortfall in Registered Nurse Hours or less than 2 x RN's present on a ward during any shift. They are designed to support the nurse in charge of the shift to assess systematically that the available nursing staff for each shift, or at least each 24-hour period, is adequate to meet the actual nursing needs of patients on that ward.

When a 'Red Flag' event occurs, it requires an immediate escalation response by the Registered Nurse in charge of the ward. The event is recorded in SafeCare and all appropriate actions to address them are recorded in SafeCare, which provides an audit trail. Actions may include the allocation or redeployment of additional nursing staff to the ward. These issues are addressed at each safety brief.

In addition, it is important to keep records of the on-the-day assessments of actual nursing staffing requirements and reported red flag events so that they can be used to inform future planning of ward nursing staff establishments or any other appropriate action(s).

The 'red flags' suggested by NICE, are:

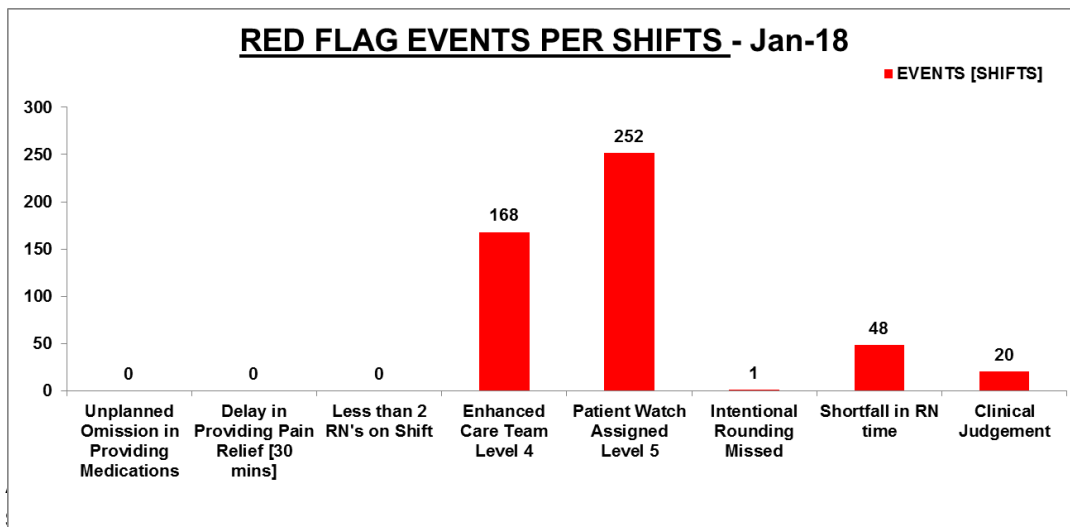
- Unplanned omission in providing patient medications.
- Delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief.
- Patient vital signs not assessed or recorded as outlined in the care plan.
- Delay or omission of regular checks on patients to ensure that their fundamental care needs are met as outlined in the care plan. Carrying out these checks is often referred to as 'intentional rounding' and covers aspects of care such as:
 - Pain: asking patients to describe their level of pain level using the local pain assessment tool.
 - Personal needs: such as scheduling patient visits to the toilet or bathroom to avoid risk of falls and providing hydration.
 - Placement: making sure that the items a patient needs are within easy reach.
 - Positioning: making sure that the patient is comfortable and the risk of pressure ulcers is assessed and minimised.

The following table illustrates the number of 'Red Flags' identified during January 2018. Please note that the Trust is not yet able to collect data on all of these categories as the systems required to capture them are not yet available, e.g. e-prescribing. This is accepted by the National Quality Board. In addition, work is required to ensure that any mitigation is recorded accurately, following professional review. The sophistication of this will be developed over time.

⁴ NICE 2014 - Safe staffing for nursing in adult inpatient wards in acute hospitals

Jan-18	RED FLAG TYPE	EVENTS [SHIFTS]	%
	Unplanned Omission in Providing Medications	0	0%
	Delay in Providing Pain Relief [30 mins]	0	0%
	Less than 2 RN's on Shift	0	0%
	Enhanced Care Team Level 4	168	34%
	Patient Watch Assigned Level 5	252	52%
	Intentional Rounding Missed	1	0%
	Shortfall in RN time	48	10%
	Clinical Judgement	20	4%

TOTAL: 489 100%



As illustrated above, the most frequently reported red flag is related to the requirement for 1:1 supervision for patients. As indicated in the previous Board Reports, this is being addressed through the implementation of the Enhanced Care Team (ECT), which has almost completed its pilot and will report on its impact to the Executive Management Committee in March 2018.

For information, an ECT level 4 is a patient requiring ward based 1:1 care with a non-registered staff member; these are often patients with dementia, those at high risk of falls and harm or those that are agitated due to their clinical condition. A Patient Watch Level 5 is a patient that is exhibiting violence/aggression that is a risk to themselves and/or others and requires a security staff member to ensure safety is maintained. These requirements for individual patients across the organisation are reviewed on a shift by shift basis and adjusted accordingly.

5. AREAS OF CONCERN WITH REGARDS TO SAFE STAFFING:

There are a number of key areas that remain particularly tight in terms of meeting their full establishments. These are:

- **H70 (Diabetes and Endocrine)** has 8.90 wte RN vacancies. This ward continues to be supported in the interim by moving staff in the Medical Health Group. Additional support has been provided from the Surgical Health Group and nurse bank, therefore reducing the current net vacancies to 2.67 wte in real terms.

- **Elderly Medicine [x5 wards]** have 16.74 wte RN vacancies. The specialty has over recruited by 10.04wte auxiliary nurses to support the RNs in the ward areas to deliver nursing care with supervision. These are all within budget. The Senior Matrons are supporting the ward in the interim by moving staff in the Medical Health Group.
- **H5, RSU and H500 (Respiratory Services)** have 6.85 wte RN vacancies between them. Support continues to be provided from the Nurse Bank to ensure staffing levels are maintained at a safe level. Critical Care have released 2.0 wte RN's to work in the RSU. In addition there are 2.00 wte RNs on rotation from critical care working within the respiratory support unit. This has been favourably received by both clinical areas as it is offering a learning opportunity for the staff involved as well as improving the staffing numbers.
- **H11 and H110** have 12.47 wte RN vacancies. The impact of this shortfall is supported by part-time staff working extra hours, bank shifts and over filling of auxiliary shifts. Additional support is also being provided by Critical Care, who have released 2.0 wte. registered nurses to support the HASU.
- **Ward H4 - Neurosurgery** has 5.08 wte RN, **H40** has 1.19 wte RN vacancies. The band 7's work closely together to minimise the impact of the vacancies.
- **Ward H7 - Vascular Surgery** has 5.52 wte RN vacancies. Support is being provided from within the Health Group until substantive posts are filled.
- **Ward H12 & H120 – Trauma Orthopaedics** have 6.83 wte RN vacancies across the floor.
- **Ward C10 & C11 - Elective Colorectal Surgery** has 5.70 wte RN vacancies across both wards.
- **Wards 30-33 – Oncology and Haematology** have 8.55 wte RN vacancies. Staff are moved between the wards following assessment daily by the Senior Matron. An RN from the Oncology Health Centre is working on the wards, C33 have over recruited non registered nurses to support and the Sisters and Matrons are all undertaking clinical shifts.
- **Winter Ward H10** - continues to be supported through the temporary redeployment of staff from all of the Health Groups. As part of the winter plan, work will commence to support the closure of the Ward early April 2018.

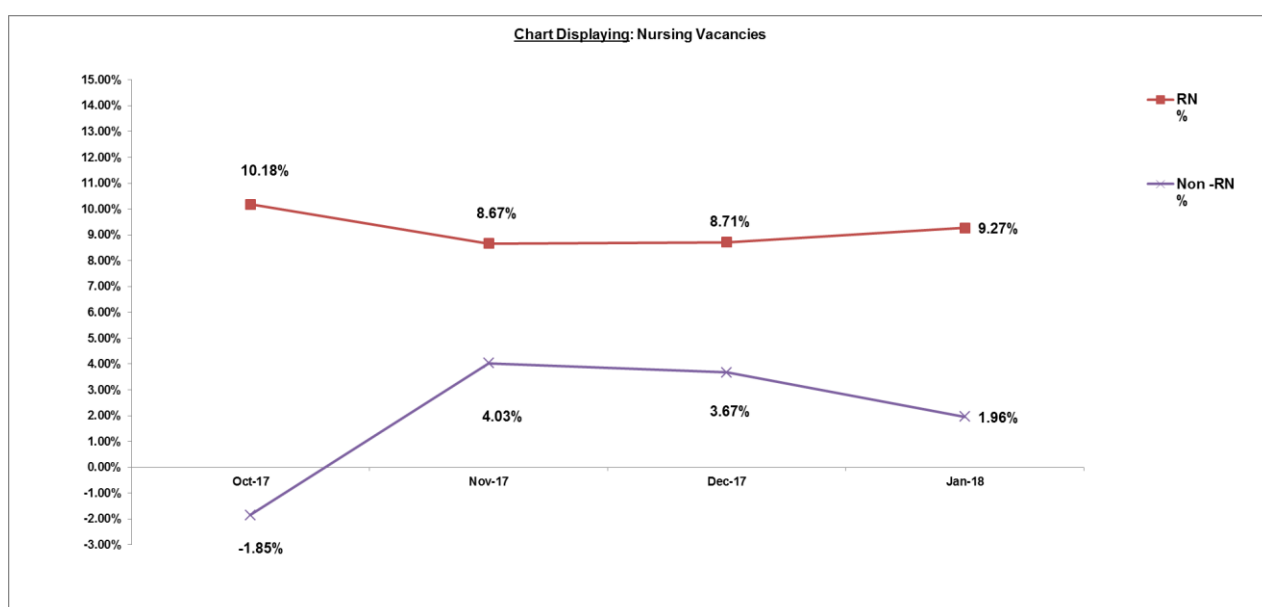
In addition to the above areas, as highlighted in appendix 1, there are a number of areas whose fill rate is less than the desired 80%. The justification for this is essentially two-fold; firstly, providing support to the winter ward and intentional roster changes to support additional capacity over a 7 day period. Secondly, increased absence levels, which is being monitored closely by the Nurse Directors.

As indicated in the narrative, support is being provided to wards that have staffing shortfalls through the redeployment of registered nurses from elsewhere within the Trust. This has been completed in a planned and coordinated manner, in order to try and minimise the continual movement of staff on a daily basis, although staff are still moved daily in response to further short notice shortfalls and assessments of the workload and patient acuity in clinical areas. Despite the work undertaken, there

remain some significant shortfalls in some wards and these are risk assessed and managed each day.

The following table illustrates a summary of the Vacancy position for both Registered and Non-Registered nurses (wards and ED) since October 2017. There has been a decrease of 7.08 wte Registered Nurse in the last month.

Month	RN Vacancies	RN %	NON-RN Vacancies	Non-RN %	Total [wte] Vacancies	RN [wte] Establishment	NON-RN [wte] Establishment	Total Nursing Establishment	% Total Vacancies
Oct-17	129.92	10.18%	-9.43	-1.85%	120.5917807	1276.47	509.93	1786.4	6.75%
Nov-17	110.64	8.67%	20.56	4.03%	131.2866765	1276.47	509.93	1786.4	7.35%
Dec-17	111.23	8.71%	18.72	3.67%	130.0371387	1276.47	509.93	1786.4	7.28%
Jan-18	118.31	9.27%	10.00	1.96%	128.4026853	1276.47	509.93	1786.4	7.19%



In summary, as illustrated above, the RN vacancy rate on the Trust's wards, ED and ICU is 118.31 wte against an establishment of 1276.47 wte (9.27%). The non-registered workforce vacancies are 10.00 wte (1.96%) although a number of wards have over recruited to support the RN vacancies, as mentioned earlier in this report.

The inability to recruit sufficient numbers of registered nurses in order to meet safer staffing requirements remains a recorded risk at 16 (Likely 4 x Severity 4) until staffing levels stabilise more.

6. SUMMARY

Nursing and midwifery establishments are set and financed at good levels in the Trust and these are managed very closely on a daily basis. This is all managed very carefully and in a way that balances the risk across the organisation and will continue to be so. The challenges remain around recruitment and with regard to the supply of registered nurses.

In summary there are many nurse staffing challenges and difficulties; however, it is recognised that significant effort is being made by many registered and non-registered nursing staff, which includes many working outside their normal area of speciality, to help care for patients in these challenging circumstances.

7. RECOMMENDATION

The Trust Board is requested to:

- Receive this report
- Decide if any further actions and/or information are required.

Mike Wright
Executive Chief Nurse
March 2018

Appendix 1: HEY Safer Staffing Report – January 2018

