

Questions raised to the Trust Board May 2020

The following questions were submitted by members of the public and staff at the May 2020 Trust Board meeting – where similar questions were received, these have been grouped together and paraphrased.

1 – Is the Trust planning to start outpatient clinics and operating sessions again? What does this mean for the staff who have moved areas for the Covid-19 surge plan?

All NHS Trusts have been in receipt of national guidance that outlines the next steps that all Trusts should plan to take, which includes reinstating some clinics and procedures. This needs to be on the basis of clinical priority. Where possible, NHS Trusts should look at alternative ways to undertake appointments

This Trust has moved to telephone clinics in a number of different areas and is looking at NHS-approved video conference software for face-to-face (but remote) appointments. In respect of moving back to 'business as usual', this is going to be a much longer process than the quick action that was taken before the surge. HUTH is going to need to manage a number of Covid-19 inpatients for the foreseeable future at the same time as reinstating other clinical activity where possible. As the surge is stood down, colleagues will see some wards return to their normal location, some of which has already happened. Alongside this, a detailed recovery plan is being drawn up across all Health Groups to put in place planned activity alongside day-to-day acute inpatient activity (Covid-19 and non-Covid-19) , but this will be affected by a number of factors, such as staff absence levels, additional PPE and time per procedure and also patients' availability and self-isolation status. This plan will include staffing plans, such as staffing the Covid-19 inpatient areas alongside restoring some elective theatre capacity.

There will be an update report on this in the June 2020 Trust Board papers, which will be on the Trust's website by 18 June 2020:

<https://www.hey.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board-meetings/>

2. Will the Trust support working from home after the surge?

Yes, the Trust will continue to support working from home, including clinical staff where possible. There will be a risk assessment process for clinical staff to undertake clinical work from home. The Trust has purchased 500+ laptops to enable working from home as well as associated licences for the virtual network. Further purchases will be made based on future need. Government guidance remains that all employers should support working from home where possible.

3. What about social distancing in the hospital?

The Trust is implementing social distancing measures across Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital. This includes Perspex screens on reception desks, closing off desks in open plan work areas, quantifying maximum occupancy for meeting rooms, wearing masks on site at all times, and many other measures. Shared spaces, such as the Trust's restaurants, have been socially distanced for some time and will need to continue to be so. Where staff are not able to socially distance, they should refer to the latest guidance that has been published on Pattie (the Trust's intranet) – this has been published in the last 10 days.