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Busy weekend for health services as partners in North Cumbria continue to work together

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Busy weekend for health services as partners in North Cumbria continue to work together

Posted on Sunday 22nd March 2015

Health and social care organisations in North Cumbria are continuing to work together under internal major incident escalation arrangements.

Despite a busy weekend for all parts of the system, the position within North Cumbria's hospital has remained stable over the weekend, with some improved bed availability and flow of patients both into and out of hospital.

The collective focus of all partners remains on reducing the need for North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust to maintain escalation beds so that hospitals in Carlisle and Whitehaven can get back to routine business as quickly and safely as possible. Efforts are therefore being made to ensure that patients who do not need an acute hospital bed, are safely discharged to a more appropriate care setting or home with the right package of care.

Over the weekend there have been no further transfers of patients outside of North Cumbria.

Going into Monday morning, all outpatient services at The Cumberland Infirmary and West Cumberland Hospital will be running as usual and all planned operations and procedures are expected to take place on both sites on Monday 23 March.

The local health system, however, remains within internal major incident escalation arrangements as efforts continue to reduce the need to maintain escalation beds, which, in recent weeks have put a major strain on local hospitals with staff working at capacity and patients not flowing through the system.

Reducing the need to maintain escalation beds will allow both hospitals to provide agreed safe staffing levels in all core wards and departments on a sustainable basis as the Trust looks to resume normal activities as soon as possible.

A spokesperson for NHS Cumbria CCG said:

"All parts of the health system in North Cumbria have had a busy weekend and it is testament to everyone's hard work that we have been able to maintain a positive position within the busy acute hospitals.

"We will continue to work together with all partners in the coming days to ensure that these efforts further improve in the week ahead and as we look forward to the Easter Bank Holiday weekend

Posted on Sunday 22nd March 2015

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