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Public Asked To Play Their Part At Pressures Continue To Improve In North Cumbria's Hospitals

Posted on Saturday 21st March 2015

Pressures in North Cumbria's hospitals have continued to show signs of improvement in the past 24 hours as all partners continue to work together to improve patient flow across the health system.

The local health economy remains within internal major incident escalation and efforts remain focused on reducing the need to maintain escalation beds which have put a major strain on the Trust's ability to safely carry out its normal routine business when hospitals are at capacity and patients are not flowing through the system.

All efforts are focussed on making sure this can happen as quickly as possible so that hospitals in Carlisle and Whitehaven can get back to routine business. Health and social partners are working to make sure patients who do not need to be in an acute hospital bed, are safely discharged to a more appropriate care setting or home with the right package of care.

As usual, services are extremely busy over the weekend and the local health economy is calling on the public to play their part and use services appropriately. People are being reminded:

- **to think twice before using A&E or calling 999**
- **to think about using other NHS services such as walk-in centres and pharmacies or call Cumbria Health on Call (out of hours) on 03000 247247 for advice on alternative urgent services available**
- **to stay away from hospital if they have any symptoms of sickness or diarrhoea.**

A spokesperson for NHS Cumbria CCG said:

"A tremendous effort has been made by all partners so that the Cumbrian health system can provide support and assistance during this incident and these efforts have shown the robustness of the system in coping in times such as these. However, this does not mean we are complacent and will continue to work together to ensure the situation continues to improve."

Posted on Saturday 21st March 2015

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