

Note of the National Escalation Pressures Panel meeting

Friday 11 January 2019, Skipton House

Panel attendees: Steve Powis (Chair – NHS England), Derek Alderson (Royal College of Surgeons), Paul Cosford (Public Health England), Andrew Goddard (Royal College of Physicians), Cliff Mann (NHS England), Ruth May (NHS Improvement), Kathy McLean (NHS Improvement), Pauline Philip (National Director for Emergency and Elective Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement), Keith Willett (NHS England)

1. The Chair welcomed members of the panel to the meeting. The notes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.
2. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care brought the group up to date on preparations for winter and current performance. December data showed that A&E performance was above where it was at the same time last year which was encouraging.
3. Flu vaccination rates were broadly in line with last year, and more frontline healthcare workers had been vaccinated than at the same time last year. Overall the prevalence of flu was lower than at this time last year with the main strain, H1N1, being well matched by the vaccine.
4. Given the current position, the panel agreed that communications to staff on their hard work to manage winter would be welcomed.
5. The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked members for their time. The next call was scheduled for 25 January.