

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

9 OCTOBER 2020

QUESTION No. 2 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

Tom Lake to ask the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board:

Waiting Lists

Could you give an indication of the state of NHS waiting lists, especially in cancer diagnostics and treatment, child mental health, elective orthopaedics?

REPLY by Sam Burrows (Deputy Chief Officer, Berkshire West CCG) on behalf of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Hoskin):

Acute Physical Waiting Lists

For urgent and cancer demand the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust is returning quickly to pre-COVID numbers being referred/attending the Trust. Throughout the pandemic they have continued to operate services, where safe and sensible to do so. Wait times for cancer appointments, diagnostics and treatments have, and continue to be prioritised and they are returning quickly to their own internal expectations on wait times - which often go further than the national expectation. The longest waits for cancer care and the over-all size of a pathways over two months have been dropping at pace. The size and profile of the Trust cancer waiting list is returning to a more normal shape.

All of the Trusts diagnostic services are open and operating at full capacity. The Trust continues to prioritise Cancer and Urgent diagnostics with routine priority work being seen in chronological order.

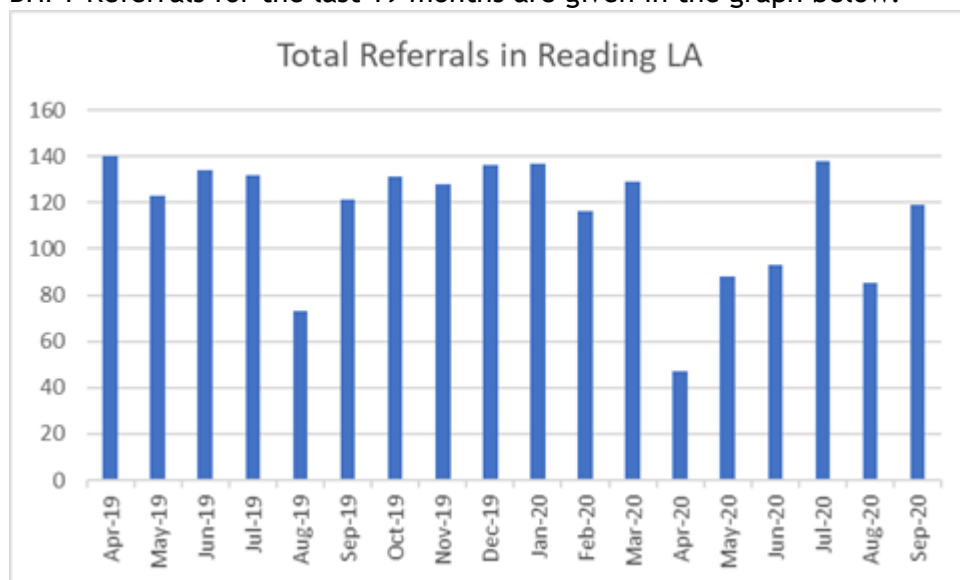
Routine treatments, including routine elective Orthopaedics are taking longer and the Trust has a backlog of work that is being prioritised alongside our urgent workload. There are a number of complexities in the routine pathway, largely through patients choosing not to attend and the result of COVID safety guidelines and restrictions. However the Trust is continuing to maximise the use of capacity to see and treat patients as quickly as possible.

The Trust did not close its doors to new routine referrals throughout the crisis - instead deploying a solution allowing GPs to refer and enable the creation of worklists for clinical triage. With triage in place across the Trust and a huge expansion of digital care delivery, the Trust has been able to continue to manage a level of demand that can be benefited through either Advice and Guidance or virtual/telephone assessment. Considered together this has meant that whilst they do have a backlog of extended waits they are able to focus a larger proportion of their capacity to these patients, particularly in the outpatient setting.

It is expected that the size of the top of the waiting list will continue to grow over the next few months and teams are focused on communicating with their patients to agree appropriate next steps. However with fewer patients moving through the lower parts of the waiting list - either because of reduced demand or as a result of the new pathways that have been put in place in the COVID response - there is confidence that this profile will reverse later in the year as they aim to stabilise and recover the waiting list as quickly as possible.

Child Mental Health Waiting Lists:

BHFT Referrals for the last 19 months are given in the graph below:



Average waiting times

Average wait to triage in CPE in Sept was 1.2 weeks. For those young people needing a face to face appointment following initial telephone/video triage, the average wait to second contact was 3.2 weeks. We are monitoring CPE closely and working hard to keep waiting times down as referrals increase.

The table below gives year to date average waiting times for the other teams

Team	First Contact	2 nd Contact
BEDS CYP	1.1 weeks	1.8 weeks
Health & Justice	2.0 weeks	4.3 weeks
A&D	15.7 weeks	26.5 weeks
SCT	6.5 weeks	16.2 weeks

Numbers currently waiting first contact for Reading are given below:

Reading	A:0-2 wks	B:3-6 wks	C:7-12 wks	D:Over 12	Grand Total
CAMHs A&D Specialist Pathway	2	7	7	6	22
CAMHS CPE	25	21	14		60
CYP Eating Disorders	2	1			3
Specialist Community		3	4	20	27
Grand Total	29	32	25	28	112

All of those showing as waiting over 7 weeks in CPE are undergoing screening for autism and/or ADHD.