

Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care – 4 September 2023

Written question from Cllr Michael Lilley to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, and Housing Needs

A resident is supposed to have a hip replacement and has been told they will likely be waiting up to 60 weeks. The national target is 18 weeks, and he has waited 38 so far. Why is the Isle of Wight so behind target, and what do the Integrated Care Board plan to do to reduce the waiting times?

Response

Firstly, it is important to apologise to any Island resident that has to wait for treatment.

Currently all Providers of care are trying extremely hard to reduce the length of time Patients are waiting for treatment and the IOW Trust is no different in that regard. In fact, although it offers little in the way of comfort overall, the IOW Trust is actually performing better than the national average in regards to the length of time Patients are waiting for elective treatment and in this case a hip replacement.

There are a variety of reasons for this for the longer than required waiting times.

All Providers of care are still reducing the large backlog of elective treatments that were not able to be provided during the Covid pandemic response, again the IOW Trust has performed well in comparison to others.

The demand for care for our on-Island Emergency Patients often exceeds our available capacity and results in less capacity for Elective Patients and therefore increases the waiting time for Patients. Here the IOW Trust has tried to maintain Elective capacity at all times to continue to reduce the length of time Patients are waiting, however this is not straightforward as Emergency demand fluctuates daily.

In summary this is a significant challenge for all Providers and a large number of Patients are waiting over the 18-week indicative target. The National Policy makers are trying to work through a transition period where more practical targets can be available to our Communities to better manage expectations.

As Commissioners and Providers of services we apologise for this situation, but we are reassured that the IOW Trust is doing everything they can to reduce the waits for Patients and to risk assess whether there are impacts to Patients during the extended waiting time.

It is not appropriate to comment on individual cases of course and if further detail is available outside the meeting we would be happy to review.