



## Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Issue 15

This weekly briefing is intended to update stakeholders on how services in Greater Manchester are performing and how we work together to manage demand and provide care and support to the public.

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## Media statement

### Mark Fisher, chief executive of NHS Greater Manchester

“Frontline services remain very busy as we mark the seasonal shift from winter to spring. Demand has felt relentless, and it has been a trying winter with seasonal sickness, periods of industrial action and ongoing occupancy pressures. Staff across all NHS and care services have worked tirelessly. The public can continue to choose well, making NHS 111 their first choice for medical help when it’s not an emergency.”

## Weekly narrative

Significant pressure remains at some hospital Trust sites with support being provided as appropriate. Continued pressures are reported across all primary care provider groups. Mental health providers continue to experience challenges with bed capacity and high numbers of ‘no criteria to reside’, with pressures increasing in the last week.

## Primary care data

There are approximately 1,800 primary care providers, with a workforce of around 22,000.

- ✚ Dentistry – of 236 practices reporting, 33% of dental practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 17% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ General practice - of 278 practices reporting, 28% of GP practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Optometry - of 86 practices reporting, 7% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 2% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Pharmacy – of 134 pharmacies reporting, 25% of sites are feeling significantly challenged and 4% are feeling challenged but coping.

Note, work is underway to encourage more practices to use the pulse check so that support can be provided where appropriate.

## Urgent and emergency care data

NHS England publish a weekly online report each Thursday showing verified data across provider organisations including all hospital trusts. You can access the latest urgent and emergency care



'sit rep' here: [Statistics » Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2023-24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24).

- ✚ For the week 26<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March there were 26,276 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 18,644. Attendances are higher than the previous reporting period including for type 1.
- ✚ Hospital bed occupancy across Greater Manchester acute trusts has been on average for the period 91.3%, with the peak at 92.2%.
- ✚ Paediatric services remain challenged in relation to bed occupancy although has seen variation over this period compared to previous reporting period.
- ✚ Attendances at emergency departments for mental health conditions have remained stable however the system is significantly constrained by a lack of mental health bed capacity in Greater Manchester, as well as nationally.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,407 ambulances attending Greater Manchester hospitals which is lower than last reporting period.
- ✚ Definitions on types of attendance can be found using this [link](#).

## Hospital discharge data

The discharge figures are a snapshot in time provided for the weekly brief to illustrate both demand and pressure. These figures will be shared weekly.

- ✚ There were 857 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✚ This week (29<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March) there were 792 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 925 discharges.

Discharge data may reflect variation in average length of stay per bed and discharge location.

## Useful information

- ✚ **Diabetes and Ramadan:** MyWay Digital Health are offering a free course to learn all about managing diabetes during Ramadan. Learn more by following this link: [Free support for managing diabetes during Ramadan. | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/free-support-for-managing-diabetes-during-ramadan).
- ✚ **Workforce recruitment and retention kit:** the toolkit brings together information to support organisations to tackle recruitment and retention challenges that are leading to high staff turnover rates and difficulties filling key vacancies. The toolkit is aimed at colleagues working in health and care in Greater Manchester, who are responsible for implementing or improving recruitment practices and/or the overall experience of the workforce and retaining their staff. More information can be found here: [NHS Greater Manchester launches an online recruitment and retention toolkit. | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/nhs-greater-manchester-launches-an-online-recruitment-and-retention-toolkit) and here: [Recruitment and retention toolkit - GM Access](#).