

## Appendix 2c

### Scheduled Care: Waiting Times and Referral to Treatment

Author: Annette Donegani

#### Current performance updates and challenges

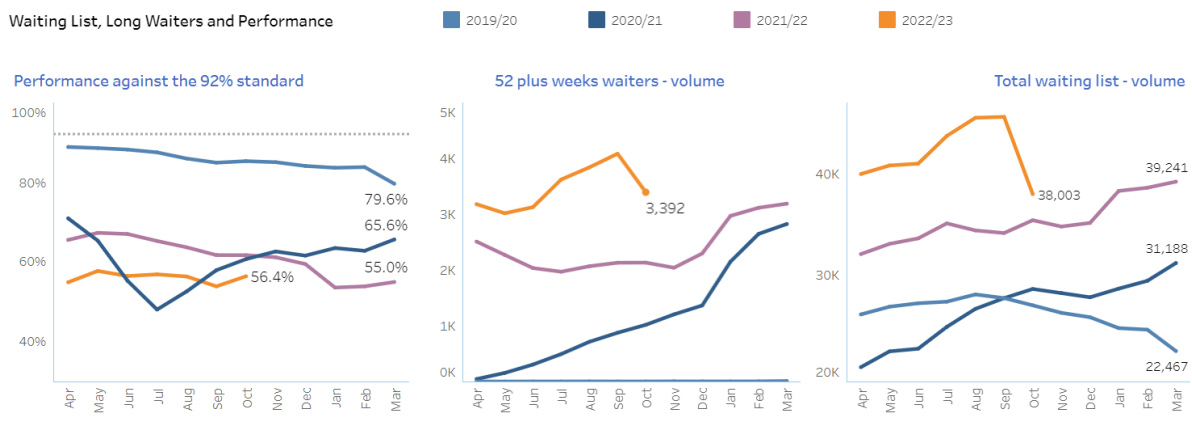
This report provides an update on the following areas of Scheduled Care as at the end of November 2022:

- Waiting Lists
- Waiting Times
- GP Referrals

Please Note:

- October and November performance excludes data from Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) due to implementation and validation of a new PAS system
- This update report is submitted without MFT data and comparisons to previous performance cannot be made as MFT waiting list and waiting time information has not been included

The charts below show Salford performance as at the end of November 2022 against the 18 week waiting time standard, the number of patients' waiting over 52 weeks and the total waiting list volume (2022/23 performance in orange):



#### Waiting Lists and Waiting Times

- November 2022 waiting list (patients waiting for first treatment following referral) is 37,950
- 21,077 (55.5%) patients were seen within 18 weeks of referral against the 92% target
- 13,217 patients were waiting between 18 and 52 weeks
- 3,565 patients were waiting in excess of 52 weeks, of which 664 were over 78 weeks and 4 over 104 weeks

The majority of secondary care specialties at all health care providers continue to experience sustained waiting list increases, with the greatest pressure areas at Northern Care Alliance being Cardiology, Dermatology, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Rheumatology, Surgery, Trauma & Orthopaedics and Urology.

As previously reported waiting lists are rising due to an increasing number of referrals which are now exceeding pre COVID-19 levels; workforce constraints due to staff absences arising from illness or staff leaving the profession, and reduced Provider capacity issues caused by a combination of delayed discharges and increasing urgent and emergency admissions.

The table below shows Salford Locality annual 18 week Referral To Treatment (RTT) performance for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and monthly position from April to November 2022. The RTT position recovered to a post-COVID high of 67% in June 2021 but since then has continued to deteriorate and from January 2022 to-date has plateaued at between 55-58% against the 92% target.

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23								
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Year to date
80.0%	60.6%	55.0%	54.9%	57.7%	56.5%	56.9%	56.3%	53.9%	56.4%	55.5%	56.1%

#### GP Referrals

Salford GP referrals into secondary care continue to show an increasing trend. Typically pre-COVID referrals averaged approx. 4,100 per month; in October 2022 this rose to 5,914 representing a 44% rise above pre-COVID referral levels.

November data shows 4,854 GP referrals into secondary care which is more in line with recent activity but still represents an 18% increase on pre-COVID levels and contributes to increasing waiting lists and waiting times.

## How Salford fares in comparison to other GM localities

18 week RTT performance and recovery of long waiting times for treatment remains a challenge locally, at GM level and nationally. Year to date (April to November 2022) RTT performance for Salford Locality is 56.1% against the 92% target. The map below shows year to date RTT waiting time performance for all 10 GM Localities, which range from 63% to 48% with a GM average of 54.5%.



NHSE data for RTT is publicly available via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/>

## Elective Care Recovery Actions - Update

### 104 week waits

Revised national guidance required all patients waiting over 104 weeks to be treated by the end of September. At the end of November NCA had 4 Salford patients who had breached this time scale through their own choice. Providers are working to ensure they meet this guidance and NCA continue to remain in contact with each patient affected and review their position on a weekly basis.

### Remaining Challenges

The remaining elective recovery challenges are:

- Achieving zero 78 week waits – The target is to ensure by the end of March 2023 no patient has been waiting more than 78 weeks for treatment. The number of Salford patients waiting beyond 78 weeks is 664
- Eliminating 52 week waits – The target is to ensure no patient has been waiting more than 52 weeks for treatment by the end of March 2025. Currently there are 3,565 Salford patients waiting in excess of 52 weeks.

### Dermatology

The most significant speciality in the 52 and 78 week wait position is dermatology. The GM Dermatology Transformation Programme Team are currently investigating options to improve access and standardise dermatology provision (both general dermatology and skin cancer) across Greater Manchester including proposed future model of care.

The Transformation Team has identified the following areas of work which will be led by specific delivery sub-groups and report directly into the overall GM Dermatology Transformation Programme Board:

- Optimizing Pathways
- Future Model of Care
- Education and Training
- Workforce

### Risks

The following points highlight the risks associated with successfully meeting plans to address elective recovery across GM and at locality level:

- Increasing referrals and waiting lists and waiting times
- The number of “no reason to reside” and Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) pressures continue to impact on the ability to undertake elective activity across sites
- Extreme winter pressures and industrial action are resulting in reductions in and cancellations of elective activity
- Programmes of work, particularly the Dermatology Transformation work, does not deliver the desired reduction in referrals or increases in capacity
- Workforce availability and wellbeing impacts on the achievement of the programmes of work
- Availability of capacity from the Independent Sector Providers is not sufficient and / or does not align with specialities we require
- NHS capacity is not sufficient to achieve the levels of activity required to reduce the overall wait list
- Delivery of the programmes of work do not have the desired impacts on reducing health inequalities
- Identification of capacity to support delivery of the 52 and 78 week waits continues to be a pressure