

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Extract from 20th May 2020 Private Board Minute regarding Covid-19

1.	Chief Executive Officer's briefing
1.1.	Prof. Orchard thanked colleagues for covering whilst he was recovering from Covid-19 and provided the following update on the response to Covid-19:
1.2.	Activity had been reducing and the Trust had responded well in terms of managing the crisis with a lot of publicity around intensive care beds. All areas of work, actions and decisions were centred around the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and would continue to do so during the recovery period. Teams did an exceptional job for people who were being treated with innovative mechanisms to allow virtual contact with family members. Noted that numerous guidance and rules were being circulated from the Government and providers having to adjust accordingly, often at short notice.
1.3.	As at 20 th May, the Trust had 120 Covid-19 inpatients of which 43 patients were ventilated, using 43 of the 68 commissioned beds, therefore within Trust means. Numbers continued to decrease within the sector. Attention was moving to resuming business as usual activities within planned timescales, but with two major considerations: uncertainty around Covid-19; and during the pandemic, advances were made in the way care was provided – therefore lasting benefits would need to be considered at Trust level and across the sector.
1.4.	The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in extraordinary circumstances with huge demand for acute ITU/general beds and pressure on all acute Trusts to discharge patients. While we necessarily continued to discharge patients to care homes, it was clear that not all of the homes were fully prepared at the beginning of the pandemic for the additional requirements this brought. We were able to build on existing relationships with local authorities which enabled an expansion of testing and support for care homes which is continuing. We are also continuing to review our approach to learn lessons for the future. This will be reported through our Quality Committee.
1.5.	An elective programme was underway to review and prioritise patients whose treatment had been deferred, including use of of the independent sector.
1.6.	During the pandemic, the Trust had increased its capacity for mechanical ventilated beds to 130-140 which could be increased to 350 within the sector. We are part of sector wide work to ensure we maintain enough ITU capacity for a potential second wave. A capital bid had been submitted for this purpose.
1.7.	The Board noted the oral update and the points raised would be discussed at a Board Seminar.