



## **Update for the St John's Stakeholder Group meeting 3 February 2021**

### **St John's Paediatric Services**

#### **Children's Ward**

In patient activity levels have been lower than normal since the 24/7 reopening in October 2020 due to COVID impacts, and this is the same pattern as at the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh and in other units around Scotland, where Emergency Department attendances and admissions have been down.

The Ward's Surgical Day Care and Programmed Investigations Unit (PIU) activity have continued and pre op COVID-19 testing is in place.

There are 2 locums starting from February and April, for 6 months each, to cover short term medical staffing gaps and there is some spare capacity built in to the out of hours rota, so there are no concerns about the rota's sustainability currently.

There are no current ward Nursing vacancies - the ward is slightly over establishment to cover some absence due to sickness and staff shielding.

There are now 3.77 whole time equivalent (WTE) Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioners (APNPs), 3 WTE of whom work cross -site. There is also 1 further Trainee APNP who will qualify and start on the rota in February (again cross -site).

There was no interest in the most recent Trainee APNP post advertised: this will be re-advertised in due course.

The team are building up 'simulation' training on the ward and looking at developing a Paediatric Emergency Team bleep system and response team, to strengthen the response to very sick children on the ward.

#### **Outpatient Waiting times**

Paediatric Outpatient waiting times have significantly improved over the last few months, with almost all children being seen within 9 weeks.

There are currently 146 children on the waiting list, 3 of whom are over 12 weeks.

Fiona Mitchell  
Service Director, Women's and Children's services

28/01/21