

Update on the Children's Ward , St John's Hospital

The ward has stayed open 24/7 each week since its reopening in October 2020.

In patient activity/ in patient numbers have been fairly low (as they have been at RHSC and also now at the new hospital). Programmed Investigation Unit activity in the ward continues as usual. Surgical patients have started coming back to the ward once again (this activity had been impacted by Covid). Dental cases have also started coming to the ward and this is being reviewed with the teams to agree whether this change will be made permanent.

The Middle grade rota is currently fine for out of hours although there have been some problems with neonatal cover during the day due to impending retirement, long term sickness and ANNP pressures from helping to staff two units across Lothian..

Consultant cover out of hours is being supported by locum cover and maternity leave until the end Autumn when the permanent staff are due to return

A further Advanced Nurse Practitioner is now contributing to the service after completion of training.

Ward Nursing vacancies have all been recruited to and a review of the nursing establishment is underway.