Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System

NHS
Mid and South Essex

Deteriorating Patient Workstream - Sepsis

www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk

Background

In 2017 south east Essex locality had been identified as an outlier for sepsis rates. At this time variation in Primary Care and care home standards was significant and very little use was made of telehealth technology. In addition, over 70% of Sepsis cases were admitted from the community and large parts of the population were unaware or marginally aware of the condition, leading to delayed recognition of Sepsis symptoms and, consequently, to delayed treatment. Furthermore, the training provided to health care professionals that come into contact with patients with Sepsis and district nursing services was stretched to capacity.

Attendance at Sepsis UK event led to the identification of key areas of focus and as a result a deteriorating patient workstream was established to consider how we can reduce the incidences of sepsis for the population we serve.

During Covid-19 the work undertaken in south east Essex was upscaled across the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System and work continues to build on this with oversight from our care sector leadership team.

From April 2018 to March 2022 there has been a reduction in sepsis mortality by 159 for south east Essex, where this programme commenced.

The Approach

Additional training resources were commissioned resulting in over 3,000 care home, primary care, domiciliary, voluntary sector and members of the public attending sepsis, UTI, hydration training in the first year.

Improved public awareness and patient empowerment through a dedicated communication campaign. This included the publication of a children's book '**What's Bugging Johnny'** with details of the signs of sepsis and the importance of hydration included.

Catheter care audits undertaken across acute and community services and lessons learned shared across the system. This has led to the recruitment of a Catheter Champion who will be leading on the implementation of a catheter care passport across MSE.

Dedicated nursing support commissioned across providers in relation to two full time sepsis nurses within our community training team and sepsis lead nurses across our secondary care providers.

Implementation of hydration cups across several care homes.

Telehealth monitoring initially within 10 care homes to monitor the signs of deterioration and subsequently upscaled to 227 across MSE.

Education and training campaign extended beyond community, acute and care home providers to include domiciliary, voluntary sector and public awareness raising sessions. These have included Time To Learn and other dedicated primary care training events which provided our clinicians with details of how to access and utilise the NEWS2 function available on SystmOne.

Patient Engagement
Tracey Ralph – Patient Champion

Communications Campaign

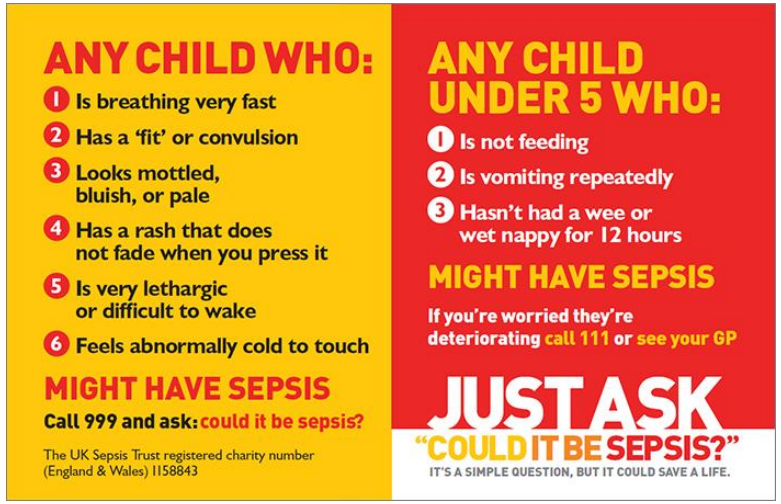
- Social Media
- Newspaper articles
- Distribution of leaflets and guidance cards given out to organisations involved with under 5s such as play groups and children's centres and over 65s through care homes, meals on wheels, community care schemes, pension service
- Information for care professionals

Local residents urged to spot the signs of sepsis

The NHS in south east Essex is launching a campaign with health and care professionals and the wider public to raise awareness of sepsis, the life-threatening condition which claims thousands of lives a year in the UK.

The campaign is principally aimed at parents and carers of young children aged 0-4 and will include a new film featuring a local mum, Sophie, from Leigh-on Sea, whose baby son George was diagnosed with sepsis at the end of last year (2017). Sophie shared her story on a popular Facebook forum called '8 out of 10 Mums' and agreed to join forces with the local NHS to raise awareness of the condition.

https://youtu.be/mFJky1zna-Y



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Increase in Sepsis Activity (0-4 years)

In 2019 there was a significant increase in sepsis interventions relating to 0-4yrs - increase +282 (209%). As a result an audit was undertaken with support from public health and this confirmed that there had been no significant increase in mortality and that the increase was a reflection of earlier identification of 0-4 year olds at risk of infection and earlier intervention. This was highlighted as a positive outcome of the training and awareness raising undertaken.

Spotting the Signs - The Technology in Care Homes

ECG and Digital Stethoscopes provided to care homes with agreement of GP practices

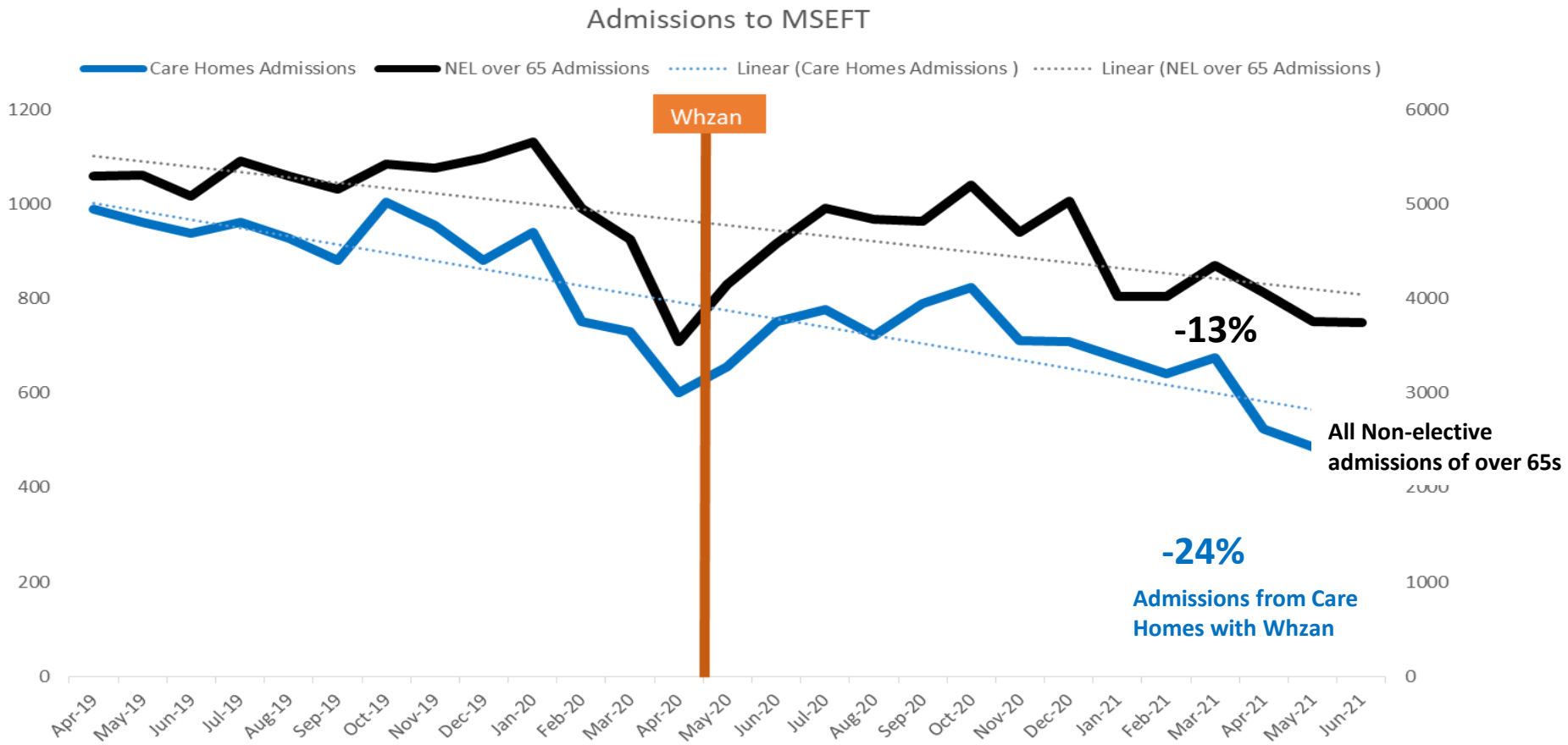
Whzan 'Blue Box' and weighing scales provided to all participating care homes

www.whzan.uk/

Partnership Working

Admissions to MSEFT (Care Homes)

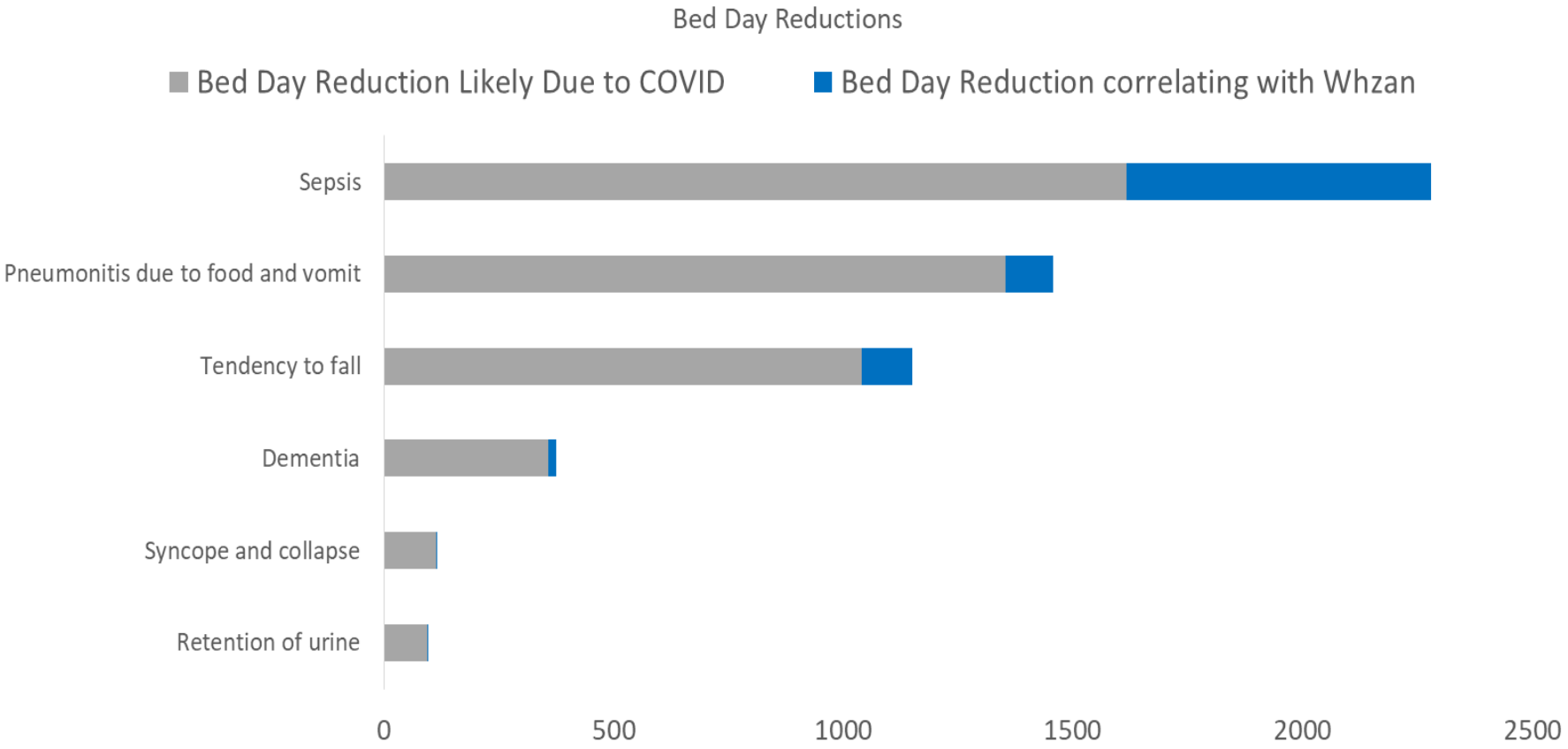
Whzan was implemented in care homes in May 20. Therefore this analysis looks back to the start of the 2019 financial year. Data is currently available to Jun 21, however, a further analysis will be conducted to look at the impact post Jun 21 once data is available.



Non-elective admissions for over 65s saw a **13%** reduction during the time period Whzan was implemented due to the impact of COVID whereas admissions from care homes with Whzan saw a **24%** reduction over the same time period. **This indicates the reduction in admissions correlates with the implementation of Whzan and not just the impact of COVID.**

Reductions in length of stay, controlling for COVID impact (Care Homes)

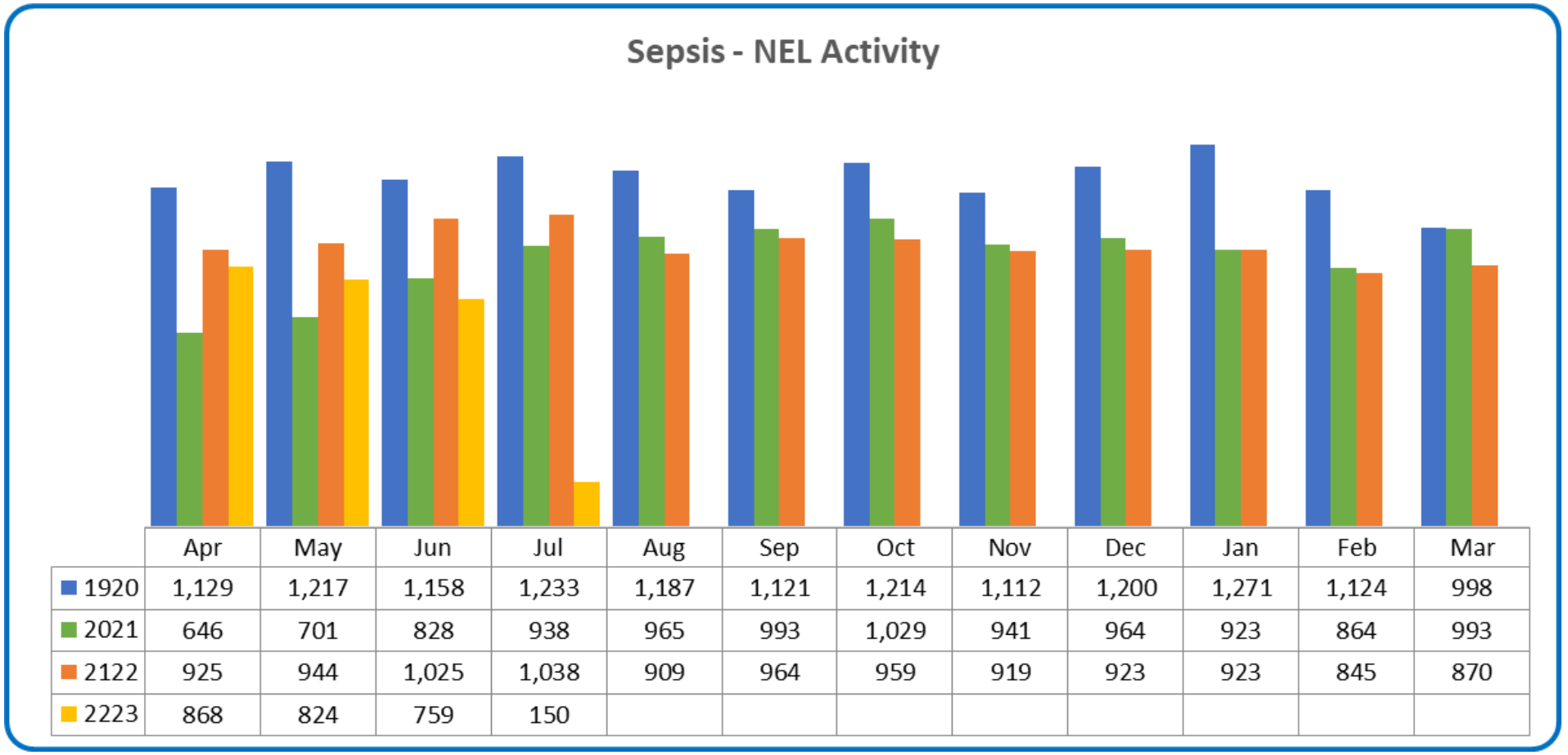
Comparing the length of stay across all patients with these specified conditions in MSEFT as a baseline and then all patients from care homes where Whzan was implemented. Then controlling for the reduction seen during COVID for both groups to isolate the impact the could correlate with the implementation of Whzan.



In total care homes with Whzan saw a reduction of 5,476 bed days post Whzan implementation. It could be assumed that up to 4,577 of these bed days were due to COVID related impacts, however, looking at the additional reductions seen in the Whzan cohort, it is estimated approximately **899 bed days** were reduced following the implementation in addition to reductions seen during COVID. With greatest impact identified in **Sepsis.**

Thank you once again for training our staff to use the Whzan equipment, it has proved to be of huge importance to us throughout our transition to a designated setting. You were really understanding and helpful of our current situation, and thankfully accommodating. All of the staff have learnt valuable things throughout this observation training, including myself. The equipment itself was praised by paramedics on several occasions, it saves crucial time and provides in depth knowledge fast in emergency situations. We have also found a way to print copies of the charts where required which is great to provide to external health professionals, or store for our records

Comparison of YTD NEL Sepsis Admissions



	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1920	1,129	1,217	1,158	1,233	1,187	1,121	1,214	1,112	1,200	1,271	1,124	998
2021	646	701	828	938	965	993	1,029	941	964	923	864	993
2122	925	944	1,025	1,038	909	964	959	919	923	923	845	870
2223	868	824	759	150								

MSE ICS saw an increase in NEL sepsis admissions during 2021/22, although these are now reducing work is taking place to review the impact on mortality rates across MSE ICS.

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