

Winter Planning 2025/2026
Board assurance template and cover note
26th September 2025

Presented for:	Information and Approval
Presented by:	Clare Smith, Chief Operations Officer and Deputy Chief Executive
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Previous Committees:	Finance and Performance Committee, 25 th September 2025

Summary

This year the NHS England (NHSE) Urgent and Emergency Care Plan published in June 2025 requested that all providers plan for winter earlier and submit a signed board assurance statement to the national Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) team by 30th September 2025.

There are two sections to the provider board assurance statement. Section A includes the statement that requires board sign-off that assurance has been provided around governance and the content of the winter plan. Section B comprises of a winter checklist that provides much of the assurance for section A. The checklist has been used to structure the finance and performance winter plan paper that is to be reviewed on the 25th September 2025 by the finance and performance committee.

The winter plan finance and performance paper is available in the blue box for reference as board members require. Appendix 1.

Members of the board, who attended the finance and performance committee on 25th September 2025, are available to discuss and assure the board of checks, challenge and further actions to support board assurance sign off.

The board assurance template has been drafted based on the planning and actions described in the finance and performance winter paper.

The board are asked to formally agree the board assurance as per the completed template. Appendix 2 for submission.