

Winter Plan 2026/2027
Board assurance template and cover note
24th September 2026

Presented for:	Information and Approval
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Previous Committees:	Finance and Performance Committee, 26 th August 2026

Summary

NHS England (NHSE) requested that all acute providers make plans for winter, a month earlier than last year, and submit a signed Board Assurance Statement (BAS) to the national Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) team by 30th September 2026.

There are two sections to the provider BAS. 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 winter plan paper that was reviewed on the 26th August 2026 by the finance and performance committee.

Feedback from the finance and performance committee was, overall, the plan provided assurance the main winter risks have been identified and that a programme of mitigations, governance and escalation is in place. The principal residual risks relate to peak bed demand, specialty mismatch, infection prevention constraints, workforce availability, timing of system capacity, and the safe use of non-standard escalation spaces or corridor care where required.

The winter plan finance and performance paper is available in the blue box for reference as board members require. Appendix 1. Alongside this is the BAS. Appendix 2 and an easy read BAS section B document.

Members of the board, who attended the finance and performance committee on 26th August 2026, are available to discuss and assure the board of checks, challenge and responsiveness 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 3 for submission.