The NHS winter is a well documented and recognised crisis. Seasonal rise in clinical acuity and patient numbers negatively impact patient flow. Trust’s existing winter contingency plan was to increase general medicine bed base. Implemented novel seasonal Acute Medicine Short Stay ward to help drive patient flow.

The Ward...

26 bedded ward with 4 separate patient bays and 6 side rooms.
Staffed by 1 Acute Physician and 3 Junior Doctors (one based on the discharge lounge).
Weekday consultant led ward round, with daily MDT input from ancillary services.
Consultant in-reaches daily on AMU and A&E to identify appropriate patients for the ward.

165 patients were admitted to the short stay ward during January 2019 (4 weeks)
95% (n=157) transferred from either AMU or A&E
5% (n=8) transferred from medical wards with an ongoing delayed transfer of care

161 patients discharged from the short stay ward during January 2019
52% (n=83) of patients were discharged via the discharge lounge
22% of discharges across the division were from the short stay ward

7-8 patients were discharged daily, with an average discharge rate of 32%
8-9 patients daily had an ongoing delayed transfer of care
50% daily discharge rate of the available short stay bed base

In 2019 vs 2018...

17% increase in total number of patients discharged across the division of medicine. (n=114)
354% increase in total number of patients discharged from the short stay ward. (n=170 vs 48)
300% increase in proportional contribution to total discharges across the division. (21.7% vs 7.2%)