

Date: 28th May 2026

Thank you to teams following successful GIRFT Hub Optimisation Week

Thank you to everyone across the Trust who supported GIRFT Hub Optimisation Week at the Cheshire and Merseyside Surgical Centre at Clatterbridge.

The national initiative focused on improving elective care, reducing delays and making the best possible use of theatre capacity to help more patients receive treatment sooner.

The week saw strong collaboration across the Trust, with support from teams across our hospitals helping to maintain patient flow and minimise disruption.

Throughout the week, the team achieved 85% or higher theatre utilisation on three out of five days, with an overall utilisation rate of 84.2% across the week, representing a 15% improvement against the baseline set last year.

This was achieved despite managing challenges during the week and reflects the commitment, flexibility and teamwork shown by colleagues across multiple divisions and services.

A number of approaches helped support the success of the week, including:

- Structured theatre booking and planning
- Daily operational oversight and rapid escalation processes
- Thorough preparation across staffing, equipment and imaging
- Enhanced communication and handovers across pathways
- Visible senior clinical and operational leadership throughout the week

Patient experience also remained extremely positive throughout the initiative, with patients praising the professionalism and compassion of staff.

One patient said: “From the time of my admission to the time of my discharge I can only describe my experience as superb. The staff who cared for me were outstanding and a credit to the NHS.”



Another commented: "I appreciated all of the hard work and dedication of the staff on this ward. Everyone was very professional and I felt nothing was too much trouble."

Teams will now begin work on a full local evaluation to capture learning from the week and identify improvements that can continue to support elective recovery and patient care going forward.

Thank you again to everyone involved for helping make the week such a success.