

James Quinn
Meridian Productivity
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2nd September 2020

Dear Jimmy,

As we are now at the close of the Theatre Improvement Project I wanted to take the opportunity to document my thoughts on the project here at Western Health & Social Care Trust.

Our project consisted of three main areas within Theatres; the reduction on additional spend, the installation of robust theatre scheduling and the aligning of theatre resourcing with AfPP Guidelines.

The project started at the end of 2019 and was impacted within weeks by COVID-19. Progress before lockdown was effective and efficient, and an enthusiastic working relationship established. Your team quickly integrated within the Trust and were seen as an addition within our Theatre colleagues.

Due to COVID-19 we had to pause the project for 14 weeks. Needless to say, we did not know if the work done previously had been sustained, but we were pleased to see that it had, albeit within a 'new normal'.

Prior to lockdown the reduction in additional spend was almost immediately realised with annualised savings of £672,611 and the controls on additional spend continue to be effective.

On resuming the project, the 6-4-2 Theatre Scheduling was reinstated as we began to prepare for the recovery process. We are delighted that the results of the scheduling, theatre utilisation exceeds that of pre COVID-19, with an increase to almost 90% across specialties. As we move forward we expect that this increased capacity will allow us to perform 3437 additional procedures a year.

Finally, with the installation of the Theatre Master Schedule, we have a 4 week forecast of staffing requirements, aligned to AfPP guidelines, definitive capacity information and as such can optimise our Theatres to ensure the timely and efficient care of our patients.

I am delighted with the work done by your team, the seamless way they integrated with our colleagues within Theatres and ultimately the substantial benefits delivered to the Trust.

Yours Sincerely



Geraldine McKay
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