DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Hon. Member for Arbory, Castletown and Malew, Mr Moorhouse, to ask The Minister for Health and Social Care:

Which services have been a) cut and b) reduced in each of the last four years in an attempt to bring Manx Care in on budget.

Question W-202401-1603 published on 15 05 2025; Answer published on 30 05 2025.

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Ms Christian):

From its establishment in April 2021, Manx Care has operated a Cost Improvement Programme (CIP). This has been required to mitigate cost pressures across the organisation, in part caused by the rising costs in the delivery of health and care on the Isle of Man. Each Mandate to Manx Care has required the organisation to achieve a savings target. These targets are listed below along with the actual delivery of the cost improvement programme:

Year	Budgeted Savings Target (%)	Budgeted Savings Target (£)	Actual Savings Realised (£)
2021/22	1%	£2.7m	£1.7m
2022/23	1%	£2.8m*	£7.3m
2023/24	1.5%	£4.2m	£8.5m
2024/25	2%	£6.3m	£11.8m

*Manx Care offered a further £1.5m of savings for this year – total £4.3m

Most schemes within each Cost Improvement Programme have focussed on more efficient utilisation of funding allocated to Manx Care. This has included reducing the cost of supplies and medications through improved procurement, the recruitment of permanent staff thereby reducing reliance on expensive agency workers and the review of high-cost placements within the UK. As such, reductions in service delivery are always seen as a last resort.

Similarly, Manx Care makes operational decisions throughout the year to respond to changes in need or day to day challenges. It may be that these changes realise modest cost savings, though that is not their primary purpose.

Since the 2022 Cost Improvement Programme, all schemes require a Quality Impact Assessment (QIA) completed by the scheme sponsor which evaluates the impact of the scheme to patient/service user safety, quality, access to services and impact on staff wellbeing. All QIAs are evaluated by an executive level CIP Board to determine whether the scheme can proceed to implementation or whether impact on service delivery is too significant.

In terms of service reductions or changes contained within the Cost Improvement Programme, with the direct intention to make financial savings, since the establishment of Manx Care, these are as follows:

2021/22

- None.

2022/23

- None.

2023/24

- Manx Emergency Doctors Service (MEDS) closed from midnight during weekdays - however, this decision was supported by data which evidenced limited utilisation during the midnight to 8am period.

2024/25

- Reduction in theatre sessions by 5.5 lists per week – although this achieved significant staffing savings, an increase in theatre utilisation across the remaining lists meant there was no reduction in theatre activity as a result.
- Suspension of non-urgent tertiary activity during quarter four.
- Temporary pausing of contracts with Kooth and Kwell (online counselling services for adults and children) - these have been reinstated from April 2025.
- Suspension of Mental Health Recovery College during quarter three. A quality impact assessment was undertaken and, whilst it was a reduction in service for those individuals being supported by the recovery college, it did not impact patient and service user safety as they could be safety netted in other parts of the Community Mental Health service.

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