

Half of children's intensive care units dangerously full as Labour warns of New Year slump in care – Ashworth

Labour's new analysis of the latest weekly winter data released today by NHS England reveals that half of England's paediatric intensive care units were over 85% full last week.

In the period 18th December to 24th December, over one third of England's children's care units were 100% full, with not a single spare bed.

Labour's analysis further reveals:

- On Christmas Eve, one third of children's care units were running at dangerously high levels.
- On 19th December, the worst day last week, 55% of paediatric intensive care units were running at over 85% capacity, and 47% were 100% full, with not a single spare bed.

Responding to Labour's analysis of occupancy rates in children's care units, Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow

Health Secretary, said:

"Despite the very best efforts of our brilliant NHS staff, our findings today reveal a distressing picture of the unprecedented pressures on paediatric intensive care units across the country.

"To run a children's care unit above 85% occupancy places patient safety at significant risk and is an entirely intolerable situation.

"With the New Year fast approaching and demand likely to further increase, the Government must urgently explain in the New Year how they will avoid another appalling slump in care this winter."