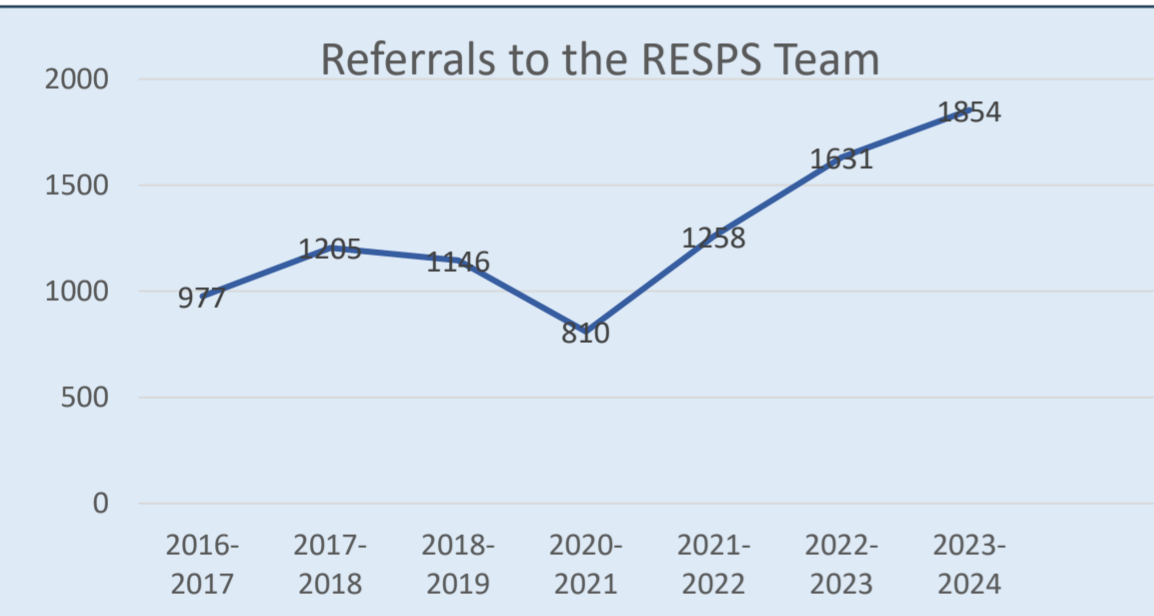
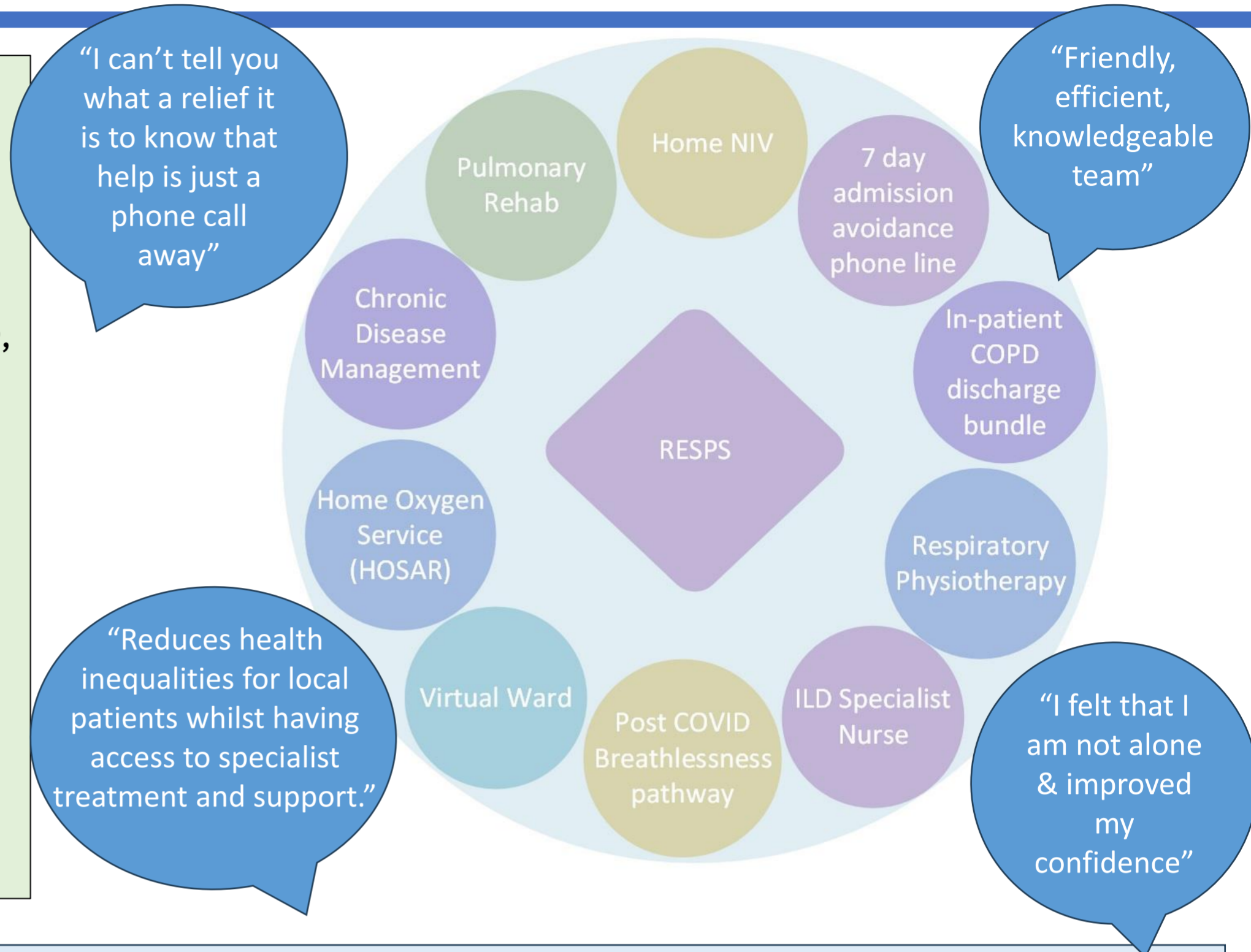


Introduction/Background

The RESPS team was established in 2011 as a community service providing pulmonary rehabilitation, chronic disease management and physiotherapy for patients with COPD, bronchiectasis and interstitial lung disease. It also provides the HOSAR for East Sussex. RESPS is part of an integrated trust and working closely with commissioners, it has expanded in line with growing demands and integrated care ambitions set out in the NHS Long-term plan (2019) and further refined in the respiratory medicine GIRFT report (2021).



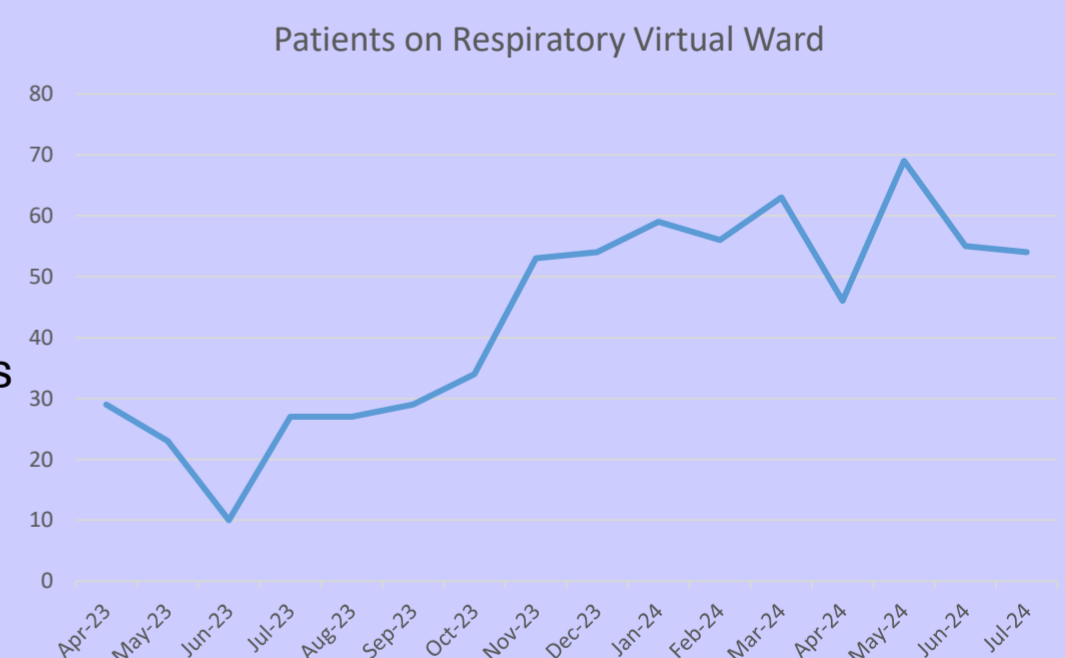
How has integration improved the patient experience?

- Referrals into the RESPS team and into the respiratory department have seen a significant increase over the last 4 years.
- The creation of integrated roles and pathways such as the ILD Specialist Nurse helps to reduce the demand on consultant time and services such as the 7-day admission avoidance phone line reduces the demand on primary care.
- RESPS has a weekly integrated multi-disciplinary meeting with attendance of our consultant, GP lead, local IAPT and hospice services. This provides a holistic service which enhances the patient experience.

Integration of hospital services into the community via the Respiratory Virtual Ward

In the first year of operation (April 2023-March 2024):

- 405 patients have been supported on the respiratory virtual ward
- This equates to 1941 acute hospital bed days saved
- The respiratory virtual ward works seamlessly with community and hospital teams to support patients.
- The respiratory virtual ward has reduced admissions to the hospital and therefore reduced the pressures on the acute services.
- It allows for early intervention for patients that frequently exacerbate.
- Patients report significant benefits and reassurance in having their care at home.



Plans for the future

Work is currently under way to:

- Integrate a smoking cessation advisor within RESPS by working with public health commissioners
- Become a tier 2 ILD service
- Become an accredited pulmonary rehabilitation service
- Integrating virtual health to remotely monitor patients identified as frequently exacerbating to support self-management.