

FINAL REPORT OF THE DELAYED DISCHARGES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Responsible Officer Liz Nicholson

e-mail: liz.nicholson@shropshire-
cc.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 253701 Fax: 01743 253727

Summary

This paper presents the final report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish group that has been looking at Delayed Discharges. Members have carried out research to enable them to develop their conclusions and recommendations which they are now presenting to Cabinet. The report is also being presented to the Boards of Shropshire County Primary Care Trust and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust for their comment on the recommendations. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel will monitor progress with agreed recommendations on a six monthly basis.

Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to:

- A. Consider the report and the recommendations set out in Section 5 of the Appendix.
- B. Request that an action plan to implement agreed recommendations is developed and put in place.

Report

1. Members have undertaken detailed work to understand the complex processes that are involved in the assessment and discharge of patients from hospital. They have visited the Joint Interface Team at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Whitchurch Community Hospital and they have held a seminar to collect information and evidence.
2. In their final report Members have made sixteen recommendations which are set out in detail in Section 5 of the Appendix (pages 13-17). The

recommendations are set out under the following headings and summarised below:

- **Speeding up the assessment process** (page 13 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 1: Financial assessments to be carried out as soon as possible to establish eligibility for County Council funded social care services and enable support and services to be planned.
 - Recommendation 2: To ensure that all clinical and functional assessments that are required before a patient is discharged are carried out at the appropriate time as early in a patients stay as possible.
- **Support and information for self funders** (pages 13&14 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 3: Provide Social Worker led support to self funders and their families to help them understand their options and make any preparations required to leave hospital.
 - Recommendation 4: Develop information for self funders and their families that will assist them to leave hospital and move into appropriate accommodation and receive support as required.
 - Recommendation 5: Undertake further research to identify the services and support self funders require to enable them to leave hospital and move into a setting appropriate to their needs.
- **Social care presence in the Community Hospitals** (page 14 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 6: Locate a Social Worker in each Community Hospital to support the completion of assessments, early planning of services, and self funders to enable patients to be discharged as soon as they are ready to be.
 - Recommendation 7: Develop arrangements for Joint Interface Team functions to be provided in the Community Hospitals to facilitate effective and timely discharges, as demonstrated at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.
 - Recommendation 8: Explore the feasibility of a Joint Interface Team or similar at the Princess Royal Hospital.
- **SitRep (Situation) Reports on Delayed Discharges** (page 15 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 9: Ensure the uniform application of national guidance on SitRep reporting at all Community Hospitals to enable accurate reporting.
 - Recommendation 10: Enable fast confirmation of a patient's eligibility and identification of their needs to support accurate and timely reporting of delays.

- **Shelton Hospital and Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital Discharges** (page 15 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 11: The County Council receives weekly reports on delayed discharges from Shelton Hospital and Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital.
 - **Adaptations to property** (pages 15&16 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 12: The development of stronger links between Housing and Social Care should be made to assist in reducing the time taken to adapt a property.
 - Recommendation 13: A letter should be sent to the Unitary Council Implementation Executive asking that adequate funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant is built in to the Unitary Council Budget.
 - **Occupational Therapist Assessments** (page 16 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 14: Assess the feasibility of a more joined up occupational therapy provision between the County Council, Primary Care Trust and the Hospital Trust.
 - **Access to Intermediate Care Beds in Shrewsbury** (page 16 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 15: That the Primary Care Trust establish whether it would be feasible to increase intermediate care provision in Shrewsbury.
 - **Further work and information required** (pages 16&17 of the Appendix)
 - Recommendation 16: Responses to questions and issues unable to be answered in the timescale of the Task and Finish Group.
3. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel also asked that Cabinet consider whether there are sufficient County Council resources available to ensure delayed discharges are avoided wherever possible, recognising that some delays are beyond the control of the Council. (See page 18 of the Appendix).

Conclusion

4. Members have identified challenges in relation to the discharge of patients from Acute and Community Hospitals. They have drawn their conclusions and recommendations based on their research and the evidence they have found.
5. The Task and Finish group would like progress on all agreed recommendations to be monitored by Health Overview and Scrutiny on a six monthly basis. These monitoring reports should also identify the impacts of any developments or changes, for example reductions in the overall delayed discharges, particularly from Community Hospitals.

Background Papers

- Delayed Discharges Report Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel 5 September 2007
- Delayed Discharges Task and Finish Interim Report Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel 4 December 2007
- Delayed Discharges Task and Finish Group Final Report Overview and Scrutiny Panel 7 January 2008

Human Rights

Does have legal challenge implications.

Environmental Appraisal

n/a

Risk Management Appraisal

There is the potential for risk to the County Council reputation.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Consultation is a component of scrutiny task and finish group work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations. Members have consulted with service teams, managers, and with other councillors, the Senior Citizens Forum and Age Concern. The awareness session provided further opportunity for consultation.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Barbara J Craig

SCC Local Member

All

Appendices

Final Report of the Delayed Discharges Task and Finish Group