

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 18 MARCH 2004**

### **DELAYED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES**

#### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee of progress made in addressing delays in hospital discharge for residents of East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive has required that the Health Service Information and Statistics Division (ISD) publicly report on a quarterly basis, the number of individuals who are in hospital but who do not require medical input and the reasons why they are delayed. The issue of "delayed discharges" has had a high profile due to the increase in waiting lists for surgery which has been attributed to the number of "blocked beds".

- 2.2 The national definition of a delayed discharge is a person who is medically fit but whose discharge is delayed because:

- (i) They are undergoing assessment to determine their need.
- (ii) They are awaiting resources to meet their assessed long term care needs i.e. funding or appropriate housing.
- (iii) They are exercising choice as there are no vacancies in the care home of their choice.
- (iv) They are involved in a dispute over their finances for assessed need (these could be social or health care needs).

- 2.3 The statistics published are based around an Ayrshire and Arran Partnership Group, comprising the 3 Ayrshire Local Authorities and NHS Ayrshire & Arran. The baseline delayed discharge figure for the Partnership was 266 from January 2002 census, of this figure 90 originate from East Ayrshire. The Scottish Executive has set a target for reduction of the overall figure by 77 people.

#### **3. AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN DELAYED DISCHARGE JOINT ACTION PLAN**

- 3.1 Issues in relation to delayed discharges are being addressed through joint action by the Partnership Group.

- 3.2 The initiatives contained in the Delayed Discharge Action Plan which benefit the residents of East Ayrshire are:

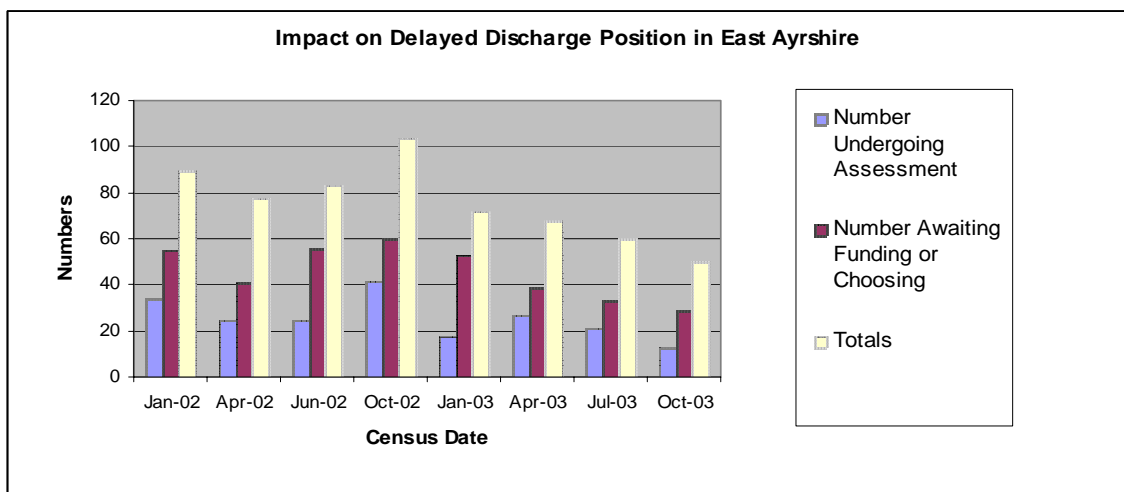
- Intermediate Care provided jointly by the Primary Trust and East Ayrshire Council.
- Two additional hospital based social workers and one hospital based home care manager to reduce assessment delays and facilitate discharge.
- Additional places in care homes.
- Appointment of a manager for the Rapid Response Service.
- Provision of Integrated Out of Hours Service in conjunction with Ayrshire Doctors On Call and the Primary Care Trust.

#### 4. IMPACT ON DELAYED DISCHARGE POSITION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 4.1 Implementation of the above initiatives has resulted in a significant reduction on the number of people unnecessarily in hospital. The outcome is an improved quality of life for the individuals involved. (See Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The latest published figures relate to October 2003 Census when the number of people from East Ayrshire ready for discharge showed a significant reduction to 50 people. The total number for Ayrshire and Arran is 174 people which is within the target set by the Scottish Executive (Paragraph 2.3).
- 4.3 Of the 50 East Ayrshire individuals ready for discharge 40 are outwith the 6 week discharge planning period. 14 people have been waiting 6 months or more.

#### 5. REASONS FOR DELAYED DISCHARGE

- 5.1 People awaiting discharge from hospital make a choice of which care home they wish to go to. In East Ayrshire lack of availability of first choice care home place has a significant impact on delayed discharges (21 people at present).



Guidance on Choice of Accommodation has now been re-issued by the Scottish Executive. The most significant recommendation which will impact on East Ayrshire will be a more concerted move to encourage people to move out of hospital to interim care homes places until the placement of their choice becomes available.

- 5.2 A shortfall in funding has now also begun to impact on our delayed discharge figures. At the census in October, 8 people were awaiting funding.
- 5.3 For 13 people their Community Care Assessment was not yet complete.
- 5.4 The remaining 8 East Ayrshire residents were delayed for various reasons including health, legal and financial disputes.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 To continue the positive trend in reducing the number of delayed discharges will require additional investment to both fund care home places and build community infrastructure.
- 7.2 In part, these additional resources will be provided through future allocations of resource transfer funding from Health with the closure of long stay hospital beds for older people. In particular there will be a significant positive impact when the new care home opens in Auchinleck.

## **8. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 This report provides evidence of the Council delivering a positive outcome both in relation to targets set by the Scottish Executive and in the East Ayrshire Joint Future Partnership Agreement for Older People.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that committee:
  - (i) note the content of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**1 March 2004**  
**Enc (1)**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Delayed Discharges in Scotland, Report to the Minister for Health and Community Care – March 2002.
2. East Ayrshire Joint Future Full Partnership Agreement, Older People's Services – April 2003.
3. Extended Local Partnership Agreements and the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPAsAF) for 2003-04

For further information on this report please contact:  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>Census Date</b>	<b>Number Undergoing Assessment</b>	<b>Number Awaiting Funding or Choosing</b>	<b>Other Reasons/ Disputes</b>	<b>Totals</b>
January 2002	34	55	1	90
April 2002	25	41	12	78
June 2002	25	56 (17 who are choosing)	2	83
October 2002	42	60 (17 who are choosing)	2	104
January 2003	18	53 (48 who are choosing)	3	74
April 2003	27	39 (34 who are choosing)	2	68
July 2003	21	33 (30 who are exercising choice)	6	60
October 2003	13	29 (21 who are exercising choice)	8	50