

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

DELAYED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of performance in East Ayrshire in meeting national targets in respect of delayed hospital discharges.
- 1.2 To advise Committee of the Scottish Executive revised targets for people awaiting discharge from hospital and of changes in arrangements for the collection and presentation of data as of 1 May 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Delayed Hospital Discharges occur when a person who is ready for discharge cannot leave hospital because other necessary care, support or accommodation is not available.
- 2.2 This has consequences for the individuals involved who are at risk of losing their independence or acquiring infection whilst residing in a ward setting that does not offer the comfort, privacy or quality of life that all of us want and need.
- 2.3 It also has consequences for others who are waiting to go into hospital for treatment but cannot be admitted because the beds are occupied.
- 2.4 In 2002, a system of public reporting was introduced to monitor delayed hospital discharges. The Health Service Information & Statistics Division (ISD) now publicly report on a quarterly basis, the number of delayed discharges in each of the 15 delayed discharge partnership areas across Scotland and also by each local authority area. (Delayed Discharge Quarterly Census)
- 2.5 East Ayrshire Council are part of the Ayrshire & Arran Partnership which comprises the three Ayrshire local authorities and NHS Ayrshire & Arran. A delayed discharge action plan is in place in order for the Partnership to achieve its national target.
- 2.6 From July 2005, Partnerships have been required to submit Delayed Discharge data to ISD on a monthly basis. This monthly census information is provided to the Partnerships with public reporting remaining on a quarterly basis.
- 2.7 The delayed discharge figure was broken down to show those people delayed less than 6 weeks and those delayed over 6 weeks. This 6 week period allows time for assessment and where appropriate making arrangements for services to be in place to facilitate discharge.
- 2.8 The national target for 04/05 and 05/06 was a 20% annual reduction on all delayed discharges.

2.9 An Audit Scotland Report "Moving On?" An overview of delayed discharges in Scotland" was reported to Committee on 8 September 2005, wherein a Working Group commissioned by the Health Minister had recommended changes to the way targets were set. Within this, the group identified that the significant issues in delayed hospital discharge were

- people delayed over 6 weeks for any reason
- people delayed in "short stay" beds (this term issued to predominantly describe acute hospital facilities such as Crosshouse or Ayr).
- a cross agency agreement of when a person is ready for discharge, (as opposed to the current position where a doctor makes this decision independently).

3. REVISED TARGETS

3.1 As a result, Ministers agreed to a revised set of targets to more clearly reflect the significant issues identified.

As of 1 May 2006 the revised targets are:

- For 2006-07, to reduce all delays over 6 weeks by 50%
- For 2006-07, to free up 50% of all short stay beds occupied by delayed patients
- For 2007-08, to reduce to zero, patients delayed over 6 weeks
- For 2007-08, to reduce to zero those patients delayed in short stay beds.

3.2 On delays over 6 weeks, the starting position for each partnership was set against performance in relation to the April 2006 target. This means that partnerships, including East Ayrshire who surpassed the April 2006 target will have fewer reductions to make in 2006-07. Those who missed the target will have to make up lost ground.

3.3 There are also a number of exemption codes, for example people who require a Guardianship Order to be discharged to a care home, and whilst these are reported to ISD, they are not included in the published census.

3.4 Patients whose discharge is delayed less than 6 weeks are reported to ISD, but are not now counted for the purposes of the published quarterly census.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR EAST AYRSHIRE

4.1 The target for the East Ayrshire Partnership for April 2006 was 31 in total with a sub target of 20 for those patients delayed over 6 weeks.

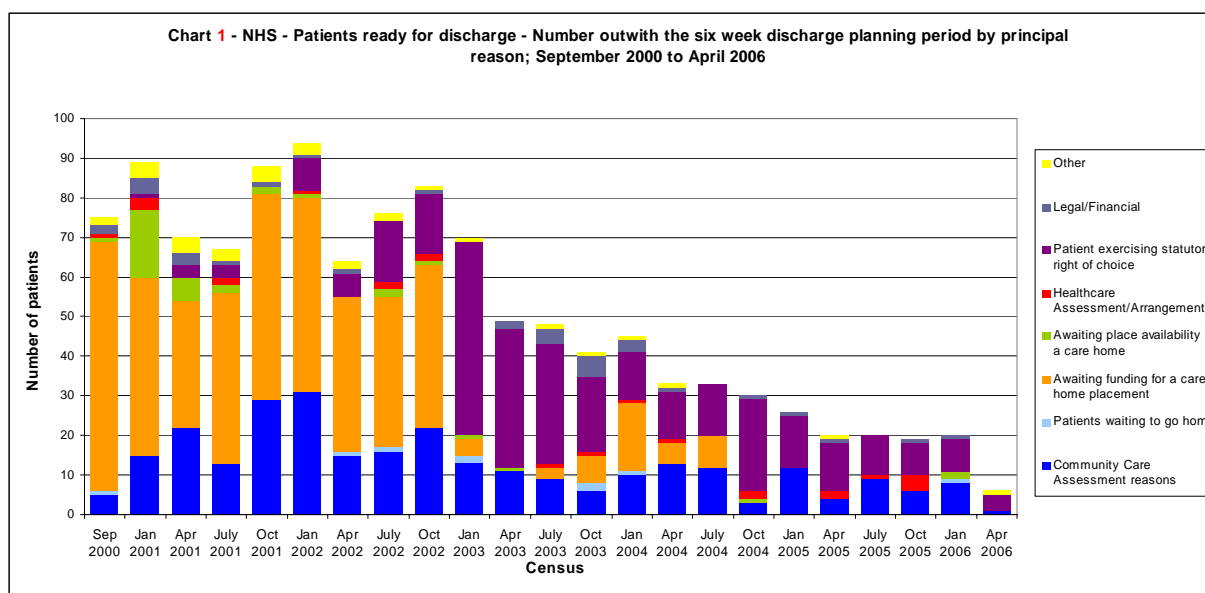
These national targets were significantly exceeded with a total of 21 people delayed being reported and only 6 people over 6 weeks.

4.2 The new target for April 2007 for patients delayed over 6 weeks is 10, this being a 50% reduction on the April 2006 target figure of 20 as per the revised targets.

4.3 East Ayrshire performance, reported to ISD on a monthly basis from April 2006 is detailed in the table below alongside comparisons with the other Local Authorities in the Ayrshire & Arran Partnership.

Number of delayed discharges NHS Ayrshire & Arran	April 2006	May 2006	June 2006	Target April 2007
East Ayrshire over 6 weeks	6	10	7	10
North Ayrshire over 6 weeks	27	37	43	8
South Ayrshire over 6 weeks	14	19	25	6
Total over 6 weeks	47	66	75	24

4.4 The table below demonstrates the consistent achievement over the past 5 years of East Ayrshire in relation to reducing delays for people being discharged from hospital. These outcomes have been achieved through the development by the Council of a robust Community Care infrastructure and increased joint working and co-ordination of services within and between the Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and partners at a locality level through the Joint Future Partnership.



Reference: ISD Scotland information

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The expanding nature of community care activity requires to be continuously monitored to ensure safe management arrangements are in place in East Ayrshire.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 East Ayrshire continues to **exceed** national and local targets in supporting people to live in the community.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The positive outcomes in delayed discharge have been achieved in an environment of increasing numbers of vulnerable older people living in the community. To maintain and continue this positive trend will require additional investment to expand community based Social Care and Health services in East Ayrshire which are fit for purpose.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The provision of appropriate care for vulnerable people supporting the improving Health and Improving Opportunities themes of the Community Plan.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:
- (i) acknowledge the positive performance of the East Ayrshire Partnership in continuing to exceed national targets; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of this report

Graham Short
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HMcG/CD
3 August 2006
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (1) Moving on? An Overview of Delayed Discharges in Scotland – Audit Scotland June 2005
- (2) Moving on? A Handbook on Modelling the Whole System for Delayed Discharges in Tayside - Audit Scotland June 2005

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