

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 8 NOVEMBER 2001

I.S.D. QUARTERLY CENSUS ON DELAYED DISCHARGES

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise committee of the outcome of the National Quarterly Census which was undertaken on 15th July 2001 and published in October 2001 by the Information and Statistics Division (ISD) of the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2000 the Minister for Health and Community Care implemented a quarterly census to be carried out by Health Boards and Health Trusts to determine and monitor, the numbers and reasons for the increased number of people in hospital who are clinically ready for discharge, but who still occupy a health care hospital place. The Information and Statistics Division (ISD) of the Scottish Executive was asked to co-ordinate this.
- 2.2 The definition of a person whose discharge is delayed is that the person is clinically ready for discharge as they do not require hospital inpatient care, and that they have remained in an NHS hospital bed even though they are assessed as requiring an alternative to health care.
- 2.3 Consistent definitions were applied across Scotland so that the same information could be provided by health agencies to compare the data across Scotland on a quarterly basis.

3. NATIONAL POSITION

- 3.1 Across Scotland there were 2954 people on 1st July 2001 who were clinically ready for discharge, but who were still in hospital. This represented a rise of 2.4% on the April 2001 census when there were 2885 people waiting.
- 3.2 Most individuals who are delayed have local authority involvement either as an assessment of need is being carried out, or because there is no funding available for their care. Recognition is given in the data that assessments may take up to 6 weeks, therefore the data is split into 2 sections, those waiting less than 6 weeks, and those over 6 weeks. Of the 2954 people waiting – 2019 (68%) were outwith the 6 week period.

4. EAST AYRSHIRE POSITION

- 4.1 Since 1996 there has always been individuals awaiting the availability of funding. The table below indicates the year on year position.

	Number of Older People in Hospital Waiting for Funding
November 1996	9
November 1997	20
November 1998	40
November 1999	67
November 2000	62
July 2001	47

- 4.2 On 15th July 2001 there were 89 people defined by ISD as a delayed discharge in East Ayrshire. The reasons for the delays are as follows:-

- 30 undergoing an assessment of need.
- 47 awaiting funding for a care home.
- 2 involved in a financial dispute as they have disposed of income.
- 3 whose families dispute their discharge with the Health service.
- 7 whose reason for delay was not agreed between the Health Board and Local Authorities. (This usually occurs when an assessment carried out by the Social Work Department for a type of care, differs from the Health Agencies assessment i.e. residential care v nursing care, nursing care v continuing care in hospitals etc.)

- 4.3 East Ayrshire Council invest around £3,800,000 in residential and nursing care places of which £60,000 is committed for the purchase of respite places. This budget includes a £306,000 increase in 2001/2002 which is recurring and £100,000 which is non-recurring. It also includes a further £181,995 which was recently received from the Scottish Executive to pay for the increase in care fees paid to providers following the Scottish Care negotiations. This level of spending currently supports an average of 400 people, at any one time, being publicly funded in the independent care home sector.

- 4.3 A range of management actions have been taken to increasingly ensure that only those most in need are admitted to residential or nursing home care and minimum sufficient supports are provided to assist other people to remain in their own homes. The historical perceptions that older people in need require to be supported in care homes, rather than in their own homes and resource issues continue to be addressed. Funds have been secured from the Health Board to reduce the numbers waiting and to begin to introduce, with our partners in the Primary Care Trust, innovative developments such as rehabilitation services which provide a range of health and social care services to assist an individual to make the transition from hospital based care to care within their own home. Team Leaders have also been given access to funds to ensure speedy respite provision to service users and carers.

5. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

- 5.1 Of the 104 people awaiting funding for a care home in Ayrshire and Arran hospitals, 47 are from East Ayrshire, 36 from North Ayrshire and 21 from South Ayrshire.
- 5.2 There are a number of Council areas struggling to sustain or increase funding and officers are currently benchmarking with local authorities of a similar size to draw comparisons.
- 5.3 A number of local authorities continue to have difficulties in placing people waiting for care because of funding or availability of placements, which suggests this is more than a local issue.

6. REASONS FOR THE DIFFICULTIES IN EAST AYRSHIRE

6.1 There are 3 areas of difficulty.

- The current allocated funding is fully committed.
- Availability of places.
- The need to create more social care supports in the community to prevent inappropriate admissions to care.

6.1.1 The entire budget for the purchase of residential and nursing care is committed and there are still over 70 people awaiting care.

6.1.2 There are currently around 35 vacant places in care homes in East Ayrshire, however care places are not distributed equitably across East Ayrshire, there are around 20 vacancies in Dalmellington, with the other 15 distributed across the rest of East Ayrshire. As the Directions in Choice guidance gives individuals free choice in where to choose to live, individuals can wait for many months for a place to emerge in the home of their choice.

6.1.3 The number of available beds may be increased as the Council has been advised that a new 34 place Care Home may be built in Darvel and opened in the spring of 2002 and an existing Care Home in Kilmarnock also intends to increase its capacity by a further 20 places in mid 2002.

6.1.4 The Scottish Executive requires the Council to demonstrate a rebalancing of care from institutional care to care in the community. This creates a dilemma with 70 people awaiting funding as an increase in the placement budget would be required to fund their care. Without an increase in care at home at the same time the rebalancing of care will not be achieved.

7. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council is legally required to ensure suitable provisions are in place to meet peoples' needs. Individuals who are awaiting funding in hospital are regularly reviewed to ensure that when funding becomes available, those most in need receive priority.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It would cost over £185,000 to admit all individuals assessed as needing residential and nursing care and awaiting funding for care in 2001/2002 with a recurring cost of £476,000 in 2002/2003. This includes those awaiting funding in hospital and at home.

9. ACTION PLAN

- (i) Continually review those waiting to ensure that most in need are prioritised for residential and or nursing home care.
- (ii) Secure additional funds as they become available, ensuring a balance between residential/nursing/support at home.
- (iii) Introduce clear eligibility criteria for home care services, targeting those most at risk at the preventative and intense end of need.
- (iv) Develop innovative support services, including smart technology (e.g. door monitoring contacts, fall detectors), with key partners in health and housing to increasingly ensure safe options at home. This will include the targeting of sheltered housing at those most in need, and adapting other properties to reflect the assessed needs of individuals. Supported living models will also be developed.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) endorse the Action Plan outlined at section 9; and
- (ii) note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
17 October 2001
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information on this report please contact Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Older Peoples Services, telephone: 01563 576927 or Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer Community Care, telephone: 01563 576931, Civic Centre South, Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1BY

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AGENDA