

Tiger Teams - Reducing Hospital Admission for Older People due to Falls

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Purpose

1. Reducing hospital admissions for older people due to falls and the resulting fractures is a key priority for Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners.
2. This report provides Members with the opportunity to consider the progress that has been made to reduce falls by older people in particular the development of early intervention and prevention services by NHS Nottinghamshire County.

Information

3. Nottinghamshire's public services worked together to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment published in 2008. The Assessment provides the county with information on population trends and the state of people's health together with the factors that contribute to health and well being including crime, deprivation, safety, education, employment and lifestyles.

"For older people, mortality due to accidents is higher than the England average and 34% of all avoidable injury hospital admissions occur in the 16% of the population aged 65 and over. Falls and resulting fractures are a major contributory factor.

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy – November 2009

4. The sustainable community strategy recognises the problem with a priority of:

"Health and Well-being for all including a range of health indicators such as mortality, obesity, disabilities and injuries and general fitness, as well as care for older and vulnerable people "

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy – November 2009

5. The NHS Strategic Plans for Nottinghamshire and for Bassetlaw detail a way forward for commissioning and delivering health services in the period 2008 - 2013 and have many common strategic initiatives and key areas of improvement including focusing on life expectancy and health inequalities and addressing smoking, alcohol and obesity.
6. In 2009-10 NHS Nottinghamshire County formed new teams to spearhead improvement work on several of the strategic initiatives set out in their strategic plan. The staff involved were released from their normal roles for up to 80% of their time to analyse the issues of obesity and falls, apply fresh thinking and to draw-up ambitious action plans to address these key problem areas for the county.
7. The work was reported as being central to the Trust's ambition to deliver world-class health outcomes for the people of Nottinghamshire. They made use of case studies and evidence drawn from across the NHS and internationally to assess where resources should be targeted for the highest impact and local health gain. The team membership includes a number of people from different functional areas of the PCT, bringing together knowledge, understanding and skills that traditionally would not have naturally shared, or built on.

8. On 1 March 2010 Martin Kay, Practice Based Commissioning Manager, NHS Nottinghamshire County attended the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee to explain this work to Members and how it will help tackle the key priority to reduce admissions to hospital due to the impact of a strategy to reduce falls for older people.
9. A copy of the presentation given to the Standing Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.
10. NHS Nottinghamshire County has been invited to attend the meeting on 16th May 2011 to provide the Standing Committee with an update on the progress that has been made tackling this key local public health priority. A briefing from NHS Nottinghamshire County on falls and fractures is attached as a further appendix to this report.
11. Members may wish to consider progress made by the Trust at a future meeting or could identify options for Members involvement, possibly through a scrutiny review. The Standing Committee may also wish to explore how this priority will continue to be addressed during the proposed transition of the NHS public health role to local authorities.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Health & Wellbeing Standing Committee consider the work being undertaken to reduce hospital admissions due to falls by older people and identify further information required and/or Member involvement.

Councillor Ged Clarke

Chair of Health & Wellbeing

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Background papers:

- Nottinghamshire County Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – June 2008
- Draft Nottinghamshire Joint Commissioning Framework
- Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement & Draft Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy
- NHS Nottinghamshire County Strategic Plan 2008-13 (Revised March 2009)
- NHS Nottinghamshire County Trust Board - Knowledge Management: Recommendations to Strengthen Commissioning – 26 November 2009