

1st July 2013**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT
OLDER ADULTS****UPDATE ON PRESSURES ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR
OLDER PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks to provide an update on the report to the Adult Social Care and Health Committee of 22nd April 2013 on the current pressures on services for older people within the health and social care system.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire's health and social care services are currently facing significant pressures caused by demographic change. Local hospitals are facing unprecedented demand and community based services are having to cope with large numbers of older people requiring care and support.
3. The Nottingham University Hospital (NUH) Trust has seen a 2.6% increase in the number of emergency admissions via Accident & Emergency, and a rise in demand for beds for people over 65 by 9% since January 2013. The report of the 22nd April 2013 stated that the social work teams at the Queens Medical Centre (QMC) and City hospitals received a 50% increase in referrals compared to the highest figures from the previous year. That level of demand has continued to rise since then on both hospital campuses. There were 297 referrals to the hospital teams at the QMC in May; a 60% increase compared to the same period last year.
4. Pressures on the Council's hospital social work teams and community based health services therefore are continuing and there is an increasing focus on how we can work differently across health and social care to deliver better more integrated services for frail elderly people.
5. The Strategic Implementation Group for Nottingham South (SIGNS) is a forum of managers from health and social care. They have been working together since September to develop a shared understanding of how to deliver improvements in care for older people. They have identified a number of problems that need to be addressed. For example, people are admitted to hospital when alternative services could have met their needs and stay in hospital longer than they need to.

6. The SIGNS group have identified “Transfer to Assess” as a key priority in the programme for change. This is an approach that seeks to discharge older adults from hospital to a safe setting in either their own homes or other care setting where further rehabilitation and support can be delivered. An assessment would then be carried out to determine the most appropriate way to meet the individual’s needs. Recent evidence from the use of our existing assessment beds has shown that more people are enabled to return home following a period of reablement outside of a hospital setting.
7. A Transfer to Assess working group of health and social care managers has been established to take this work forward with the aim of delivering improvements in services from this September.
8. The Department is working on an integration project with the Nottingham North and East (NNE) Clinical Commissioning group. The project is looking at how social care and primary care services can be better coordinated in order to provide better services for frail older people.
9. As a partnership across health and social care in Nottinghamshire the Council intends to apply for pioneer status with a new programme sponsored by the Department of Health - “Integrated Care and Support: Our Shared Commitment”. Key agencies including the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Local Government Association (LGA) have signed up with health partners in a national collaboration to ensure that health and social care agencies work together to find joint solutions to the better commissioning and delivery of services. The Department intends to use the NNE Integration Pilot in a bid to achieve recognition and support as an early adopter local authority in the national integration agenda.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

12. It is anticipated that service users will benefit from the new arrangements as there will be a range of services available to them that will help them transfer from hospitals and assist in promoting independence.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications resulting from this report, as the report is for noting only.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee:

- 1) Notes the contents of this report.
- 2) Receives further reports on the progress of this work.

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Constitutional Comments

14. As the report is for noting only no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (CLK 10/06/13)

15. There are no financial implications contained in this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- a. [Report to the Adult Social Care and Health Committee 22nd April 2013.](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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