

**WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**ITEM No**

**JOINT CITY AND  
COUNTY HEALTH  
SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**15 APRIL 2008**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**REFERRAL FROM THE CITY COUNCIL'S HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL –  
DISCHARGE FROM THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**1 SUMMARY**

This report asks Members to consider carrying out a piece of work on discharge procedures at Nottingham University Hospital Trust's Emergency Department.

**2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Committee is asked to consider the issue as outlined below and to decide whether to include it in the work programme for the next Municipal Year.

**3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Health Scrutiny Panel is currently carrying out a review of Dual Diagnosis Services (services for individuals with both mental health and substance misuse problems). During discussions with service users a number of individuals mentioned problems they had experienced when they were discharged from the Emergency Department, including lack of referral to other services and difficulties in accessing transport home.
- 3.2 During separate discussions on the subject of avoidable injuries, the Panel also heard that elderly people discharged from the Emergency Department following treatment for a fall were not always referred to the Falls Prevention Service.
- 3.4 The Panel were of the view that these issues were possibly indicative of difficulties communicating between different departments and different Trusts and agreed to refer the matter to the Joint Committee for further investigation.

- 3.5 The Panel requests that the Joint Committee carry out a piece of work examining discharge procedures at the Emergency Department in order to ascertain if any problems exist and if communication, procedures and practices might be improved.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

None

**5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

None

**6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

Minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 19 March 2008.

**Councillor Dave Liversidge**  
**Chair of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee**

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**19 March 2008**