

**Report to:** Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 28 June 2012  
**Report by:** Angela Dryer, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care  
**Presented by:** Angela Dryer, Assistant Head of Adult Social Care  
**Subject:** Hospital Discharges

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

To provide the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an update on hospital discharges in relation to adult social care in Portsmouth.

## **2. Recommendations**

That the panel note the content of the report.

## **3. Background:**

- 3.1 The report needs to be read in conjunction with the information provided by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.
- 3.2 Portsmouth City Adult Social Care has a hospital based social work team, which is located on the Queen Alexandra Hospital site. The team consists of 1 WTE Team Manager, 2 WTE Assistant Team Managers, 6 WTE Social Workers, 3.4WTE Independence Support Assistants, as well as administrative staff. It shares the building with Hampshire County Council's hospital based social work team.
- 3.3 Adult Social Care mirrors and responds to the 'Escalation Framework for South Central SHA'. The service reports on a daily basis its own escalation status, referring to the wider social care fieldwork service, as well as the hospital team.
- 3.4 Over the last few months the escalation status of the hospital has been higher, on occasions, than corresponding periods in previous years.
- 3.5 During May 2012, the hospital social care team received 250 referrals, the second highest figure for the month of May since 2004.
- 3.6 As part of the multi-disciplinary team which work in the Integrated Discharge Bureau (IDB), the team works with health colleagues in the discharge process.

- 3.7 On a daily basis the IDB collates a list of people deemed to be medically fit, that is, deemed to no longer require acute care. The term 'medically fit' has and continues to cause an amount of confusion across the whole system, as whilst it indicates no clinical need for acute care, it does not necessarily mean that the person is ready to leave hospital, or that there are any adult social care needs.
- 3.8 During May 2012, 308 people appeared on the medically fit lists for Portsmouth. The breakdown of the reason the people were on the list and numbers are listed in the table below

<b>Reason on list</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
Awaiting Spinnaker/rehab.reablement	22
Awaiting Jubilee House	15
Already discharged/for discharge that day	91
Deceased	2
Waiting equipment/OT/Physio assessment	20
Not actually medically fit (situation may change from seeing clinician to IDB meeting)	24
No referral to ASC / No ASC needs	25
Waiting Continuing Health Care Checklist / Decision Support Tool /	40
Waiting Multi-disciplinary Team/health assessment	9
Out of area clients/ waiting for nursing home to assess/ social worker assessing that day, family delays etc	42

- 3.9 Adult Social Care respond when people are medically fit and the assessment will be completed either that day or the following day.
- 3.10 With complex cases, if the ward has notified adult social care when the person is admitted, the case is likely to be allocated at that time.
- 3.11 With the pressures on the whole of the system, communication is key in ensuring timely discharges. There is an element of frustration when the update received from the ward is different to that provided by nurses/matrons at the meetings.
- 3.12 There is a considerable amount of time taken in collating information in order to inform both the medically fit and full patient list. Social Workers will ring the ward for an update on people the service is aware of and then provide the information to a senior member of staff who will provide an update at the IDB

meetings which are held at 2pm (12 on a Friday). It is estimated that approximately 5 hours per day are spent by the team working on the medically fit list (7 hours for the full patient list)

- 3.13 On a positive note completion of the full patient list does help to progress cases and provides a good overview of what is happening. It also enables pre-emptive action to be taken and cases allocated sooner rather than later.
- 3.14 A great deal of work is ongoing, at all levels, between agencies to try and improve the situation and look at different ways to provide more streamlined care, avoid admission and shorten the length of stay wherever possible.

Signed:.....

Angela Dryer, Assistant Head Adult Social Care  
Portsmouth City Council.