
Meeting: Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 27 January 2014
Subject: Report of the Hospital Discharge Task Force
Report of: Cllr Rita Drinkwater, Chairman of the Task Force
Summary: The report outlines the recommendations of the task force review of performance relating to the pathway for leaving hospital and sets out the implications of several of these recommendations being implemented.

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: NHS

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. Whilst the recommendations contained in the task force report are primarily for NHS agencies and not the Council itself the implementation of these recommendations will support the Council by promoting health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Financial:

2. The financial implications to the Council of a review of the Clinical Navigation Team will need to be considered fully if the Committee agrees to support these recommendations.

Legal:

3. Not applicable

Risk Management:

4. Not applicable.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. The staffing implications for NHS organisations arising from these recommendations will need to be considered fully if the Committee agrees to support these recommendations.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. None arising from this report.

Public Health

7. None arising from this report.

Community Safety:

8. Not Applicable.

Sustainability:

9. Not Applicable.

Procurement:

10. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the recommendations of the task force and recommend to the responsible bodies that they be implemented.**
2. **That appropriate NHS bodies submit an update to the Committee in two months outlining progress in implementing those recommendations agreed by the Committee**

Background

11. At a previous meeting the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC (SCHHOSC) discussed issues relating to hospital discharge, including the importance of looking at the whole pathway and meeting the needs of patients. Members also discussed feedback that some patients were being discharged from hospital inappropriately, either late at night or early in the morning. It was agreed to establish a task force to review performance and report back to the Committee.
12. The report at **Appendix A** sets out the evidence received by Members of the task force and the issues that were discussed. It also sets out in detail the recommendations of the task force which are proposed to be considered by the Committee.
13. This review has taken some time to complete and as a result the local health economy has changed throughout the process. This includes a report published by the Care Quality Commission into issues at Bedford Hospital. These issues were not included in the scope of this review. The task force has however recommended that Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch and the CCG continually review hospital discharge performance and that performance be presented to the SCHHOSC on a quarterly basis. Any concerns of Members relating to performance at the hospitals may be considered by the Committee at future meetings.

Conclusion and Next Steps

14. The Committee are asked to consider the report and recommendations of the task force and agree that the recommendations be provided to providers for their implementation. It is also suggested that NHS providers provide an update on the progress if implementing the recommendations of the review within 2 months.

Appendices:

- Appendix A Report of the Hospital Discharge Task Force: a review of performance relating to the pathway for leaving hospital.

Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)

None, other than those outlined in the task force report.