
Briefing Note for Health in Dacorum Committee Meeting Wednesday, 7th March 2018

Delayed Discharges from Hospital

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Further to the update presented to this Committee in September 2017, continued progress has been made to reduce the numbers of people being delayed in hospital because of lack of onward health and social care services.

The chart attached, sets out three rows of information on total delays (top), delays attributable to the NHS (middle) and delays attributable to social care (bottom). From left to right, the charts show the overall number of delays per 100,000 people versus the challenging NHS target set for areas last summer, total delays split by NHS Trust serving Hertfordshire patients, the main reasons for delays and Hertfordshire ranking when compared with other Health and Wellbeing Board areas.

All show an improving picture, with social care meeting the NHS target for social care delays in December 2017. The new monies announced by the Chancellor for social care in March 2017 - £2bn nationally - has been used to buy new services and provide more pay for front-line care practitioners. This does appear to have had a positive effect on delayed discharges. Other schemes relating to avoiding admission to hospital altogether started in November 2017 and should impact during this year.

Hertfordshire County Council remains committed to working collaboratively with West Herts Hospitals Trust and Hertfordshire Community Trust to improve processes and systems to expedite people's discharge from hospital.

The greatest wait for people now is for packages of care to start at home and we have a number of schemes operating to provide interim beds, increase capacity in home-based services and recruit and retain workers in the homecare sector.

A Green Paper on future funding of social care will be published by the Government in the summer and Hertfordshire County Council will make a full submission to invest more in adult social care to keep older people at home, including better pay and condition for the workforce.