

**Delayed Transfers of Care Task Group – Update Report**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update the Committee about the work of the Delayed Transfers of Care Task Group.

**Background**

2. The Delayed Transfers of Care Task Group has met with a number of key agencies in order to understand the care pathways for older people, the reasons why delayed transfers occur and the steps that are being taken to address the issues across health and social care.

The Task Group is in the process of establishing a set of conclusions and recommendations which it intends to present at the next meeting of the Committee.

**Initial Findings**

3. The Task Group has met with the Primary Care Trust, social care, the three acute hospital trusts and the mental health trust and has heard detailed evidence about the extent of the problem within each sector.
4. All the agencies involved have taken steps to begin to reduce delayed transfers with varying degrees of success and the Task Group is now collating and comparing this information.
5. The Task Group has, however, heard of pockets of good practice across the health and social care community which appear to have led to greater improvements in some areas and the Task Group is intending to highlight this in its final report to Committee.

**Final Strand of the Task Group Work**

6. There is a further phase of work happening within the health and social care community to review the initial joint working protocol, brought in during 2007 in order to agree a set of principles for working together following the break down in joint health and social care delivery in 2005/06. The review of these arrangements will aim to improve joint working and further reduce delayed transfers.

7. The Task Group is intending to hold a final meeting with the provider arm of the Primary Care Trust and the Cabinet member for social care to discuss plans for step down care across the county and the implications for the Council and the relevant health providers.
8. Following this the Task Group will make its report to Committee, recognising that the work to improve the numbers of delayed transfers of care will be ongoing and may require monitoring by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Risk Assessment**

9. There are no risks to the County Council in this report.

#### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.

#### **Conclusions**

11. The Delayed Transfers of Care Task Group needs to hold two further investigative meetings before making its final report to the Committee.

#### **Recommendations**

12. The Committee is asked to note the update report from the Task Group.

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