

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 10 March 2015  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Communities  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Scrutiny Topic 2014/15 : Discharge from Hospital  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present the Board with details of the Discharge from Hospital Scrutiny topic as outlined in the attached topic brief.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

***RECOMMENDED: That the Board***

- i) Note contents of the report;***
- ii) Approve the Topic Brief outlined at Appendix 1; and***
- iii) Nominate Members of the Board to form part of the Scrutiny Topic Working Group***

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Discharge planning is a routine feature of the Health and Social Care system and consists of the development of an individualised discharge plan for the patient prior to leaving hospital, with the main aim of improving a patient's outcome.

3.2 Planning for discharge helps reduce hospital length of stay and unplanned/emergency readmissions to hospital, relieves pressure on hospital beds and improves the co-ordination of services following discharge from hospital.

3.3 This topic will focus on the quality of the Discharge planning process and associated pathways to those Halton residents who have been admitted to the local Acute Trusts for both elective or emergency care. It will examine the services that are already in place with a view to evaluating their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the local population.

3.4 Subject to agreement by Board to accept the topic brief; this report seeks nominations from members of the Board to form a member led scrutiny working group.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The recommendations from the resulting scrutiny review may result in a need to

review associated policies and procedures.

**5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

**6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The remit of the Health Policy and Performance Board is directly linked to this priority.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

## **Appendix 1: Discharge from Hospital Scrutiny Topic Brief**

### **TOPIC BRIEF**

<b>Topic Title:</b>	Discharge from Hospital
<b>Officer Lead:</b>	Damian Nolan – Divisional Manager
<b>Planned Start Date:</b>	April 2015
<b>Target PPB Meeting:</b>	March 2016

#### **Topic Description and Scope:**

This topic will focus on the quality of the Discharge planning process and associated pathways to those Halton residents who have been admitted to the local Acute Trusts for both elective or emergency care. It will examine the services that are already in place with a view to evaluating their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the local population.

#### **Why this topic was chosen:**

Discharge planning is a routine feature of the Health and Social Care system and consists of the development of an individualised discharge plan for the patient prior to leaving hospital, with the main aim of improving a patient's outcome.

Discharge planning should ensure that patients are discharged from hospital at an appropriate time in their care and that, with adequate notice, the provision of other services are organised.

There are some common key elements when planning for discharge, regardless of whether a patient is receiving emergency or elective care. These are:

- Specifying a date and / or time of discharge as early as possible
- Identifying whether a patient has simple or complex discharge planning needs
- Identifying what these needs are and how they will be met
- Deciding the identifiable clinical criteria that the patient must meet for discharge

About 20 per cent of patients<sup>1</sup> have more complex needs and may need additional input from other professionals. The involvement of additional people makes effective co-ordination and planning even more critical.

As the older people age group (65+) within Halton are projected to grow by 33% from 17,300 in 2010 to 25,700 in 2025<sup>2</sup>, it is anticipated that the percentage of those

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<sup>1</sup> NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

<sup>2</sup> ONS - Population Projections 2010

patients experiencing more complex needs and thus requiring more complex discharge planning processes will also increase.

Planning for discharge helps reduce hospital length of stay and unplanned/emergency readmissions to hospital, relieves pressure on hospital beds and improves the co-ordination of services following discharge from hospital.

Within Halton we experience a high number of emergency readmissions at both 30 and 90 days for people aged 65 and over and this has presented challenges to the Health and Social Care system. As outlined above, effective discharge planning can contribute to helping reduce the number of unplanned/emergency readmissions to hospital and as such there is a need to ensure that current discharge planning processes and associated pathways in place are having a positive impact on Halton's emergency readmission rates.

### **Key outputs and outcomes sought:**

- An understanding of existing Discharge Planning processes and associated pathways in respect of Halton residents that are admitted to Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
- An understanding of the role that all agencies (both statutory and voluntary/community sector) play in the discharge planning process.
- Ensure services provided take into consideration national best and evidence based practice.
- Consider ways to continue to make improvements to Discharge Planning processes to ensure they continue to be effective in meeting the needs of the population of Halton.
- An understanding of the different elements of service monitoring that take place in respect of this area of provision.

### **Which of Halton's 5 strategic this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will be help to achieve:**

#### **A Healthy Halton**

- To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- To respond to the needs of an ageing population improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- To remove barriers that disabled people face and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.
- To improve access to health services, including primary care.

### **Nature of expected/ desired PPB input:**

Member led scrutiny review of Discharge Planning and associated processes/pathways.

**Preferred mode of operation:**

- Meetings with/presentations from relevant officers from within the Council/Health Services and partner agencies to examine current processes/provision.
- Desk top research in relation to national best and evidence based practice.

**Agreed and signed by:**

**PPB chair** .....

**Officer** .....

**Date** .....

**Date** .....