

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HEALTH**

18 May 2015

Report of the Director of Legal Services

Review of Acute Hospital Discharges

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the scope of a review of Acute Hospital Discharges.

2 Information

The Committee, at its meeting on 16 March 2015, considered a report from Healthwatch Derbyshire on arrangements for discharging patients from Acute Hospitals. The report referred to recent research and evidence gathered by Healthwatch Derbyshire on patient experiences when being discharged from Acute Hospitals, principally the Derby Royal and Chesterfield Royal Hospitals.

Evidence showed some positive patient experiences but there was sufficient negative feedback to warrant further investigation to assess areas for potential improvement.

The Scrutiny Review of Acute Hospital Discharges will look at the current processes used to discharge patients, identify delays and other obstacles and ascertain potential improvements which could be implemented to achieve a more efficient discharge process and better patient experience. An emphasis will be placed on the discharge of frail, elderly and vulnerable patients.

It is anticipated that evidence will be sought from;

- Acute Hospital Managers and staff,
- Patients and their carers
- Community Nurses
- Health Visitors
- GPs
- Care Home managers
- Social Care managers/workers
- Social Housing providers
- Healthwatch Derbyshire

The key outcome of the review should be the identification of improvements to the discharge process which will be referred to the service provider organisations for consideration.

The review will be completed by November 2015.

A working group will be appointed by this Committee to undertake the review and submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

The Committee is requested to;

- (1) Agree the scope of the review of Acute Hospital Discharges and;
- (2) Appoint Members of the Committee to the review working group.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services