ABSTRACT
This report advises elected members on the performance of the Angus partnership in relation to those service users awaiting discharge from hospital. The report also highlights changes in how delayed discharges will be managed locally from April 2008 by the Community Health partnership and Angus Council.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health committee notes the content of this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Angus partnership in conjunction with NHS Tayside is required to report information pertaining to the number of patients ready for discharge in local hospitals. This information is collated and validated using the EMTAYDD electronic monitoring system and reported to the Scottish Government on the 15th of each month.

At the April 2008 census the Angus partnership achieved its target of zero delays for patients over six weeks and zero delays for those patients delayed in acute specialty beds. The attached appendix highlights the improved performance over the past 12 months in relation to the number of patients with local authority involvement who are ready for discharge under the accepted six week planning period. Based on validated information from the Scottish information statistics division over the last 12 months Angus has consistently achieved an average mean delay below or around the Scottish average. The total number of patients delayed over six weeks has decreased from 1 in April 2007 to 0 at the April 2008 census.

At the April 2007 census Angus Council reported the lowest mean delay (20 days) of all Councils in Scotland reporting compared to the National average of 49 days. Equally at the July 2007 and October 2007 (29 and 25 respectively), Angus Council reported the second lowest mean delay in Scotland, and in January 2008 census the third lowest (26 days).

3 PROPOSAL 2008/09

Since April 2008 the ongoing management of the delayed discharge agenda has been passed to Community Health Partnerships (CHP’s) and Local Authority areas to incorporate into their mainstream activity. The budget to support this agenda has been redirected to the local authority to manage within the context of the new single outcome agreement. The health strategy directorate of NHS Tayside have also proposed the establishment of a planning agreement with the three local authorities.
and CHPs in Tayside. This agreement aims to place the delayed discharge agenda in the wider context of the balance of care. There have also been a number of changes in respect of the management of delayed discharges in recent months, these include;

- The operational management and co-ordination of case conferences where appeals against discharge by families or individuals are heard are now the responsibility of the Angus Community Health Partnership. This includes cases where the choice of care home is not available and this incurs a prolonged delay. NHS Tayside has produced public information for patients and their families, however completion of this information is awaited following consultation with the Angus Partnership.

- The Scottish Government has established a national group to oversee and advise on changes in codes or definitions which constitute a delay.

- Information pertaining to delayed discharges is collated and disseminated by the Health strategy directorate at NHS Tayside and used to report through NHS Tayside performance management structure (Taystat).

- The management of the current exception code 51x or ‘complex cases’ continues to be reported separately from the main census in situations where the delay occurs as a result of a legal process namely guardianship applications. Equally those patients delayed awaiting placement where no facility exists continue to be disaggregated form the main census.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications arising from this report will be met from the budget which supports the delayed discharge agenda. This is linked to the new single outcome agreement.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Law and Administration and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The report outlines a number of changes in the way delayed discharges are to be managed by the Community Health Partnership and Angus Council from April 2008. This includes the establishment of a Tayside planning agreement and the implementation of local systems to manage complex cases. The report also highlights the establishment of a national advisory group. The Angus partnership local action plan has been updated to reflect these changes.

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.