



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 21 December 2010

Subject: Health Service Direct Discharge

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Health Service Direct Discharge issue referred to the Board by the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board in November 2010. The Board is asked to consider the attached report and identify any specific issues that require further scrutiny and/or any additional actions that the Board may wish to take.

2.0 Background

2.1 As previously reported, the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board considered the issues of Health Service Direct Discharge into Residential Care settings at its meeting on 10 November 2010: The associated report of the Director of Adult Social Services is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 During discussion at the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board meeting, the following issues were highlighted:

- The often complex nature of these discharges – often involving a number of different professional organisations.
- There had been a rise in the number of hospital admissions and there were associated issues as a result: The report outlined alternative options that could be developed, including areas of joint work between the Council and Health Service providers.
- The possibility of joint night services between Social Services and Health Service partners – this could provide other support services to prevent some hospital admissions

- The use of transition beds – this could make use of void beds within existing residential care provision to allow discharge and prevent admission to hospital.

2.3 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board resolved to refer this matter to the Scrutiny Board (Health) for further consideration/monitoring.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Health Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the attached report and identify any specific issues that require further scrutiny and/or any additional actions that the Board may wish to take.

4.0 Background Documents

None