

Service Developments of Highbank Care Home

Report by Eibhlin McHugh, Acting Director, Communities and Wellbeing

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview of the changing remit of the services of Highbank Care Home.

2 Background

- 2.1 Highbank Care Home currently has 16 permanent residents and has 12 Intermediate Care beds 6 for rehab and 6 for assessment along with up to 5 respite beds one of which is an emergency bed.

Assessment and Intermediate Care beds have been introduced at Highbank to prevent hospital admissions and enable early discharge. From April 2011 until January 31st 2012 there were 13 admissions to the two intermediate care beds and 28 admissions to the Assessment Beds saving 406 and 702 hospital bed days respectively.

Although the change in the focus of the service delivery at Highbank has put increased demands on staff and managers to implement these changes they have continued to provide excellent care and support to the permanent residents in Highbank. The staff and management have embraced these changes with a positive attitude and approach to the future service delivery. However in order to manage and support the shift in focus staff have needed additional training and support to ensure they meet the needs of the service users. Prior to the introduction of Intermediate care 75% of admission to care homes came straight from hospital and this has now reduced to 50%.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There has been significant capital and revenue investment in the services at Highbank. All current work has approved funding including the relocation of the Rapid Response Team from Esk Place housing complex into Highbank. This has been possible by Day care moving from Highbank to Glenesk House with an annual rental of £5,000 but there is a saving as the annual rental at Esk Place is in the region of £5,000.

However there are implications for loss of income to Highbank from permanent residents and £35,000 per year has been incorporated into Highbank's budget from the Change fund to offset this.

3.2 Risk

The risk of the developments not taking place at Highbank will put increased demand and pressures on clients, families/carers, professionals and hospital bed occupancy leading to delayed discharges and higher number of care home admissions. This is contrary to what people have said they want through the consultations and engagement and against the national policy drivers.

3.3 Policy

Strategy

The Joint Midlothian Older People's strategy 2011 – 2015 sets out the vision and actions that need to be implemented to meet the national agenda on Reshaping Care for Older People. Midlothian won the COSLA "Chairs" award for its Older Peoples strategy and Highbank featured very heavily in the implementation of shifting the balance of care.

Highbank will continue to develop the service in line with service demand and need to reach the desired outcomes for older people living in Midlothian. With the shift in focus from a long term care home to an Intermediate care service, staff will need on-going support and guidance to meet the needs of all those who use the range of services. Its increasing focus on the provision of short term care placements with a rehabilitative focus will enable quicker discharge from hospital and avoidance of unnecessary hospital admissions.

Consultation

A wide range of consultation and engagement has taken place over the last 18 months which informed the strategy. This wide range of consultation and engagement will continue over the next 18 months to ensure Midlothian's Joint Older People's strategy is in keeping with the needs and demands of older people and their families'/carers living in Midlothian.

Equalities

The strategy and service of Highbank aims to promote equalities and access to services of all older people in Midlothian.

Sustainability

The development of the Joint Midlothian Older People's strategy 2011 – 2015 outlines the key action areas for sustainable development and improvement.

4 IT Issues

There is a requirement to have additional pc ports installed at Highbank to facilitate the move for the Rapid Response Team from Esk Place into one of the upper wings at Highbank. Funding for this has been incorporated into the current agreed capital funding.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Agree to the on-going developments of the services of Highbank.

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