
INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to advise Members of the progress towards using a former Warden's flat at Spa Court, Hockley, as an intermediate care facility, working in partnership with the local Primary Care Trust (PCT).

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In July 2003 it was agreed to use the former peripatetic warden's flat at Spa Court as an intermediate care unit. Because of the experimental nature of the project Members agreed a one-year trial period.
- 2.2 Following joint meetings with the stakeholders an operational policy, user feedback form and draft lease were agreed. These documents were seen as being essential for the delivery of the project and were agreed at an early stage of the project plan.
- 2.3 It was originally anticipated that the project would start in March 2004; this was the date by which the Council had completed refurbishment works and made the flat available to the PCT. Rent and Council Tax have been paid from this date for the whole of the twelve-month period.

3 'DELAYED RELEASE' PATIENTS

- 3.1 The Intermediate Care facility provides a "halfway house" for patients leaving care or hospital to help them back into their own homes. Stays in the flat will be for between one to six weeks depending on the abilities of the patient. The idea of the scheme is to prevent 'delayed release' patients taking up valuable bed-spaces, so freeing them for other needy patients.
- 3.2 This project has suffered a number of delays outside the Council's control. Initially, there were some difficulties recruiting suitable staff, following hand-over of the flat. We now understand that staff have been recruited or identified from other areas of the service. There was a second delay regarding the installation of a 'direct link' telephone line but this was finalised in June; however no patients have been identified at the time of drafting this report (9 August). The Head of Service will give a verbal update at the meeting.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Rent and Council Tax have been paid in advance. The rent levy fully met the cost of adaptations, which was the Council's sole contribution to the project; a sum of £9,400.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 When the Head of Service last reported progress, Members were keen to explore whether a network of Intermediate Care Units could be provided across the District. In view of the slow start on the use of the Spa Court flat, progress on this investigatory work has been halted by the Head of Service. This work is outside the team's annual work plan and disappointment has been expressed that after almost six months into a one-year pilot, no suitable patients have been identified.
- 5.2 In June, the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care wrote to the Chief Executive of the PCT and, subsequently, information has been received to the effect that it has still not been possible to identify a suitable patient for occupation of the Intermediate Care unit. Members will be aware that the PCT have been invited to attend the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 20 October 2004 to discuss GP provision in the District. They have also been invited to provide information on this project to the Committee.

6 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Unless better use of the flat is made, it is proposed to take no further action on identifying other units for conversion.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) to receive a further progress report in six months time.
 - (2) that the Primary Care Trust be invited to appraise members of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Intermediate Care Facility project.

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Background Papers:-

None

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