

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Work Committee – 23 October 2006

REPORT ON: Progress Towards Service & Waiting Time Targets for Older People

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work

REPORT NO: 723-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Social Work Committee on the progress that is being made towards targets and on waiting times in accordance with recommendation 2.3 of Report No 418-2006; Older People's Services which the Social Work Committee agreed on 26 June 2006.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

2.1 the Social Work Committee notes the developing position on waiting times outlined in paragraphs 6.1 – 6.5 of this report.

2.2 the Social Work Committee agree to increase the current overspend by £100k and this be included in the future Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports, this additional expenditure to be used to firstly reduce the maximum waiting time for Free Personal Care to 75 days and any balance to be used to reduce other waiting times included in this Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget for care home and supported accommodation placements and for free personal and nursing care is £16.864m for 2006/07. This includes £160,000 of resource transfer funding, which has been redirected from within the overall resource transfer budget to help address the delayed discharge issue. Based on the current monthly level of care home placements, and taking account of the proposal to reduce waiting times for personal and nursing care payments to 75 days, the 2006/07 projected expenditure, as at 1 October, is £17.136m. This represents a potential overspend of £272k.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The recommendations in this report provide information about progress that is being made towards meeting the needs of the most vulnerable older people.

6.0 PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGETS

6.1 Targets

The performance areas that are covered in this report reflect national targets and outcomes and are not within the direct control of our local authority. In particular, the target to deal with people delayed in hospital has not been agreed with the Council, but has been determined by the Scottish Executive without sufficient finance being given to the Council either through resource transfer from NHS Tayside or from the Scottish Executive. Ministers have been advised accordingly.

6.2 Accounts Commission, Key Performance Indicator.

Table 2 below (Total No of Home Care Hours Provided to Older People per 1000 of the Population) shows Dundee's performance against one of the key performance indicators measured by the Accounts Commission.

Table 1 – Total No of Home Care Hours Provided to Older People per 1000 of the Population

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
No of hours per 1,000 pop'n	334.0*	262.6	395.7	410.1	411.1
Ranking across 32 Councils	not known	32nd	25th	not known	not known

The information above shows a modest increase in the hours of homecare per 1000 of the population. Published information is not available for the rest of Scotland so it is not possible to rank Dundee. It is unlikely on the basis of such a modest increase that the rating will have improved for 2005/06.

6.2 People Delayed in Hospital

Table 2 (No of Patients Delayed by Month, Age, and against Quarterly Target) below shows the number of people delayed in hospital. People are delayed because their assessment is still in the process of completion or because the resources they need at home or in a residential setting are not available. The hospital waiting target for 2006/07 is to reduce by 50% for those patients delayed beyond six weeks and to reduce by 50% those patients delayed in short stay beds. Table 2 below also shows the quarterly July 2006 target and the progress that has been made towards it.

Table 2 - No of Patients Delayed by Month, Age, and against Quarterly Target

	June		July		August		September	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
All people								
No delayed beyond 6 weeks	29		36	15	42		46	18
No delayed short stay	20		20	8	27		23	8
Older people								
No delayed beyond 6 weeks	20		27		34		39	
No delayed short stay	16		15		23		15	

The information shows a slight improvement in the position.

6.3 Joint Performance Information & Assessment Framework (JPIAF)

Target 10 of the JPIAF requires that Local Improvement Targets set an objective of achieving intensive home care of at least 30% of long term care by 2008. This had improved to 22.6% in March 2006. The Social Work Department awaits the final assessment of its progress from the Scottish Executive.

6.4 People Awaiting Funding for a Care Home Placement

Table 3 below (Total No of People Awaiting Funding for a Care Home Placement) shows the total number of people awaiting funding for a care home placement and Table 4 (Total Number of People Awaiting Free Personal Care for a Care Home) shows how many of the total number of people are awaiting free personal care.

Table 3 – Total No of People Awaiting Funding for a Care Home Placement

	May	June	July	August	September
No of people	63	75	97	106	118

Table 4 – Total No of People Awaiting Free Personal Care for a Care Home

	May	June	July	August	September
No of people	17	20	22	23	30

The total number of people awaiting funding for a care home is increasing month on month. Of the total number of people awaiting funding (n=118), the majority were either in a care home, in receipt of interim NHS funding (n=22), in receipt of a service at home (n=22) or already in a care home awaiting local authority funding (n=35). The majority of those waiting, therefore, are not waiting for free personal care.

It is proposed that the waiting time for free personal and nursing care be reduced to 75 days. Paragraph 3 above outlines the financial implications of exceeding the placement limit to achieve this.

6.5 Older People Awaiting Care At Home

Table 5 (Older People Awaiting Care at Home Service by Month & by No of People and Hours of Service) below shows the number of people waiting for care at home and the number of hours they are awaiting.

Table 5 – Older People Awaiting Care at Home Service by Month & by No of People and Hours of Service

	May 06	June 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06
Care at home, no of people	198	157	143	146	144
Care at home, hours	1119	1139	1159	1064	1047

The information shows an improvement in both the number of people waiting for care at home and the number of hours they are waiting.

7.0 SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Demand for community care services is showing modest improvement in some areas in comparison with the position that the Social Work Committee was alerted to in Report No 418-2006. It is proposed that waiting times for free personal care are reduced to 75 days, and arrangements have been made to begin a best value review to take forward the Commissioning Strategy outlined in Appendix 1 of Report No 418-2006.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report No 418-2006, Older People Services, Social Work Committee, 26 June 2006.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 27 September 2006