Governance Declarations

2007/08

Target / Core Standard: Delayed Transfers of Care – January 2008

The Issue

For the year to date Trust wide DTC's are running at 5.9%. The situation has deteriorated since November 2007 with DTCs now reaching up to 8% per week. In January 2008 DTCs were 6.5%.

This equates to 30-40 acute beds blocked within the Acute Trust (through a range of delays due to Health/Intermediate Care, Social Care and Continuing Care Panel delays).

The deterioration in performance has also impacted elective care performance, in particular those more dependent patients whose treatment has to take place at Watford General Hospital.

Improvement in DTC's numbers is a key improvement service benefit required if the Trust is to achieve the 80th and 90th centile performance standards for the Delivering A Healthy Future /Acute Admissions Unit project.

Proposed Actions

DTC numbers are agreed weekly through a multidisciplinary team meeting (Bed/Capacity Managers, Intermediate Care and Social Care representatives). A summary of all cases is produced and shared for action to resolve. This however is a retrospective action and does not address the prospective actions required to reduce these numbers.

Whilst the target sits with in the Acute Trust the solutions are economy wide, requiring input and action from the PCT and ACS.

The Trust and PCT Chief Executives have established an Executive Led Task Force, to reduce the number of DTC's in the Acute Trust.

Project Management support to undertake process mapping and redesign of the DTC's pathways has been agreed, which will also develop improved accurate and consistent daily tracking of DTC's which can be shared with partner organisation and used as an accurate measure of DTC performance. This will also support the increased and more timely sharing of information to ensure that actions are prospective and not retrospective.

Next Steps:

West Hertfordshire PCT – notified
Hertfordshire County Council – Adult Care Services – notified
Task force implemented
Recording process of DTC's within the hospital reviewed to ensure they are meeting best practice.