

## Item 8: Delayed Discharge from Acute Hospital

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 May 2023

Subject: Delayed Discharge from Acute Hospital

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS Kent and Medway.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

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### 1) Introduction

- a) At their meeting on 30 November 2022, the Committee agreed to add an item on delayed discharges from hospital to the work programme.
- b) The ICB have been invited to attend today's meeting to present a paper on what the situation is locally and what action is being taken.
- c) Under powers conferred on Kent County Council under Section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012), HOSC can review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Kent. The Committee may make evidence-based reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies and require a response within 28 days, or longer at the Committee's discretion.

### 2) Background

- a) The House of Commons Library published a briefing in February 2023 setting out what the Government is doing to reduce the number of people staying in hospital longer than necessary. The briefing, entitled "Delayed hospital discharges and adult social care" can be read online [here](#).
- b) In January 2023, the Government published a delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services. One of its commitments was to speed up discharge from hospital which it plans to do with the following measures:
  - i) £1.6 billion of extra funding for health and social care over the next 2 years will be focused squarely on discharge.
  - ii) Placing 'care transfer hubs' in every hospital ahead of winter 2023 to allow for faster discharge to the right setting.
  - iii) Implementing new approaches to step-down care - for example, people who need physiotherapy can access care as they are being discharged from hospital before they need to be assessed by their local authority for long-term care needs.

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- iv) Publishing new discharge information, with new data collected from April 2023.
- c) In terms of currently published data, daily returns are collected from acute trusts through the COVID-19 acute daily discharge situation report (SitRep) and include data on daily discharges from acute settings. This information is published monthly by NHS England. The data provides a snapshot at a single point in time.
- d) Data in the tables below is taken from the daily discharge situation reports (SitRep) from March 2023 and April 2022.
- e) The data shows an improvement in the number of patients remaining in a hospital bed for longer than necessary, but a deteriorating situation in terms of how long those patients remain in a hospital bed longer than they clinically need to.

Table 1: Number of patients who no longer meet criteria to reside

	patients in hospital who no longer met the criteria to reside – 31 <i>March 2023</i>	patients in hospital who no longer met the criteria to reside – 1 <i>April 2022</i>
<b>Kent and Medway</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>771</b>
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT)	206	299
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW)	115	216
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust (DGT)	29	87
Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT)	8	169

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Table 2: Number of additional days in total patients have remained in hospital since the criteria to be discharged decision was made (week commencing 27 March 2023)

	Number of additional bed days, patients with length of stay over 7+ days	Number of additional bed days, patients with length of stay over 21+ days
<b>Kent and Medway</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>4,354</b>
EKHUFT	3,499	3,030
MTW	952	709
DGT	111	77
MFT	726	538

Table 3: Number of additional days in total patients have remained in hospital since the criteria to be discharged decision was made (as at 7 April 2022)

	Number of additional bed days, patients with length of stay over 7+ days	Number of additional bed days, patients with length of stay over 21+ days
<b>Kent and Medway</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>1,559</b>
EKHUFT	1,130	765
MTW	866	612
DGT	208	182
MFT*	0	0

*\*it is unclear if this is zero patients, or if the data was not returned.*

### 3) Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

### Background Documents

NHS England - [Statistics » Discharge delays \(Acute\) \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/discharge-delays/)

NHS England and Department of Health & Social Care (Jan 2023) [B2034-delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/B2034-delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services.pdf)

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