

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

## Report by Acting Head of Health and Community Care

20 September 2021

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**Subject: West Dunbartonshire HSCP Delayed Discharges**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to update the HSCP Board on the ongoing activities in relation to delayed discharge in West Dunbartonshire and the actions that have been taken to minimise these.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the HSCP Board note the content of the report and the effort being made to continue to prioritise a sustained reduction in those whose discharge is delayed.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** As updated to the HSCP Board in August, the Covid pandemic has had significant impact on the safe discharge of people from hospital to home or to a homely setting, nationally and within our HSCP. West Dunbartonshire has experienced the impact on discharges in various ways:

- Care homes having to close to admissions due to outbreaks and staffing issues
- Legislative processes being slowed due to court closures and resultant backlog of cases. As the majority of delayed discharges in West Dunbartonshire relate to Adults with Incapacity (AWI), complex Mental Health or Learning Disability cases these court delays have impacted and continue to impact on the timescales to process AWI cases. There have also been delays relating to progress by Solicitors.
- As this can be a challenging and emotional time for families, we have seen delays attributed to patients' representatives deciding on or progressing with legal processes and the required inputs around Guardianship.

Improvement work was initiated which included a range of actions:

- The prioritisation of assessments by the Hospital Discharge Team and a 'discharge to assess' policy.

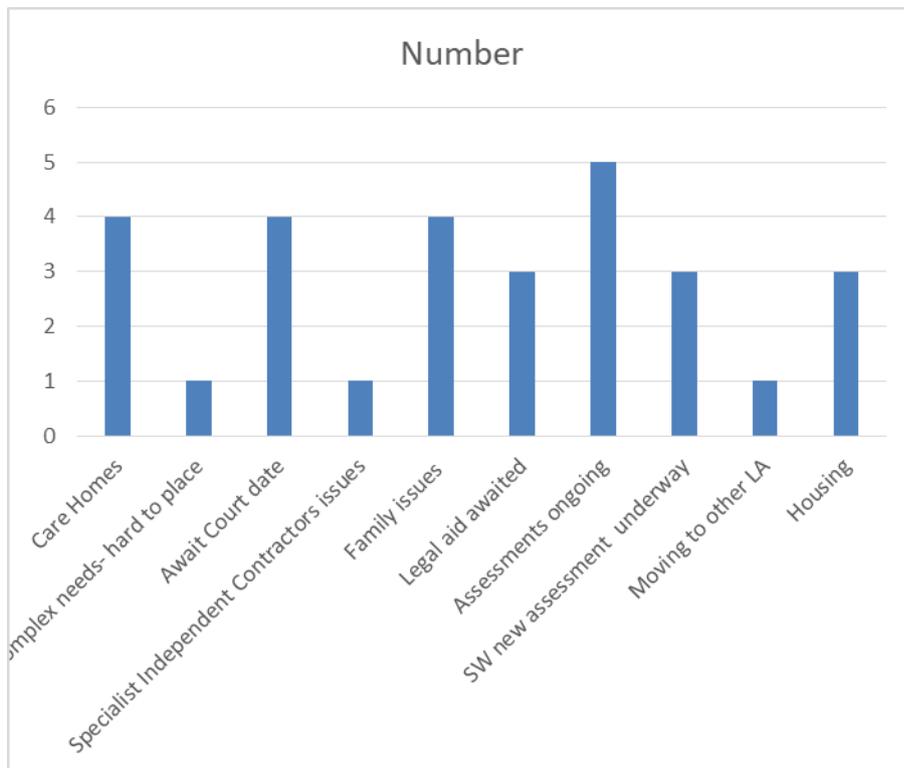
- PCR Testing in hospital prior to discharge to care homes, and close partnership working with Independent Contractors to accelerate discharges to Homes.
- Daily 'delayed discharge' meetings to review named lists of those being flagged as delays and ensure targeted and appropriate action was being taken

#### 4. Main Issues

4.1 Within West Dunbartonshire there are ongoing, multifaceted approaches underway to address delays. This is happening through a range of targeted interventions to allow the HSCP to demonstrate an impact on reducing delays.

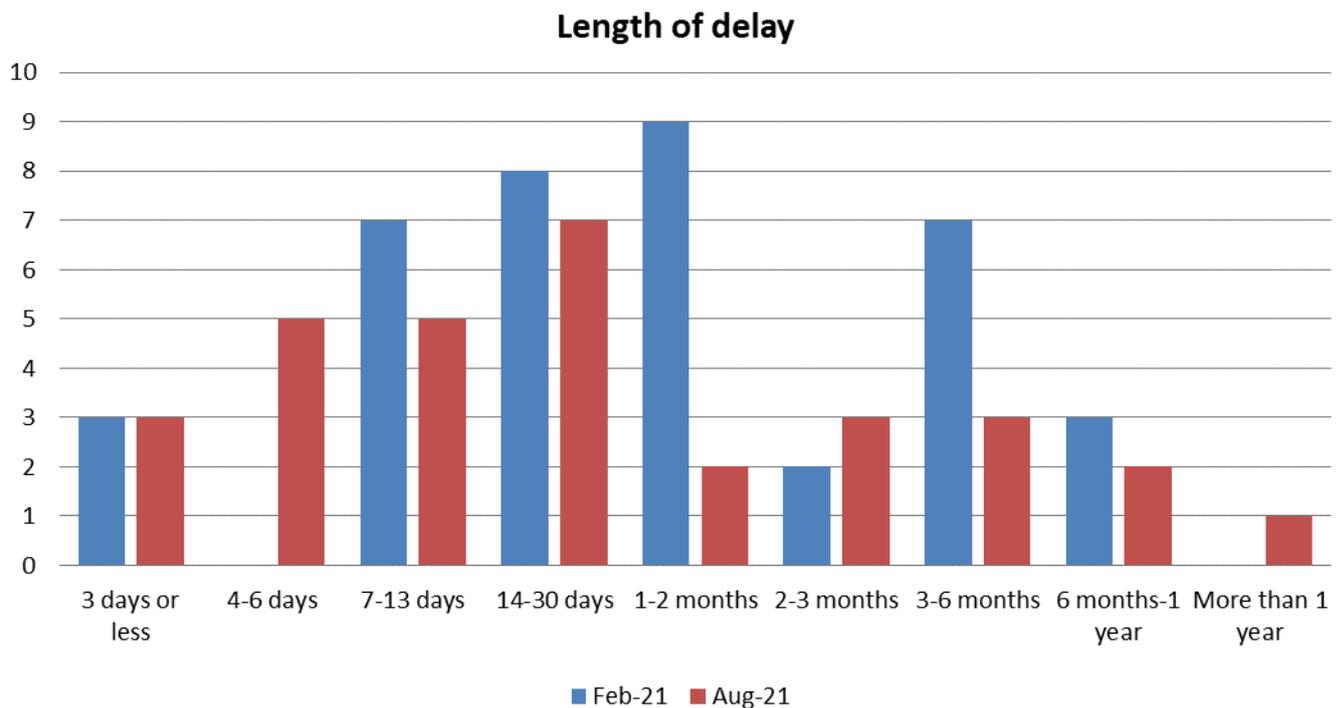
4.2 This has been a recurring issue for a number of months, and a paper was presented at the HSCP Board in August 2021 to provide assurance of the commitment to address this situation, and plans to monitor a sustained improvement.

4.3 As of 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 the delayed discharge report identifies 29 people who have been deemed medically fit for discharge. The graph below demonstrates the themes for these delays:

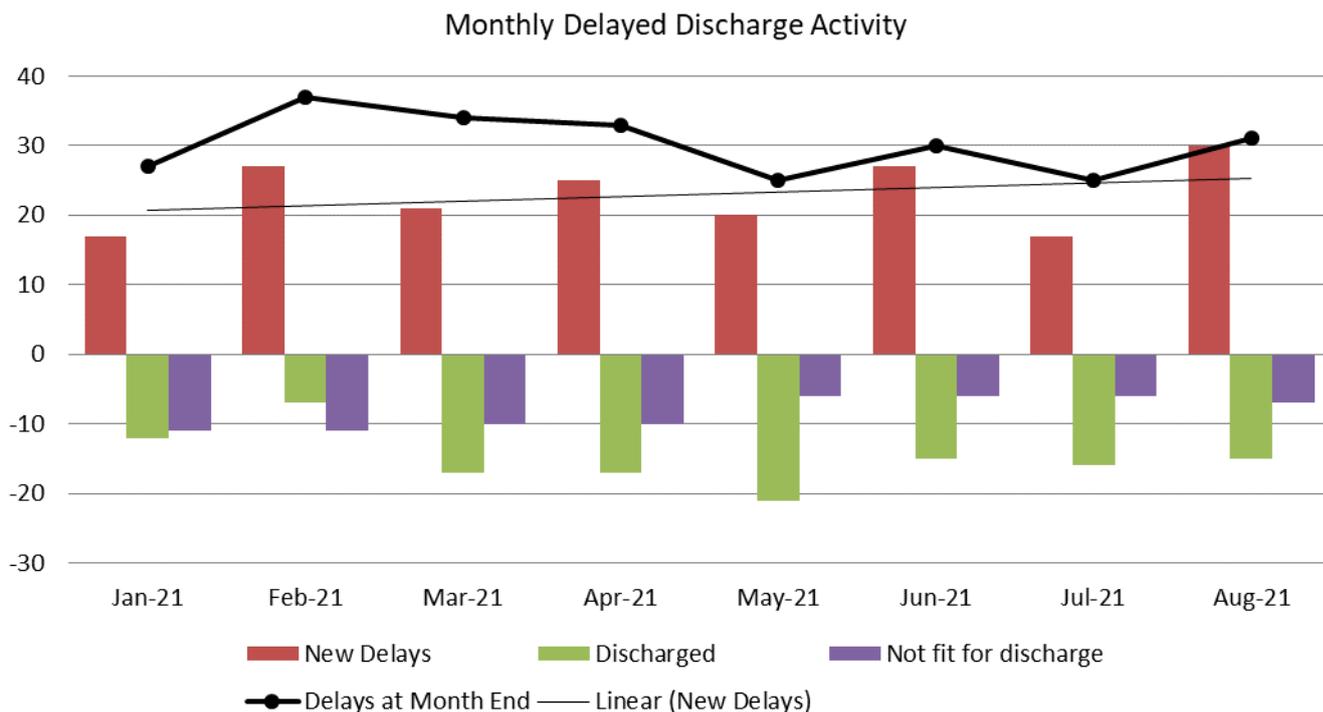


**4.4** The delays are between 0 to 398 days. The reasons for these are complex and 17 of these people are relating to various Adults with Incapacity (AWI) issues. Our delays trajectory has shown positive signs of reducing and we are beginning to see some movement in longer delays and while the trend in new delays is increasing these people are being discharged more quickly.

- Mid-Feb 2021: 74% of delays were of 2 weeks or more; 26% were 3 months or more.
- 31st Aug 2021: 58% of delays were 2 weeks or more; 19% were 3 months or more



**4.5** Between January 2021 and August 2021 there have been 184 new delayed discharges and 120 of these individuals have been discharged home or to an appropriate care placement. 67 discharges were diverted partway through the process as the person became no longer fit for discharge at that point. Our trajectory was downward but increased in August, impacted to a degree by the increasing number of Covid within staff in care homes, causing a delay in their ability to take admissions.



**4.6** While there has been some improvement in performance as a result of the improvement activity to date, we acknowledge that the delayed discharge figures fluctuate and this is reflective of the issues behind each of the delays and the complexities within these. Recent workshops within Greater Glasgow and Clyde, led by Brian Slater, Scottish Government Lead, have offered a platform for Acute Services and HSCPs to participate in workshops to consider the interdependencies and the need for partnership working at the primary and secondary interface to continue to build and share good practice.

**4.7** The Unscheduled Care Joint Commissioning Design & Delivery Plan contributes to the direction of travel to address and monitor the various components that can impact on reducing delays.

**4.8** The work of the Hospital Discharge Team in their commitment to deliver a robust, rapid and safe discharge from point of being deemed 'fit for discharge' is to be commended. They continue to scrutinise all referrals and ensure appropriate steps are taken timeously to reduce avoidable delays. Delays are occasionally coded to be relating to Housing issues. The situations behind these codes are person specific and range from:

- Specialist cleaning due to significant areas of concern about the state of the property e.g. human / animal waste, infestations, hoarding.
- Housing repairs e.g. wiring or remedial repair work due to flooding
- Referrals for sheltered housing
- Aids and adaptations e.g. sensory impairment equipment.

**4.9** Partnership working across housing and the Hospital Discharge Team is important to facilitate access to these services, in tandem with financial resources to expedite such requirements.

**5. Options Appraisal**

**5.1** Not required for this report

**6. People Implications**

**6.1** None

**7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

**7.1** None

**8. Risk Analysis**

**8.1** There will be a potential for impact on acute services

**9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**9.1** Not required for this report

**10. Environmental Sustainability**

**10.1** Not required for this report

**11. Consultation**

**11.1** Not required for this report

**12. Strategic Assessment**

**12.1** Not required for this report

**13. Directions**

**13.1** Not required for this report

Name	Fiona Taylor
Designation	Acting Head of Health and Community Care
Date	15 September 2021

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Person to Contact: Fiona Taylor

Appendices: None

Background Papers: N/A