

Agenda Item 10

Dudley Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 26th September 2012

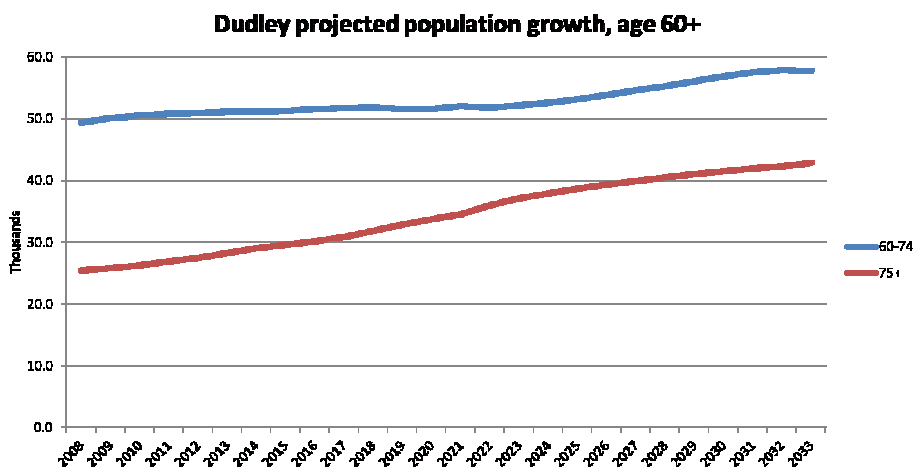
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
Elderly Care transformation

1.0 Purpose of Report

This document is presented to the Dudley Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. It sets out to inform the Committee on progress with recent improvements to Elderly Care services at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, and further planned improvements.

2.0 Background

Approximately 2/3 of inpatients in hospital are older people (aged 65 and above). There is a growing elderly population in Dudley. In particular, the number of people aged 75 and over is expected to rise by over 65% in the next 20-25 years¹.



A significant number of reports in recent years have highlighted the need to improve the quality of care for older people²⁻¹⁴. The Dudley Group has been working on a number of initiatives outlined below, and is developing further proposals to improve the quality of care for older people too.

3.0 Developments

Recent initiatives have been developed following a Transformation Lean Action Week involving cross-discipline representation from Elderly Care services to identify where improvements can be made. Following the week, action plans were drawn up which has resulted in the following:

- Consultant-led Geriatric Medicine input to the Acute Medical Unit, to get specialist expertise to the patient as early as possible in their admission (2011)
- Multi-Disciplinary Team approach; recognising that many older people have complex needs (2011)
- Routine patient/relatives meetings and case conferences, to involve relatives in jointly planning care for their loved one (2011). This also provides an opportunity to gather feedback from patients and relatives to help improve our services.
- Rapid-access domiciliary visits (<24/48hrs), to provide urgent specialist opinion and advice to GP colleagues (2011).

Further recent initiatives:

- Collaboration between Geriatric Medicine and Orthopaedics to provide the Ortho-Geriatric unit, which has recently (2011) been rated as one of the top performing units in the region¹⁵
- Introduction of nutritional support workers, recognising the crucial importance of maintaining good nutritional intake (2011)

Future Plans:

- Maintain the high standards in Ortho-Geriatrics
- Consolidate and refine Geriatric Medicine input into the Acute Medical Unit
- Introduce Geriatric Medicine input for older people undergoing surgery
- Screen all emergency admissions that are aged 75 and above for Dementia, and conduct a full assessment on those that are screened at risk.
- Continue to actively participate in the development of the Dudley Dementia Strategy, led by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Develop a dedicated Dementia unit for the most complex Dementia patients, to provide the best environment possible for this patient group
- Introduce a 24/7 Mental Health service based at Russells Hall Hospital

A presentation on Elderly Care services was made to our Council of Governors Strategy Committee in July 2012 to update that Committee on the above.

4.0 Guidelines

Recent initiatives and future plans take into account the wide range of literature and guidance on the care of older people. Please see the references section below for some relevant publications.

5.0 Equality Impact

Our Elderly Care services specialise in the treatment of frail patients with multiple, and often complex, co-morbidities. They treat patients on the basis of need, not age. There is no age restriction on access to Elderly Care services.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 For information
- 6.2 Reassurance that we are working on improving the current system

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