

Committee: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Date: 30 October
Subject: Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs)	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Ellie Ward, Interim Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

This report provides a high-level update on the occurrence of Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs) for hospital to continuing health care or social care provision for residents within the City of London.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. A DTOC occurs when a person is medically fit to be discharged from acute or mental health care setting – typically a hospital, but this discharge is delayed for a range of non-medical reasons such as a person awaiting a care package in their own home or awaiting assessment for further non-acute NHS care.
2. DTOC are recorded in terms of the number of days of delay for a single patient from when they are medically fit to be discharged to the date when the discharge or transfer occurs.
3. The recording of DTOC aims to:
 - Achieve most effective use of hospital resources and reduce any capacity pressure in terms of bed availability
 - Maximise the independence and wellbeing of patients – people often recuperate better at home and are less at risk of contracting hospital infections.
4. Older people who stay in a hospital bed longer than required also risk losing significant muscle mass which in turn can impact on their mobility and independence.

Current Position

5. Improving transfers of care is a government priority and a key focus of action within local health and care systems. At present the trend of DTOC on a national scale shows a reduction in delays.

6. The Department of Health mandate to NHS England for 2017/18 set an explicit target to reduce delayed transfers to the level where they occupied no more than 3.5 per cent of available NHS bed days by September 2017.

City of London

7. During 2018/19, there were a total of 329 days of DTOCs for City of London residents (Chart 1 appended). The total number of days of DTOC over the year exceeded the annual target set by 74 days.
8. The bulk of the delayed days were attributable to the NHS (309 days) with the most common reason being awaiting completion of assessment. This performance was against a target of target of 182, and therefore was 70% over target. A further 20 delayed days were attributable to social care - however this was considerably below the social care target of 73 days.
9. Over the 2018/19 period, 167 days of NHS delays (54%) were due to awaiting completion of an assessment (Chart 2 appended). Further reasons for delay include patients awaiting further non-acute care (17%), residential home placement or availability (12%).
10. Delay transfer can also be the consequence of:
 - Capacity issues concerning residential care homes and care packages
 - Pressures caused by differing Health / Social Care priorities
 - Budget constraints
 - Family choice and self-funding
 - The need for a sustainable and county-wide approach to delays across all agencies.
11. Those recorded as awaiting a residential home placement includes both self-funders and those accessing via NHS.
12. To reduce delays resulting from assessment, the City and Hackney CCG and partner local authorities are operating a “placements without prejudice” approach. This involves a local authority providing interim care packages whilst the assessment is taking place. If the assessment identifies the on-going need as continuing health care (and not social care) the local authorities is reimbursed.
13. The City of London Corporation social care services operate a range of approaches to minimise DTOC. They include:
 - An Intensive Home Care Rapid Response Service to facilitate out of hours and early hospital discharge where safe to do so.
 - The Care Navigator Scheme to support safe hospital discharge and links into other services such as reablement or social care assessment to avoid any delays

Conclusion

14. The City of London Corporation continues to work with the NHS to contribute to a system wide approach to minimising the number of DTOC.

Appendices

Appendix – Chart 1 - Total number of DTOC in City of London Corporation
Chart 2 - Reasons for delay

Ellie Ward
Interim Head of Strategy and Performance

T: 020 7332 1535

E:

Ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendices

Chart 1 - Total number of DTOC in City of London Corporation

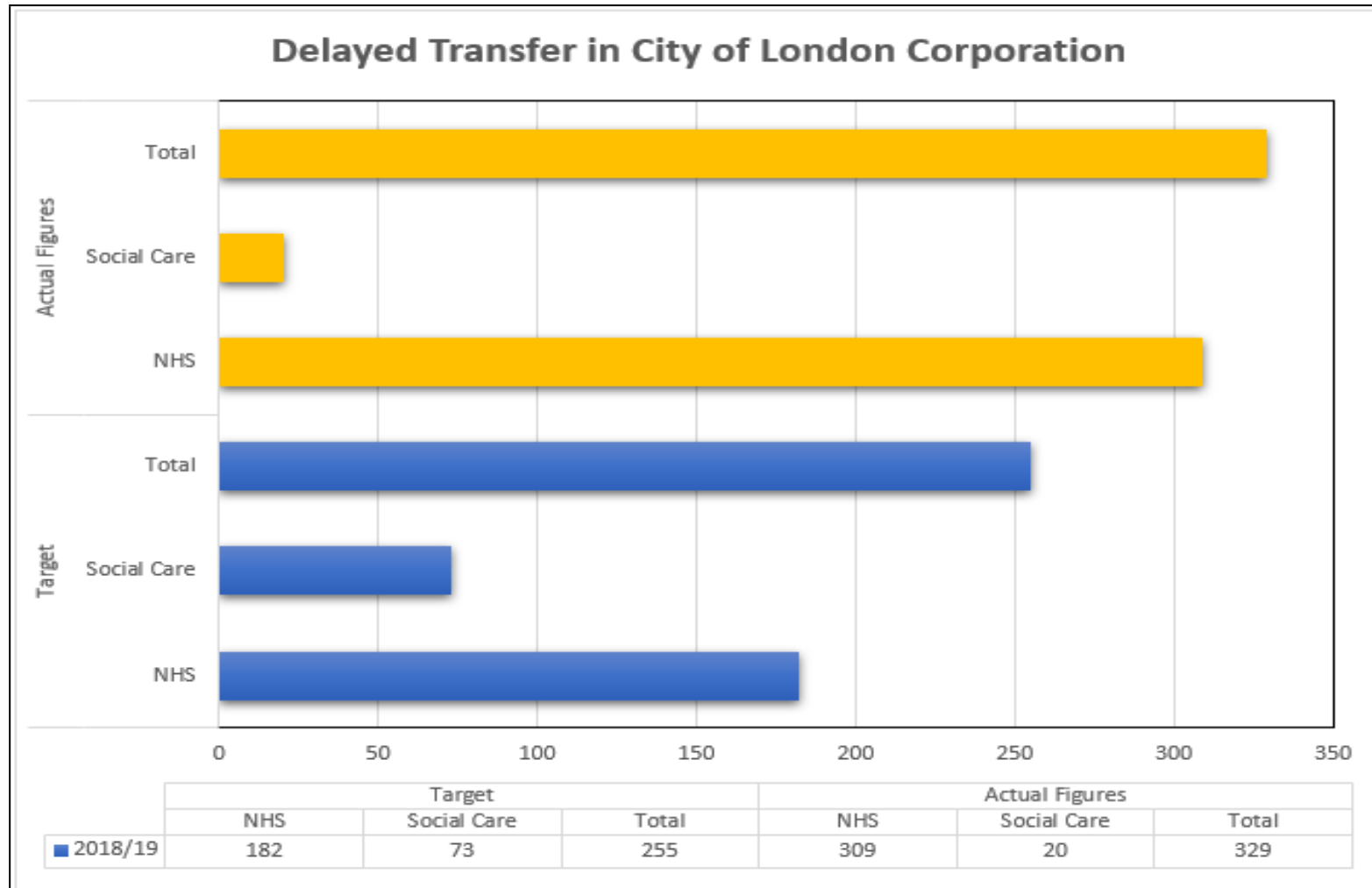
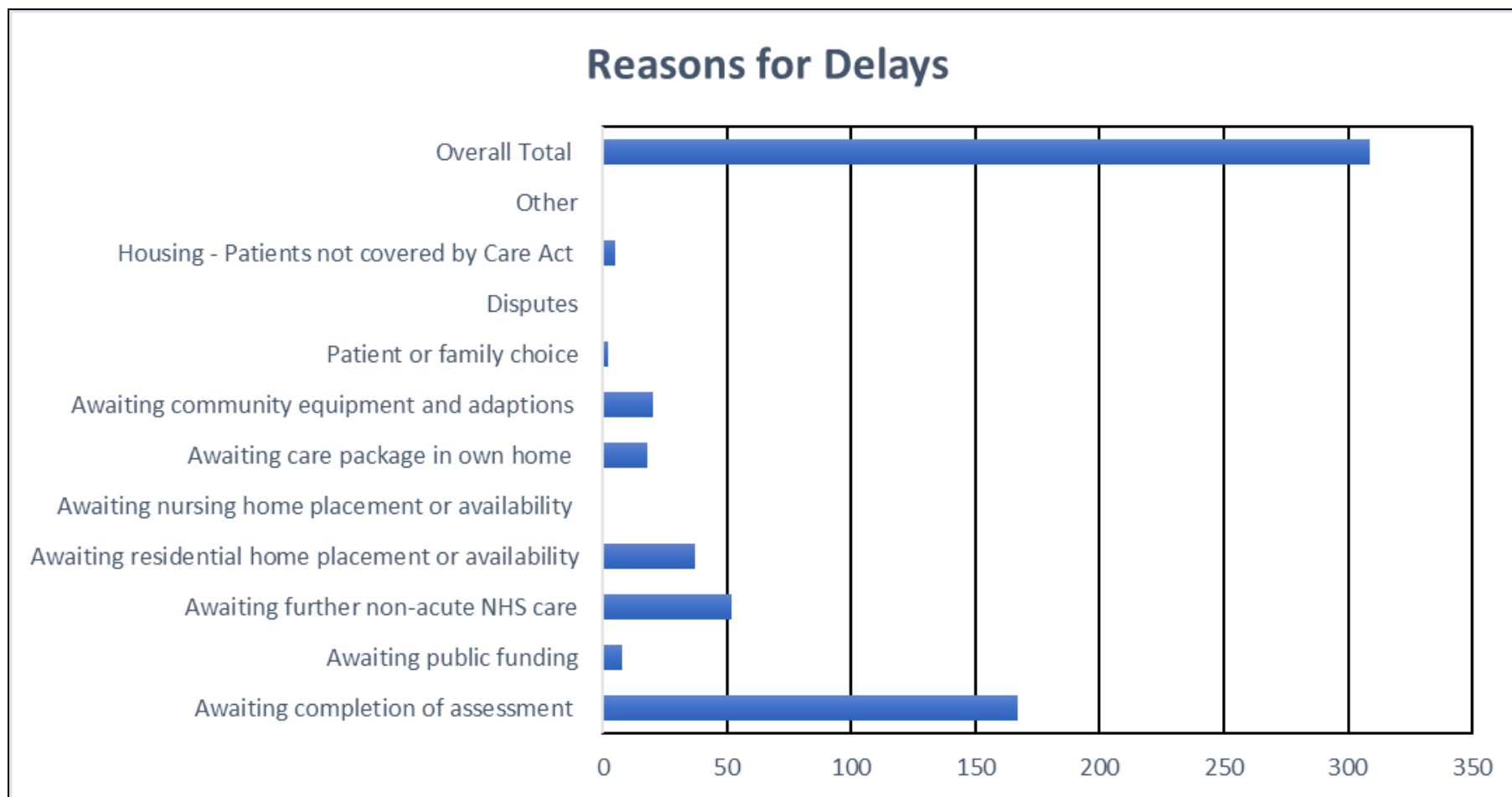


Chart 2: Reasons for delay



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