

HOSC Briefing Paper: Review of Falls in Older People in Hampshire

1 Background

- 1.1 The interest of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which appointed the Review Panel was initially prompted by an assertion by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) that falls constituted 30% of their 999 calls. This Panel considered it important therefore to understand better falls demand and falls prevention services in Hampshire.
- 1.2 Falls in the elderly population not only affect confidence but increase the risk of injury to those individuals who fall; falls are also responsible for significant demand for health and social care services. Published evidence has consistently highlighted the need to proactively reduce the risk of falls and subsequent injuries as the numbers of older people increase in relation to the general population.
- 1.3 In September 2010 the Review Panel invited NHS Trusts and other stakeholder organisations to provide evidence about falls and falls prevention services commissioned or provided in Hampshire. This paper summarises the responses received against three key themes of interest identified by the Panel, specifically:
 - Overall strategy, commissioning and integration
 - Local demand and data
 - Success measures and cost effectiveness

2 The Panel's conclusions

- 2.1 The Review Panel concluded that whilst there are pockets of innovation and integrated working in localities, there is little evidence of an overall integrated strategy for falls and falls prevention or any action plan to support its implementation. Where work has been progressed, it has been provider led.
- 2.2 The Review Panel also concluded that the production and communication of good reliable data about falls demand, costs and the cost effectiveness of falls prevention approaches or initiatives is usually either very difficult or impossible to obtain, apart from a few examples of good practice.
- 2.3 Because of the above issues the Panel also concluded that until these are addressed and remedied, the necessary evidence required to deliver integrated, more effective and cost effective services will be difficult to find and therefore they need to be addressed as a priority if demand is to be effectively managed and unnecessary falls prevented or reduced.

3 The Panel's recommendations

Recommendation One

- 3.1 That NHS Hampshire work together with providers of health and social care to develop an integrated falls and bone health strategy to meet agreed local needs and priorities as well as the DoH criteria for a 'good' strategy including an action plan for delivery. *An indicative timeframe would be for this strategy to be shared with the HOSC at its meeting in September 2011.*

Recommendation Two

- 3.2 That NHS Hampshire work together with providers of health and social care to update existing service specifications and care pathways to ensure the integration of services that clearly set out the roles, handover protocols and responsibilities for different partners, as indicated in the DoH criteria for a good strategy. This work will take account of the examples of good practice identified in this document. *An indicative timeframe would be for these specifications and pathways to be shared with the HOSC at its meeting in September 2011.*

Recommendation Three

- 3.3 That NHS Hampshire work together with providers of health and social care to agree what information will be required to support the effective commissioning and delivery of falls services, and agree how and where the data need to be produced, shared and made accessible. *An indicative timeframe would be for the data and information communication framework/plan to be shared with the HOSC at its meeting in September 2011.*

Recommendation Four

- 3.4 That NHS Hampshire work with providers of health and social care to identify within an agreed framework how key aspects and components of integrated working can and should be measured to demonstrate success, cost effectiveness and improved patient outcomes. *An indicative timeframe would be for the framework of success measures to be shared with the HOSC at its meeting in September 2011.*

Recommendation

That the Committee approve the conclusions and recommendations of the Review Panel for Falls in Older People in Hampshire