

INTERNAL AUDIT OF DELAYED DISCHARGE

The Committee considered a report by the Internal Auditor (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the findings of a recent internal audit of the risks in relation to delayed discharge.

The Internal Auditors report, which was attached to the report at Appendix 1, reviewed the controls in place in relation to delayed discharge. It concluded that the controls were satisfactory, though the level of risk remained high and planned actions needed to be successfully implemented to mitigate risk further and improve performance.

The report noted that one of the key performance indicators, the number of days people spent in hospital when ready to be discharged, had shown an increase in the figure per 1000 population and was over the target which had been set. There were a set of five controls in place to address these issues however it was noted that the performance was poor. Reasons for this included the level of demand for care at home support not being met by providers and the lack of care home beds available in West Lothian. In response to questions, the Director provided an update on each of the five controls.

A range of actions which had been progressed to improve performance were outlined in the report. Work was also being undertaken by the Frail Elderly Programme Board and additional activity was underway to secure additional temporary beds to relieve the situation on an interim basis until permanent beds could be secured.

The Committee was asked to consider the internal audit report and its findings and to note that control was considered to be satisfactory.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.