

DELAYED DISCHARGES – POSITION AT 15 FEBRUARY 2006

NHS Lanarkshire has 103 delayed discharges at 15 February 2006. This represents an increase of 13 from the previous month. The Scottish Executive has set the target for the maximum number of delayed discharges at 15 April 2006 at 66.

The Central Monitoring Group (CMG), supported by each Locality Area Group (LAG), continue to examine options to reduce the number of delayed discharges and ensure that patients with potential for rehabilitation and for living with appropriate support at home are given that opportunity. That remains a priority.

The most significant factor in terms of number of delayed discharges is patients waiting funding to nursing home accommodation. Despite the commitment to rehabilitation and for supporting people at home, there are 35 patients waiting funding to nursing home accommodation. That is considered the most appropriate outcome for those individuals. That however represents a third of all delayed discharges. At present, funding is not available to place those patients in nursing home accommodation. The consequence is that they continue to occupy a hospital bed. Whilst every effort is made to minimize the number of delayed discharges in acute hospital beds, there are currently in excess of ten delayed discharges in that category.

It will not be possible to progress towards the April 2006 target without a funding solution. A meeting of the Funding and Resources Committee that comprises representatives from each partner agency will meet in February 2006 to explore options on how this might best be addressed.

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