



**ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**  
**INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 30 OCTOBER 2019**  
**INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT: FALLS ADMISSIONS**  
**REPORT BY VICKY IRONS CHIEF OFFICER**

**ABSTRACT**

Admissions to hospital following a fall, in people aged over 65, have been increasing in Angus from 2017. This interim report considers the possible reasons and notes the intention to develop new approaches to falls and where necessary make improvements in the community, following detailed assessment and analysis of the issues.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) note the content of Appendix 1 Performance Report on Falls Admissions. A further report will be submitted to IJB in February 2020 following further assessment and analysis.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Angus IJB considered the Annual Performance Report in June 2019. The report identified positive performance across a range of national and other indicators relevant to delivering the strategic plan. However, the number of admissions to hospital following a fall in people aged over 65, continued to increase in Angus. In particular, the Report identified a marked increase in falls admissions between 2017/18 and 2018/19 which was different from the underlying national trend and unexplained. The IJB asked for this to be further considered and a report provided at a future meeting.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

A report on falls admissions and falls in our communities is attached at Appendix 1. The perception of Partnership Officers is that the underlying trend is largely due to the higher proportion of people aged over 85 living at home in Angus as a result of our progress in shifting the balance of care and supporting people to live independently in communities for as long as possible. The Angus Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-2022 recognises that everyone has a right to live a long and healthy life. An important element of the Angus Care Model focuses on supporting older people with advanced frailty recognising that frailty is not an inevitable part of ageing. For example, if people live longer at home and become frailer, the likelihood of a fall increases. It is recognised that individuals have expressed a preference to remain at home and manage that risk, with support, in preference to a move to institutional care. To mitigate this risk the Partnership Officers will develop an approach to work differently with the ageing population which is more focused on preventative approaches and includes a review of the range and availability of methods, for example, strength and seated-exercise and balance training.

The increase in falls admissions between 2017/18 and 2018/19 appears to be related to a change in the pathway and data coding involving the Accident and Emergency (A&E) and Medicine for the Elderly, for example, if a patient transfers from A&E to a ward area for day treatment, this is counted as a hospital admission, though they leave the department later that day. This improved pathway does ensure that older people experience a holistic assessment before returning home but it is now identified in the data coding as an admission. Previously this would not have been counted in the admission statistics as patients would have been discharged from A&E directly. Again this change in the patient pathway should be seen as a positive improvement aimed at delivering better outcomes for patients with direct access to Medicine for the Elderly support and review before returning home.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

The Partnership requires to continue to develop approaches to work with an ageing population which are focused on prevention and enablement to deliver the shift in the balance of care that is identified and supported in the Strategic Commissioning Plan. A range of national agencies including Information Services Division (ISD), Health Improvement Scotland ihub, the Scottish Government Office of the Chief Designer and FutureGov have all agreed to work with Partnership Officers Angus to further explore improvement opportunities in the area of falls and the management of falls.

Further focused work is required on the detailed analysis. It is proposed that a concluding report is submitted to IJB in February 2020.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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Appendices:

Interim Performance Report: Falls Admissions September 2019