

ORAL QUESTION FOR TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2024

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North will ask the following question of the Minister for Health and Social Services –

“Will the Minister explain what plans exists, if any, to ensure there is sufficient aftercare provision in the community to enable timely patient discharge from the hospital?”

Written Answer provided in accordance with Standing Order 63(9)

Sir, at the present time we have approximately 30 individuals waiting to be discharged from hospital. I think this is probably common knowledge, but I must say, it's far from ideal.

In the majority of cases, people are waiting in hospital for access to nursing home beds and specialist dementia care, both of which are currently in short supply. That said, ongoing collaboration between the government and the care sector, has resulted in some efficiencies being made, so we have seen a reduction in the time taken to notify and allocate home care packages. We've also developed an excellent multi-disciplinary discharge team at the hospital, and they're now meeting weekly to oversee and support timely discharge planning.

As far as appropriate dementia facilities are concerned, the New Hospital Facilities team are looking to prioritise them on the Health Village site in St Saviour. But in the meantime, further efforts are being made to improve the situation, wherever possible. These include work to develop a Telecare system to support people at home; work to increase capacity of specialist dementia care in the community, as part of the Dementia Action Plan and a review (and further development) of the models of community services provided by HCS and its partners.

I hope that answers the question to the Deputy's satisfaction, Sir