

Response from Cllr John Spence to Cllr Ivan Henderson, in respect of re-ablement (provided on 8 Dec 2021)

Ivan,

Comparisons with Regional and England measures indicate that Essex have slightly higher percentages of people remaining home after 91 days, with our latest annual report showing 83% of adults are at home at day 91. Unfortunately we do not hold information on the numbers that return to hospital thereafter. However, our regular reporting shows that 81% of adults who start a programme of reablement finish their planned intervention. Of those who do not, 16% return to hospital with a further 2% admitted to residential or nursing care.

Reablement providers are currently experiencing similar pressures to those in the longer term domiciliary market - for example, reablement providers have seen an increase in numbers of staff lost to the leisure and retail sectors in recent months alongside difficulty in recruiting new staff and this is having an impact on service delivery. This is having the impact of reducing capacity to undertake assessments to start or finish the reablement service and is also leading to an increase in the length of stay for each adult within the reablement service, which is as a result of those requiring ongoing care being held up due to delays in securing a new long-term provider – these new providers are also lacking care staff, and therefore are struggling to slot in assessments for new starters.

This increase in length of stay has impacted on the number of people able to start the service as reablement resource is being utilised for adults that should have exited for long term care. For adults that do start the service, however, we are seeing good outcomes with circa 60% leaving ECL self Caring. As a result of new ways of working recently implemented as part of the Connect programme we are also beginning to see adults reaching their goals within ECL in less time than previously.

The Council is working with ECL, and with the wider homecare market, to try to address workforce capacity issues. These challenges are being experienced nationally.

Regards, John

Cllr John Spence CBE
Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

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