

# Reducing bed occupancy and length of stay on Ivory (older adult) ward

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**Background:** The bed occupancy and length of stay on Ivory ward were above the averages for the Trust and the other two functional older adult mental health wards.

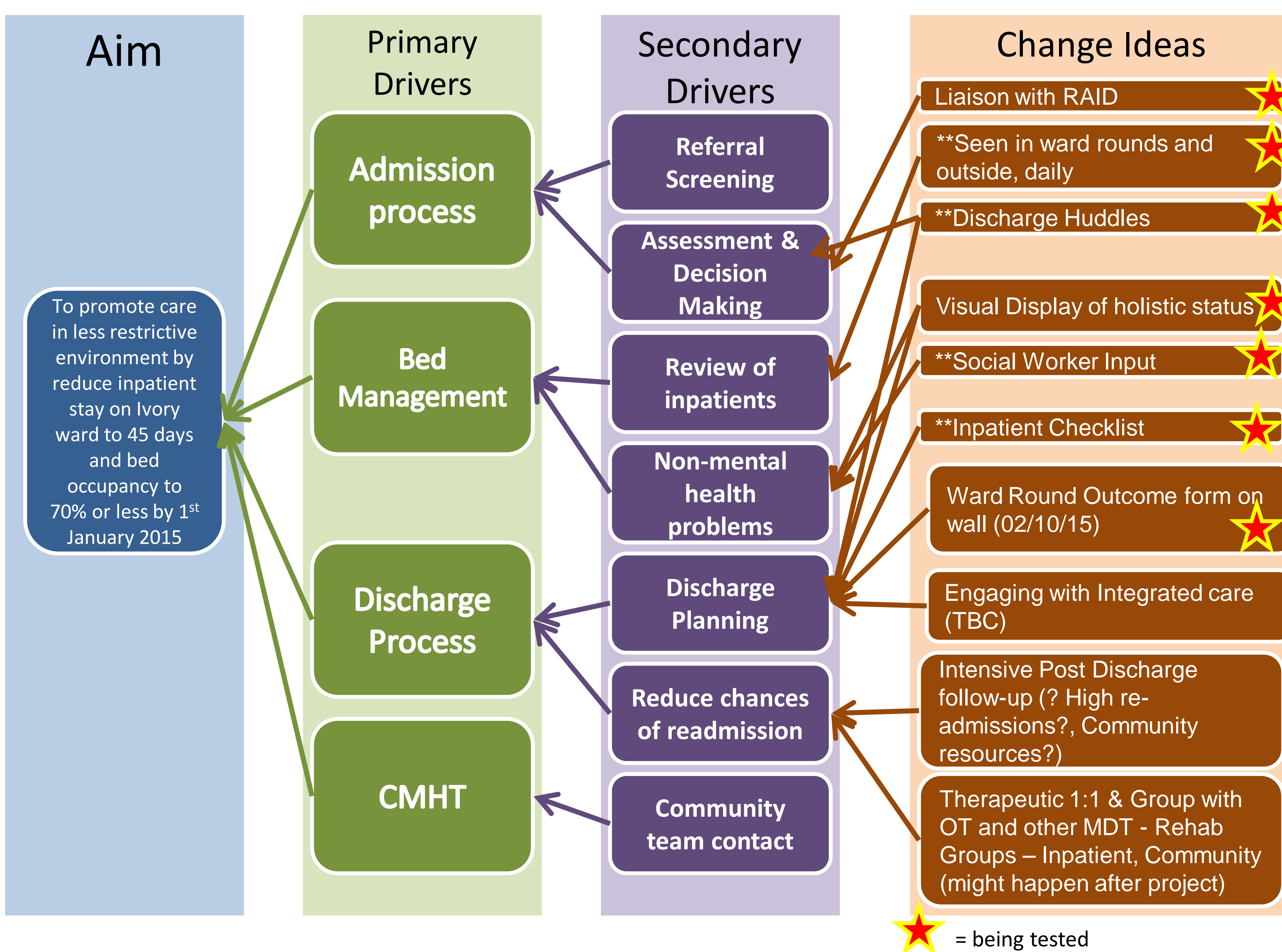
**Problems identified:**

**WARD** – delays in the identification, timely allocation and completion of tasks, clarity of care pathways, discharge facilitation.

**CMHT** – enabling admission avoidance and discharge facilitation

**Social Services** – joint working and advisory role in placements, funding and submission of cases to Panel

**Aim:** To reduce the bed occupancy on Ivory Ward to 70% and the length of stay to 45 days by January 2016



**Change ideas:**  
 Inpatient care pathway checklist  
 Visual management (digital board)  
 Daily huddles  
 Senior social worker input and ward-based social worker  
 Interface with CMHT (admission avoidance and discharge facilitation)  
 Interface with RAID

**What has the project achieved:**

- Sustained improvement in bed occupancy, reduced by 31% to a new mean of 57%
- Length of stay for the first time, is starting to show signs of reduction and has been below the 45 day target for 5 months

**Learning:**

- To encourage staff to take ownership of the project
- To develop skills in running PDSAs
- To identify modifiable factors

