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## Health Scrutiny Committee

30 March 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### Annual Health Check 2008/2009

#### Summary

1. This report is to update Members on further developments in relation to the Annual Health Check 2008/2009.

#### Background

2. The Healthcare Commission is an independent body, which is responsible for assessing and reporting on the performance of NHS and other health care organisations.
3. The Annual Health Check is the system that the Healthcare Commission uses to assess the performance of all NHS trusts and a few other types of organisation in the NHS in England. In 2008/2009 it will be assessing:
  - Acute Trusts (including Foundation Trusts)
  - Ambulance Trusts
  - Mental Health Trusts (including Foundation Trusts)
  - Learning Disability Trusts
  - Primary Care Trusts (both as providers and commissioners of care)
  - Care Trusts
  - The Health Protection Agency
  - NHS Direct
  - NHS Blood & Transplant
4. The Healthcare Commission has a statutory duty to publish an annual rating of performance for each organisation. This is done in two parts. The first is a score for quality of services. For most organisations, this is in two parts: an assessment of compliance with core standards set by the Department of Health, on whether requirements have been met, and an assessment based on indicators. The core standards set out the basic standards of healthcare that patients can expect to receive. They cover areas of real importance to patients such as the safety and quality of care and the accessibility of services. The indicators are based on a set of 'vital signs' that are published

by the Department of Health to provide a national framework of priority issues within which local services are to be planned and provided.

5. In 2008/2009, a score on the quality of financial management, derived from work done by the Audit Commission for non-Foundation Trusts and Monitor for Foundation Trusts, will form the second part of the rating. This replaces the 'use of resources' score in previous years.
6. To demonstrate achievement of the core standards NHS Trust Boards are required to make a self-assessment and a public declaration on the extent to which they consider that they have met the standards. These declarations can be supplemented by third party comments from partners in the community such as Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These are considered to be important as they substantiate the self-assessments and ensure that different perspectives are included in the returns.
7. The Annual Health Check will now separately assess Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in their roles as commissioners and providers of services. Further information can be found on the Healthcare Commission website which is frequently updated.

<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk>

### **Further information**

8. The criteria for assessing the core standards is now available at the above website address. Due to the length of the documentation it has not been included as part of the printed agenda but is viewable as part of the on-line agenda as Annexes 1, 2 and 3.
9. The core standards for all of the Trusts fall into 7 main domains, which are then split down into further subsidiary areas. The core standards domains are as follows:
  - Safety
  - Clinical and cost effectiveness
  - Governance
  - Patient Focus
  - Accessible and responsive care
  - Care environments and amenities
  - Public health
10. The Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) will be attending the meeting and presenting their draft declaration to the Committee.

## **Consultation**

11. At the meeting on 5th January 2009 Members of the Committee agreed to delegate to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Wiseman, the responsibility of creating a commentary on the declarations of any of the NHS Trusts that they feel appropriate. These comments will then be circulated to all Committee Members for their input prior to being forwarded to the relevant Trusts. The three Trusts are now in the process of preparing their draft declarations and the delegated Members of the Committee will be preparing the Committee's commentaries in early April 2009.
12. The Chair, Councillor Wiseman and the Scrutiny Officer have also attended a short presentation given by the Deputy Director of Performance and Compliance at York Hospital. This informed them of the processes that the Hospital would undertake in order to produce their draft declaration.

## **Options**

13. This report is for information only.

## **Analysis**

14. Evidence based information about how patients and the public are experiencing NHS services forms a valuable contribution to the Trusts' self-assessment. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are invited to comment because the Healthcare Commission recognises that information collected in scrutiny reviews and through discussions between Health Scrutiny Committees and NHS Trusts can provide a patient and public experience that cannot be collected from anywhere else.
15. Due to the large number of core standards Members may wish to consider commenting on some rather than all of the standards. For example, they may chose to focus on one of the seven core standard domains rather than attempting to comment on all of them.

## **Corporate Priorities**

16. This relates to the following Corporate Priority:

'Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.'

## **Implications**

17. There are no known financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, IT or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

## **Risk Management**

18. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no known risks associated with this report.

## Recommendations

19. Members are asked to note the report.

Reason: To enable the Health Scrutiny Committee to carry out their duty to promote the health needs of the people they represent.

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### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### Background Papers:

None

**Annexes (viewable as part of the on-line agenda or through the Healthcare Commission's website.)**

Annex 1 Criteria for assessing core standards in 2008/09 (Acute Trusts)  
Annex 2 Criteria for assessing core standards in 2008/09 (Ambulance Trusts)  
Annex 3 Criteria for assessing core standards in 2008/09 (Primary Care Trusts)