
Health Scrutiny Committee

07 January 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Annual Health Check 2007/2008

Summary

1. This report is to ask members to consider how they wish to respond to the Healthcare Commission's request for comments on the annual health check process for trusts in 2008.

Background

2. The Healthcare Commission is an independent body which is responsible for assessing and reporting on the performance of NHS and other healthcare organisations. .
3. In 2005/6 they introduced a new system of assessment for the NHS – the annual health check. This looks at a broader range of performance than the previous system of star ratings. A key part of the annual health check is the rating of every NHS organisation on quality of services and use of resources. The aim is to ensure that healthcare organisations offer high quality services as well as value for money.
4. The government published *Standards for Better Health* in July 2004 which set out the core standards which trusts are to be assessed against. They are listed in the document attached at Annex A.
5. 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 (OSCs). These are considered to be important as they substantiate the self-assessments and ensure that different perspectives are included in the returns. OSCs can provide important feedback to the Healthcare Commission from communities and their elected representatives that can help develop understanding as

to how the trusts are performing. Also third party commentaries help the commission to ensure that trusts are putting patients and the public at the heart of everything they do.

6. Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs) are also invited to make commentaries on their relevant trusts. Because the PPIFs are now in transition they are being encouraged to complete their contributions by early January 2008. Representatives of local PPIFs have been invited to this meeting to let members know if they wish to exchange views about local trusts and perhaps co-ordinate efforts.
7. The former Social Services and Health Scrutiny Committee participated in the first health check in 2005/6, and this Committee commented in 2006/7.
8. Final declarations will be due from the trusts by the end of April 2008. It will important to send the Committee's comments to the trusts in good time for them to be included with the declarations. Representatives of the trusts have been invited to this meeting to advise members on their timetables for producing their declarations.

Consultation

9. Considerable consultation and co-ordination with the relevant NHS Trusts will be required to make the contribution of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Options

10. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to make a commentary on the Annual Healthcheck of the three NHS Trusts. If so, and in view of the short timescales involved, would they be prepared to delegate the preparation of this to the Chairman and one or more representatives of the Committee, in conjunction with the Scrutiny Officer, as necessary.

Analysis

11. If members do provide evidence-based information about how patients and the public are experiencing NHS services it will form a valuable contribution to the self-assessment. OSCs are invited to comment because the Healthcare Commission recognise that information collected in Scrutiny reviews and through discussions between Health OSCs and NHS Trusts about the planning and development of health services can provide a view of patient and public experience that cannot be collected from anywhere else.

12. There are only two more scheduled formal meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee before the contributions to the declarations will need to be sent to the NHS Trusts.

Corporate Priorities

13. Relevant to Corporate Priority 6 – Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.

Implications

14. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

15. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to delegate to the Chairman and one or more other members of the Committee the task of creating a commentary on the declarations of any of the NHS Trusts that they feel appropriate, with a view to reporting back to a future meeting of this Committee.

Reason: In order to carry out their duty to promote the health needs of the people they represent.

Contact:

Author:

Barbara Boyce
Scrutiny Officer
01904 551714
barbara.boyce@york.gov.uk

details:

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Colin Langley
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Report Approved



Date 21/12/07

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Criteria for Assessing Core Standards

Annex B – Your Part in the Annual Health Check 2007/2008

Background Papers

None