

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Annual Health Check 2007/2008

Summary

1. This report is to update members on work carried out to put together a commentary to be included with the self-assessments by the local NHS trusts as part of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check for 2007/8.

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.
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. The former Social Services and Health Scrutiny Committee participated in the first health check in 2005/6, and this Committee commented in 2006/7.
7. 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.
8. At the meeting of 7 January 2008 this committee agreed that Cllrs Funnell, Kirk and Wiseman would work together to produce a commentary for each of the three trusts that impact on City of York.
9. Meetings were held with North Yorkshire and York PCT and Yorkshire Ambulance Trust on 3 March, and with York Hospitals Foundation Trust on 14 March.
10. At these meetings the members discussed the standards that it would be appropriate to comment on for each trust.
11. The members then worked together to agree a relevant commentary for each standard/trust.

Consultation

12. Members have carried consultation and co-ordination with the relevant NHS Trusts who are required to make returns to the Healthcare Commission.

Options

13. Members are asked to consider the draft commentary to be included with the Annual Healthcheck of each of the three NHS Trusts (to follow) They can decide to send them to the trusts unamended, amend them as they see appropriate or not send remarks on a particular standard.

Analysis

14. 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.

Corporate Priorities

15. 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

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to consider the draft commentaries and decide if they wish for them to be forwarded to the NHS trusts for inclusion with their declaration to the Healthcare Commission

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

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Report Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes Annex A – Draft commentaries to follow

Background Papers

Revised criteria for assessing the core standards, Healthcare Commission November 2007

<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/serviceproviderinformation/annualhealthcheck/annualhealthcheck2007/2008/criteriaforassessingcorestandards.cfm>