

NHS QUALITY ACCOUNTS – RESPONDING TO REQUEST TO COMMENT

- To:** HEALTH COMMITTEE
- Meeting Date:** 10 March 2016
- From** The Monitoring Officer
- Electoral division(s):** All
- Forward Plan ref:** Not applicable
- Purpose:** To inform the Committee of the requirement, as part of its Health Scrutiny function, to comment on Quality Accounts provided by NHS Provider Trusts.
- Recommendation:** The Health Committee is asked to note the requirement to comment on Quality Accounts and endorse the proposed process for doing so.
- a) Identify which NHS Provider Trusts Quality Accounts the Health Committee intends to respond to
 - b) Establish a member led task and finish group (identify which members to participate)
 - c) Finalise draft statements at 12th May Health Committee Meeting
 - d) Agree an approach for Quality Accounts received after 12th May 2016.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Kate Parker
Post:	Head of Public Health Programmes
Email:	Kate.parker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01480 379561

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 NHS Healthcare providers are required under the Health Act 2009 to produce an annual Quality Account report. A Quality Account is a report about the quality of services by an NHS healthcare provider
- 1.2 Quality Accounts are an important way for local NHS services to report on quality and show improvements in the services they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. The quality of the services is measured by looking at patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments that patients receive and patient feedback about the care provided.
- 1.3 In 2015 the Health Committee received a number of requests to respond to NHS Providers Quality Accounts but as no process was in place to compose and formally agree a response. Those submitted by the committee did not meet the NHS healthcare providers' deadline.
- 1.4 This paper outlines an approach to ensure that the Health Committee can respond to the Quality Accounts.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 It is a requirement for NHS Healthcare providers to send to the Health Committee in its Overview and Scrutiny function a copy of their Quality Account for information or comment. Statements from Healthwatch and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees must be included in the published version.
- 2.2 NHS Healthcare providers are required to submit their final Quality Account to the Secretary of State by 30th June each year. For foundation trusts the Quality Accounts are required to be submitted to Monitor by 31st May. However each provider will have internal deadlines for receipt of any comments from relevant statutory consultees.
- 2.3 It is expected that the Health Committee will receive a number of requests to respond to their quality accounts from NHS Healthcare providers during the period 1st to 30th April 2016. However it is worth noting that in 2015 some quality accounts were received after this deadline.

Quality Accounts are expected from:

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

3. ESTABLISHING A LOCAL PROCESS

3.1 The following process is suggested to ensure that statements from the Health Committee are included in the published Quality Account.

- The Health Committee should agree in advance which providers they will be prioritising in regards to preparing a response.
- The Health Committee support officer will make contact with identified providers requesting copies of the draft Quality Accounts from Foundation trust to be received by 14th April 2016 and from NHS Trusts no later than 30th April 2016
- Establish a task and finish group that can work on producing a draft statement (no more than 500 words in length) on the issues in the quality account that have received consideration by the Health Committee over the last year and if the report is a fair reflection of the full range of quality issues for that trust.
- Task & Finish Group to meet on 14th April 2016 and 5th May 2016
- Agree draft statements for submission at the Health Committee meeting scheduled for the 12th May 2016

3.2 The Health committee needs to determine an approach for Quality Accounts that are submitted post 12th May 2016. This could include providing delegated authority to an officer, in consultation with the task and finish group, to respond to Quality Accounts on the Committee's behalf.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

Officer time in preparing a paper for the Committee.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

These are outlined in a paper on the Health Committee powers and duties, which was considered by the Committee on 29th May 2014.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There may be equality and diversity issues to be considered in relation to the quality accounts.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There may be engagement and consultation issues to be considered in relation to the quality accounts.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There may be relevant local issues in relation to the quality accounts.

4.6 Public Health Implications

The quality of services at local healthcare providers will impact on public health

Source Documents	Location
NHS Choices information on Quality Accounts	http://www.nhs.uk/aboutNHSChoices/professionals/healthandcareprofessionals/quality-accounts/Pages/about-quality-accounts.aspx