

NHS QUALITY ACCOUNTS – ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR RESPONDING TO 2016-17 REQUESTS

To: HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 16th March 2017

From The Monitoring Officer

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Purpose: For the Committee, as part of its Health Scrutiny function, to agree the process to respond to statements on the Quality Accounts provided by NHS Provider Trusts.

Recommendation: The Health Committee is asked to note the requirement to comment on Quality Accounts and to

- a) delegate approval of the responses to the Quality Accounts to the Head of Public Health Business Programmes acting in consultation with, and in accordance with the views of, members of the Committee (where a response is required before 4th May) or (for later response deadlines) such members of the present Committee as are still elected members of Council following the elections on 4th May.
- b) prioritise which Quality Accounts the Committee wishes to respond to.

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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 This paper outlines the proposed response to the Quality Accounts received by the Health Committee and the internal deadlines to respond to the NHS Trusts.

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 and 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 NHS Improvement by 31st May. However each provider will have internal deadlines for receipt of any comments from relevant statutory consultees.
- 2.3 As discussed at the Health Committee meeting on 12th May 2016, the timing of the Quality Account deadlines puts the Committee in a difficult position to provide an adequate response. The difficulty is particularly acute in 2017 because of County Council elections. The Committee resolved at that meeting to 'consider a process for responding to Quality Accounts in 2017 in detail at the Committee's meeting in March 2017 taking into consideration the dates of Annual Council and Health Committee in May/June 2017.'

3. PROCESS FOR RESPONDING TO NHS QUALITY ACCOUNTS

- 3.1 Following the County Council elections on 4th May and the start of the a new four-year Council, the Health Committee will not be meeting until 8th June 2017, well past the deadline for submission of a response to the quality accounts. The membership of the Health Committee will not be known until after the Annual Meeting of Council on 23rd May 2017.
- 3.2 Under the committee system of governance, it is not possible to delegate decisions to individual elected members or groups of members, but scrutiny regulations require that scrutiny be carried out by elected members and not delegated to officers.

- 3.3 At its meeting on 12th May 2016 the Committee noted a suggested approach to accommodate these restrictions of timing and delegation. It was suggested that at the last meeting in the current municipal year (16th March), the Committee delegate approval of the responses to the Quality Accounts to the Director of Public Health acting in consultation with, and in accordance with the views of, such members of the present Committee as were still elected members of Council following the elections on 4th May.
- 3.4 The responses could then be reported to the incoming Committee at its meeting on 8th June.

4.0 EXPECTED DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF QUALITY ACCOUNTS

- 4.1 In preparation for this new local process to responding to NHS Quality Accounts the following deadlines have been provided from NHS Trusts.
- 4.2 Members should note that the timescales to respond to Quality Accounts vary for each trust and can be very tight. Table 1 indicates the timescales the Committee worked on in 2016.

Table 1: Quality Account Timeline

Organisation	Statutory Submission date for the Trust	Agreed date to receive draft Quality Account	Agreed date to submit response to Trust	Additional Notes
Cambridge University Hospital Foundation Trust (CUHFT)	31st May 2017	3rd April 2017	13th April 2017	Previously received on 15 th April 2016. Response requested 12 th May 2016.
Peterborough & Stamford Hospital Foundation Trust (PSHFT)	31st May 2017			Previously received on 21 st April 2016. Response requested 4 th May 2016 Members may not wish to respond to PSHFT as covered by PCC
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust	31st May 2017			Previously received on 27 th April 2016

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn (NHS Foundation Trust)	31st May 2017			<p>Previously received on 7th May 2016. Response requested 12th May 2016.</p> <p>CCC is not the local scrutiny committee for QE. The Quality Account was received at members request. We have not had any scrutiny involvement with QE Trust in 2016/17</p>
Papworth Hospital (NHS Foundation Trust)	31st May 2017			<p>Previously received on 18th April 2016. Response requested 13th May 2016.</p> <p>Members may not wish to respond to Papworth's QA as we have not had any scrutiny involvement with the trust in 2016/17.</p>
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	30th June 2017			<p>Previously received on 3rd May 2016. Response requested 15th May 2016.</p> <p>This may be the last opportunity for members to comment directly on HHCT as it will be part of PSHFTs Quality Account in 2017/18</p>
Cambridgeshire Community Services	30th June 2017			<p>Previously received on 29th April 2016. Response requested by 30th June 2016.</p> <p>Members may wish to consider if they wish to respond. We have not had any direct scrutiny involvement with CCS in 2016/17</p>

SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

Officer time in preparing a paper for the Committee.

5.2 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.

5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

5.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

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

5.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

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

5.6 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
Reports to and minutes of Health Committee	https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cmc_live/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/6/Default.aspx