

## Approval Process for Responses to NHS Quality Accounts 2023/24

To:	Adults and Health Committee
Meeting Date:	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
From:	Executive Director Adults, Health and Commissioning Director of Public Health
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Executive Summary:	The Committee is asked to approve arrangements to review and respond to local NHS providers' Quality Accounts for 2023/24.
Recommendation:	The Committee is recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) establish six Working Groups to review the draft Quality Accounts for 2023/24.</li><li>b) agree that these Working Groups consist of the members of the relevant NHS provider Liaison Group, plus any additional members agreed by the Committee. Partner Governors appointed by the Committee to NHS providers will also be invited to join the relevant Working Group.</li><li>c) delegate authority to the Democratic Services Officer, at the direction of the Working Groups and in consultation with Adults and Health Committee Spokes, to submit the Committee's statements on the 2023/24 Quality Accounts.</li></ul>

Officer contact:

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# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

1.1 The report proposals align with the following ambitions:

- Ambition 3: Health inequalities are reduced
- Ambition 4: People enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs
- Ambition 6: Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.
- Ambition 7: Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

## 2. Background

2.1 The Health Act 2009 and Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a requirement on large NHS healthcare providers to produce an annual Quality Account.

1.2 Quality Accounts are an important way for NHS providers to report on the quality of their services. This includes any improvements made or areas of challenge identified during the reporting period. The quality of services is measured by looking at patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments that patients receive and patient feedback about the care provided.

## 3. Main Issues

3.1 It is a requirement for NHS healthcare providers to provide a draft copy of their Quality Account to their local Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee/s (HOSCs) for review and comment. In Cambridgeshire, the Adults and Health Committee discharges the Council's statutory health scrutiny function. There is no statutory requirement for a HOSC to respond to the Quality Account, but where it does that statement must be included in the provider's published Account.

3.2 Healthcare providers are required to submit the final version of their Quality Account to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care by the end of May (for Foundation Trusts) and by the end of June for all other providers. Draft Accounts are sent to stakeholders around the middle to end of April, which means that there is limited time for Committee members to consider the reports and formally agree a response. This has been achieved in recent years by establishing a working group to consider each Quality Account, and delegating authority to an officer to submit a statement on behalf of the Committee in consultation with Committee Spokes.

3.3 Members of provider liaison groups have an existing knowledge of these organisations and would be well placed to scrutinise and comment on their Quality Accounts. Details of liaison group membership is attached at Appendix 1. The committee also appoints Partner Governors to a number of local Trusts, and they would also have valuable knowledge and insights to offer. Other Members may have a particular interest or expertise and want to be

involved in this work. In practical terms, a working group of between three to five members tends to work best.

## 4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The Committee could delay submitting comments on local healthcare providers' Quality Accounts until it meets next in June, but this would be too late for those comments to be included in the final documents submitted to the Department for Health and Social Care and published.

## 5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is recommended to establish six working groups to produce a statement on each local provider's Quality Account for 2023/24, and to delegate authority to the Democratic Services Officer to submit these in consultation with Committee Spokes. This will ensure collective Member engagement and oversight of the process and allow responses to be submitted in time to be included in providers' published Accounts.

## 6. Significant Implications

### 6.1 Finance Implications

None.

### 6.2 Legal Implications

None.

### 6.3 Risk Implications

None.

### 6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

## 7. Source Documents

- 7.1 [NHS Guide to Quality Accounts](#)

- 7.2 [National Quality Board guide to Quality Account requirements](#)

## Liaison Group Members

Liaison Group members are appointed by the Adults and Health (A&H) Committee:

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Cllrs Howitt, Slatter and van de Ven* *Cllr van de Ven is also a Partner Governor appointed by A&H
Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) NHS Trust	Cllrs Bulat, Goodliffe, Garvie and van de Ven
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT)	Cllrs Daunton*, Garvie, Dr Nawaz and van de Ven *Cllr Daunton is also a Partner Governor appointed by A&H
East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST)	Cllrs Howitt and van de Ven
North West Anglia Foundation Trust (NWAFT)	Cllrs Seeff, Slatter, Wilson Cllr Sanderson is a Partner Governor appointed by A&H
Royal Papworth NHS Trust	Cllrs Howitt and van de Ven Cllr Slatter is a Partner Governor appointed by A&H