



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 24th March 2008

Subject: NHS Annual Health Check

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In 2005/6, the Healthcare Commission introduced the new NHS performance assessment process 'Annual Health Check'. As part of the health check, NHS trusts must submit a self assessment declaration to the Commission by midday on 1st May 2009. These declarations are supplemented with comments from representatives of patients and other partners in the community, including Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2.0 The role of Scrutiny in the Annual Health Check

2.1 The Healthcare Commission invites Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and other bodies, to comment on how they think local Trusts are performing against the "core standards" set by Government. Core standards represent the minimum standards for services that must be met, for all patients, by all NHS bodies. The 24 standards were agreed by the Department of Health in July 2004 and published in the document 'Standards for Better Health', attached at Appendix 2. They are divided into 7 domains: Safety, Clinical and Cost Effectiveness, Governance, Patient Focus, Accessible and Responsive Care, Care Environment and Amenities, and Public Health.

2.2 Local NHS Trusts are required to ask this Board to comment on the Trust's performance against the core standards. However, the Board are not compelled to provide comments.

- 2.3 In accordance with Healthcare Commission guidance, where Scrutiny Board (Health) does provide comments to Trusts, such comments will need to be supported by evidence of work carried out by the Board and must also be relevant to the assessment period (this year that assessment period is April 2008 to March 2009). In view of this, the Commission acknowledges that the Board may wish to, but is not obliged to, limit comments to those areas where it has undertaken reviews or monitored services.
- 2.4 The Board is therefore invited to make comments on the information received from each of the NHS Trusts in Leeds. A report from Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust is attached. Reports from NHS Leeds and Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust were not available at the time of agenda publication, but will be made available to board members prior to the meeting.

3.0 Briefings from Local NHS Trusts

- 3.1 Representatives from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust, and NHS Leeds will be attending today's meeting to brief the Board on the progress made by the Trusts in complying with the core standards.
- 3.2 Should the Board decide to formulate comments for submission to the Trusts as part of the Annual Health Check process, comments will need to be formally agreed and conveyed to the Trusts in time to meet their deadlines for submission to the Healthcare Commission.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is asked to:
- (a) consider and comment on the progress made by the Trusts in complying with the core standards
 - (b) identify and discuss any areas relevant to the core standards, which it might like to provide comments on, based on the work of the Board over the last 12 months
 - (c) determine, in discussion with Trust representatives, the timescales for providing any comments to comply with their deadlines for submission to the Healthcare Commission.