

Wiltshire County Council

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

17 May 2007

Healthcare Commission – Standards for Better Health
Annual Healthcheck 2007

Purpose of Report

1. To circulate to all members of the Committee comments made to six NHS Trusts for inclusion in their Annual Healthcheck declarations to the Healthcare Commission.
2. To outline a number of suggestions made during the sessions to improve the process for the coming year.

Background

3. The Annual Healthcheck was introduced by the Healthcare Commission in 2005 to replace the old “star ratings” system for measuring the performance in the NHS.
4. The Annual Healthcheck makes provision for Trusts to ask for comments from Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees and Patient & Public Involvement Forums in particular. If comments are provided Trusts have a duty to include them verbatim in their declaration to the Healthcare Commission.

The 2007 Annual Healthcheck

5. In 2007 the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) provided comments for six Trusts:
 - Wiltshire PCT
 - Great Western Ambulance Trust
 - Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust
 - Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
 - Royal United Hospital NHS Trust
 - Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust

Full copies of the comments are attached as appendices to this report.

6. For the 2007 Annual Healthcheck all declarations had to be made to the Healthcare Commission by 1 May and the results are likely to be published in the autumn.

7. Members will receive details of the results for each Trust when they become available.

Possible Improvements to the Process

8. As part of the process this year the six main Trusts providing services to residents of Wiltshire were invited to meet with a small group of Health OSC members in order to develop understanding within the OSC about the current position for each Trust.
9. Feedback from each of these sessions was good, with both OSC members and NHS representatives feeling that these small, focussed sessions enabled members to pursue pertinent lines of questioning.
10. In order to develop this process further some suggestions were made during the sessions which can be acted upon over the course of this year to inform the process for the 2007/08 Annual Healthcheck comments.
11. It was suggested that:
 - The members who worked on comments for a particular Trust will continue to focus on the work of that organisation during the coming year in order to develop a level of expertise.
 - The identified members will request PALS reports on a regular basis (quarterly) in order to keep up to date with patient feedback and experiences.
 - The identified members will aim to meet twice yearly with representatives from their allocated Trust and, where appropriate, site visits could be organised in order expand knowledge of the physical environment in which services are delivered.
12. Following confirmation of the appointments of the co-opted District Council members to the Health OSC, it will be possible to draw up a definitive table indicating which members will be focussing on each Trust. However, the councillors who worked on the comments for 2007 are shown below.

Name of Trust	County Councillor
Great Western Ambulance Trust	Pat Rugg / Judy Seager / Mollie Groom / Bill Moss / Paula Winchcombe
Wiltshire PCT	John English / Eli Manasseh
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	John English / Roy While / Mike Hewitt / Mike Griffiths / Bill Moss
Royal United Hospital NHS Trust	Pat Rugg / Roy While / Margaret White
Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust	Margaret White / Bill Moss

Recommendations

- i. **To agree the suggested improvements to the process.**
- ii. **To circulate the report to the NHS organisations involved and begin to put a programme of engagement in place for each Trust.**

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.

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