

**Healthcare Commission Annual Healthcheck – 2006/07**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To enable members to begin to plan how they will produce comments for the Annual Healthcheck for the trusts that provide services for Wiltshire residents.

**Background**

2. The Annual Healthcheck has replaced the previous method for measuring and reporting on the performance of NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), known as the star ratings.
3. Overview & Scrutiny Committees are requested, as part of the Annual Healthcheck, to provide comments for each of the trusts in or providing services to residents of Wiltshire. This has previously been done by a group of members working as a task group, but in isolation of the trusts themselves.
4. Following the recent period of reorganisation in the NHS there are now six main trusts providing services in the county; Wiltshire PCT, Great Western Hospital, Royal United Hospital, Salisbury Foundation Trust, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust and Great Western Ambulance Trust.

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5. Although a final date has not yet been announced, it is likely that trusts will be required to submit their final declarations, outlining their compliance with key targets and measures, at either the end of April or beginning of May 2007.
6. In order to be able to deliver their declarations on time, it is anticipated that trusts will be formulating their final declarations in January and presenting them to their Audit Committee's and Board's in March and April respectively.
7. This timeframe means that the ideal time for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to consider the trusts declarations and put together their comments is February.

8. 2005/06 was the first year the new Annual Healthcheck was used and so it has taken some time to bed in and for stakeholders to develop effective ways to contribute to the process. The Chairman is seeking to make the Health OSC's contribution more meaningful this year by enabling members of the Committee and representatives of the trust to meet and discuss the declarations and the work of the trusts over the course of the last year.
9. Therefore, all trusts likely to be seeking comments from the Health OSC have been contacted and asked whether they would be prepared to attend a meeting. Two dates have been set aside, 27 and 28 February, for a series of meetings with willing trusts to take place.
10. The Committee now needs to decide how to organise itself so that two or three members can be available to meet each of the trusts. It would probably be too onerous for the same members to meet with and provide comments for each of the trusts, particularly as the process is likely to take more than one day.

### **Conclusions**

11. The Annual Healthcheck provides an opportunity for the Committee to interact with representatives of the trusts responsible for collating and managing information regarding targets and other measures and who know exactly how the trusts are performing against national guidelines.
12. It would be sensible to build on the work carried out by members of the Committee last year, in order to improve the way the Health OSC provides its comments, and therefore improve the Committee's understanding of the work of each trust.
13. It is unlikely that a group of members could commit to a full two day process whereby they would meet with each trust and then provide written comments, so the process will have to be managed to enable a manageable workload for those members who become involved.
14. Therefore it is suggested that members commit to either a morning or an afternoon, which will enable them to meet and provide comments for one or two trusts. Comments will then be written up, agreed by the Committee and passed to the relevant trust for inclusion in their annual declaration to the Healthcare Commission.
15. Detail about the Annual Healthcheck for 2006/07 can be found at Appendix 1.

### **Recommendations**

15. That the Committee agrees that it wishes to provide comments for trusts as part of the Healthcare Commission Annual Healthchecks for 2006/07.
16. That the Committee agrees that a more meaningful contribution to each trust declaration could be made by meeting with trust representatives to discuss the performance of the trusts over the last year.

17. That members of the Committee state whether they are available to meet with trusts on either of the prospective dates, bearing in mind that trust availability may require changes or an extra morning or afternoon if necessary.

#### **Financial Implications**

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

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