



**Health Select Committee  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

**Report from the Director of  
Policy & Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check Submissions**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check (AHC) process for 2008-09 and the "self declarations" made by each of the local NHS Trusts – NHS Brent, North West London NHS Hospitals and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the committee agree an appropriate response to the "self-declarations" forwarded by each of the local NHS Trusts under the Healthcare commission's Annual Health Check Process 2008-09.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Healthcare Commission keeps a check on local healthcare organisations and provides information that is of interest to patients and the public about their local health services. Part of their assessment regime requires all NHS trusts in England and Wales to submit an annual performance self-assessment by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and invite a range of third parties, including local authority scrutiny panels, to provide a statement for inclusion - verbatim - in their self-assessment declaration. The trust declarations will be made public on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 and results published in October 2009.
- 3.2 The Government published *Standards for Better Health* in July 2004, which set out 24 core standards. These core standards describe a minimum level of service, which patients have the right to expect. The Healthcare Commission asks trusts to tell them how they have performed against the core standards each year through their declaration.

- 3.3 The Health Select Committee is able to comment on any of the standards relating to the three trusts in Brent. There is no obligation to comment on all of the standards. Comments should relate to the committee's views on the performance of the trust during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. The Health Select Committee is not expected to sign off or approve the submissions.
- 3.4 There is one main change to the Health Check this year from previous years. Primary care trusts (PCTs) currently have two functions: as commissioners (purchasers) and as providers of care. For 2008/09, the annual health check will reflect this by providing separate assessments on the provider and commissioning functions of PCTs. The Committee may want to provide two separate responses to reflect this.
- 3.5 The Healthcare Commission has provided some advice on making sure that the comments made by third parties actually make a difference. The main points are listed below.
- Think about what matters most to you and the people in your community – what are the most important points you want to get across?
  - Think about examples of good practice as well as problems and areas for improvement.
  - Familiarise yourself with the core standards and guidance relating to them. Aim to match the standards with the points you want to make.
  - Ensure that your examples are relevant to the 2008/09 annual health check, i.e., they happened between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.
  - Try to find facts and examples to back up your comments. These may include notes of a meeting or visit to a trust, the results of a local survey, or personal stories from individuals with dates and supporting documents.
  - Please note your comments must not include confidential or personal information, for example, names of individual patients or staff, or contact details.
  - Do not submit the supporting documents with your comments, but be prepared in case we need to clarify some aspect of your comment.
- 3.6 In preparation for the Health Select Committee's discussion on the Annual Health Check, the Chair of the Committee and the Policy and Performance Officer have prepared some initial comments for each of the three trusts based on the committee's experiences over the last 12 months. These are included as appendices to this report for information. The Committee should decide whether it wants to add or remove any of the comments. These will form the basis of the committee's submissions on each of the declarations.
- 3.7 The draft submissions from each of the local trusts are also included as appendices to this report.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 None

### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1 – Inspection guides and the Department of Health’s core standards

Appendix 2 – NHS Brent Healthcare Commission Standards Declaration 2008/09 – Commissioned Services

Appendix 3 – NHS Brent Healthcare Commission Standards Declaration 2008/09 – Provider Services

Appendix 4 – Draft Health Select Committee comments on NHS Brent

Appendix 5 – Standards for Better Health Declaration – North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

Appendix 6 – Draft Health Select Committee comments on North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

Appendix 7 – Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust Standards for Better Health Declaration

Appendix 8 – Draft Health Select Committee Comments on Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

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