



Health Select Committee

21st March 2007

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

Wards Affected:

ALL

Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check 2007

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check (AHC) process for 2007 and the "self declarations" made by each of the local NHS Trusts.

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 (AHC) Process 2007.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Healthcare Commission's 'Annual Health Check' is a new system of assessment for all NHS trusts measuring trust performance against the Department of Health's twenty four core standards (introduced in July 2004).

- 3.2 NHS trusts annually submit a “self declaration” to the Healthcare Commission regarding their performance against “core standards” with assessments covering the period between April 1st 2006 and March 31st 2007.
- 3.3 NHS trusts are required to include unedited comments from Overview and Scrutiny committees in their final declarations to the Healthcare Commission. Overview and Scrutiny Committees, however, are not asked to ‘sign off’ a trust’s declaration.
- 3.4 NHS Trusts then forward their draft declarations to the Healthcare Commission, who validate and review the comments. Declarations are then coded and translated to allow cross-checking with trust performance data.
- 3.5 The Chair wrote to all local NHS Trust Chief Executives in February. Each was given the deadline of the 16th March 2007 as a deadline for a copy of their “self declaration” to be received (or draft as appropriate). Therefore, copies of these will be circulated under a separate dispatch, prior to the meeting.
- 3.6 Changes to this year’s assessment are outlined in the attached document “*Your part in the annual health check: A step-by-step guide for patient and public involvement forums, overview and scrutiny committees and foundation trusts’ boards of governors*”, Inspecting Informing Improving Assessing and rating the NHS 2006/2007, Healthcare Commission, January 2007.
- 3.7 Further information and copies of last year’s full assessment reports can be found at: <http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/yourlocalhealthservices> or are available by request.

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