

## **Annual Health Check Standards for Better Health Declaration 2006/07**

### **1. Introduction**

The Healthcare commission (HCC) is an independent body which exists to promote improvement in the quality of healthcare and public health in England and Wales. The HCC is responsible for assessing the performance of each local NHS organisation and awarding an annual rating of the organisation's performance accordingly.

The Annual health check is made up of two components, Use of Resources and Quality of Services. In 2005 / 06 North West London scored as follows for each component:

Quality of Services: FAIR  
Use of Resources: WEAK

For 2006/07 the Quality of Services rating will comprise of compliance against core standards as well as an additional compliance statement with the Hygiene Code 2006. Organisations are also required to make a declaration against developmental standards as part of a shadow assessment; this however will not form part of the rating assessment.

### **2. Assurance mechanisms**

For NWLH 06/07 declaration process an Executive Annual Health Check Committee has been established to oversee the process for obtaining and ensuring assurance. Progress has been reported regularly to both the Clinical Governance committee and the Trust's Governance and Risk committee, a sub-group of the Trust Board. Responsibility for declaring ultimate compliance against a core standard lies with the delegated executive lead as shown in Appendix A attached.

### **3. Core Standards**

NWLH Trust Board is required to declare compliance against 24 core standards, covering seven domains.

Appendix A outlines compliance status for the core standards.

#### *Non-compliant standard*

For the year 2006/07 the Trust intends to declare standard C8b as non compliant.

#### **Core Standard 8b**

**Healthcare organisations support their staff through organisational and personal development programmes which recognise the contribution and value of staff, and address, where appropriate, under-representation of minority groups.**

Throughout 2005 / 06 NWLHT did have an active BME forum which met regularly. However during 2006/07 this group has ceased to meet. Currently the Trust meets individual staff mentoring needs through appraisal systems and 360 degree leadership reviews and as part of professional development. However there are no specific mentoring schemes for BMER groups.

A detailed action plan to address the gaps is currently being developed.

#### **4. Developmental Standards**

The HCC developmental standards outline a framework for improvement broader than the requirements with core standards; these are designed to reflect the need for continuous improvement in quality and performance.

Trusts are assessed on a four point scale ranging from 'limited' to 'excellent' developmental progress. For 2006/07 this assessment is undertaken as a shadow assessment and will not impact on the aggregated quality of services component of the annual rating.

The domains assessed are:

##### *Safety – Developmental Standard D1*

Health care organisations continuously and systematically review and improve all aspects of their activities that directly affect patient safety and apply best practice in assessing and managing risks to patients, staff and others, particularly when patients move from the care of one organisation to another.

The Trust declares that it has made **FAIR** developmental progress against D1.

##### *Clinical and Cost effectiveness – Developmental standard D2 – part a*

Patients receive effective treatment and care that:

a) conform to nationally agreed best practice, particularly as defined in National Service Frameworks, NICE guidance, national plans and agreed national guidance on service delivery

The Trust declares that it has made **FAIR** developmental progress against D2a

#### **5. Hygiene Code**

The Health Act 2006 introduced a statutory duty on NHS organisations to observe the provisions of the Code of Practice on Healthcare Associated Infections. Given the importance of this as a national priority the HCC has been asked to take account of the performance of Trusts with respect to the Code as part of the Annual Health Check 2006/07.

The statement for NWLHT can be found on Appendix B.