

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

**Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check
Trust Declarations Standards for Better Health**

**Health Scrutiny Forum 23rd February 2009
Stockton on Tees**

1. Background

The Committee will be familiar with the process as we are now in the 4th year of using the method of self assessment. However there is a variation from last year that I need to explain.

On the 1st November 2008 the Trust became the first in the country to vertically integrate with both Hartlepool and Stockton PCT provider community services. The FT are hosting these services until 31st March 2010 when a decision will be made following a tendering process. As such the Healthcare Commission have asked that we make an integrated declaration on behalf of the Acute Trust and our newly acquired Community Provider colleagues in April 2009 to reflect 1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009.

This integrated approach was only agreed by the Healthcare Commission on 26th January and it has been an enormous task for Community colleagues to assimilate evidence using the Healthcare Commission standards for Acute Care.

2. History

The Committee will remember we attended the meeting in March 2008 and it was the beginning of a lengthy process to receive all 3rd party agency contributions.

The process yielded for the Trust a positive outcome when in October we were rewarded with an improved score:

Excellent for use of Resources
Good for Quality of Service

It is important to recognise the number of components which contribute to the quality aspect i.e. National Standards new and existing as well as the Core Standards.

3. Process

The Trust has electronically assimilated all evidence to support the declaration process and has progressed through a lengthy review and careful consideration of each piece of evidence. A list of this evidence linked to each of the standards and sub elements is attached at Appendix 1.

In addition to the Core Standards it is necessary to consider registration for CQC (Care Quality Commission). The Trust has submitted the application again on behalf of Acute and Primary Care Providers and Appendix 2 identifies criteria. It is likely we will be advised of the confirmation as a registered health organisation prior to Healthcare Commission Declaration.

Also the Trust is required to meet the National priority indicators for 08/09 as at Appendix 3.

As the Healthcare Commission have agreed to use the findings of others, the Trust is able to use possession of Level 2 NHSLA to reduce the burden of the self assessment.

As is required the Trust has again worked with Durham and Tees Audit Commission in order to ensure we receive appropriate assurance from them to assist us in our declaration.

The process also includes other elements, i.e.

- Patient Survey 2008
- Staff Survey 2008
- Children's Review Follow-up 2008

The Trust has also sought support from 3rd parties in accordance with; 'Your part in the Annual Health Check 08/09' i.e.

- Local Authorities
- Strategic Health Authority
- Local involvement networks (LINKs)
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Local Safeguarding Children's Boards
- FT Boards of Governors

As such the Trust will be pleased to receive your 3rd party commentary submission by 24th March, forwarded to myself.

Clearly supportive narratives are critical to the delivery of healthcare to meet the needs of our local population.

The timetable for declaration is fixed hence the request for narrative by 24th March. The narrative will be added to the Trust's declaration in verbatim format. There are tips to ensure your comments make a difference in the guidance 'Your part in the Annual Health Check' (previously circulated to you).

4. Summary

The Trust will be represented by myself and Jan Atkinson, Head of Patient and Public Involvement. As this paper is prepared as at the date of 5th February 2009 the status of the Trust's compliance with the core standards is not yet concluded. The Committee will be advised of status verbally on the day of the meeting.

Carole Pearson
Deputy Director of Clinical Governance
Lead for Healthcare Commission
5th February 2009