

21 February 2011

## North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account 2011-12

### Summary

The Committee are requested to receive a presentation in relation to the preparation of the draft Quality Account of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, and consider whether to provide a statement for inclusion in the published version.

### Detail

1. Quality Accounts have been introduced following the publication of 'High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review' by the Department of Health in 2008. They are annual reports to the public, about the quality of services NHS organisations provide. The primary purpose of Quality Accounts 'is to encourage boards and leaders of healthcare organisations to assess quality across all of the healthcare services they offer. It allows leaders, clinicians, governors and staff to demonstrate their commitment to continuous, evidence-based quality improvement, and to explain their progress to the public'<sup>1</sup>.
2. Quality Accounts should set out:
  - what an organisation is doing well;
  - where improvements in service quality are required;
  - what the priorities for improvement are for the coming year;
  - how the organisation has involved service users, staff and others with an interest in your organisation in determining those priorities for improvement.
3. The requirement to produce Quality Accounts was introduced last year, and following a review updated guidance has been issued, although the main principles remain intact. The content should be determined locally however there are a number of mandatory sections including:
  - 'a statement from the Board (or equivalent) of your organisation summarising the quality of NHS services provided;
  - your organisation's priorities for quality improvement for the coming financial year;
  - a series of statements from the Board for which the format and information required is set out in regulations; and
  - a review of the quality of services in your organisation. You might like to think about expressing this in terms of the three domains of

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<sup>1</sup> *Quality Accounts toolkit 2010-11- Advisory Guidance for providers of NHS services producing Quality Accounts for the year 2010-11*, (December 2010: NHS).

quality: patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience' (Quality Accounts Toolkit).

4. For each Account, the relevant commissioning PCT needs to provide a statement of assurance. In addition, health overview and scrutiny committees, and LINKs, are also given a voluntary opportunity to comment on draft Accounts.
5. In the last municipal year, the Committee considered the Account of the local acute services provider, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee and Stockton LINK provided a joint statement for inclusion in the published version of the Account. At the meeting of 8 November 2010, it was agreed that this approach would be adopted for this year's Quality Account.
6. Members and representatives of the LINK are requested to consider the priorities for this year's Account contained in the **attached presentation**, and whether comments should be included in a statement for inclusion in the published version. The full draft Account will be provided in April, and it is suggested that any statement is finalised at that time.
7. In addition, from this year the providers of community health care services are also required to provide a Quality Account. North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust is the provider of these services within the local area and so reference to these will be contained in the Trust's Account.
8. The word limit for any statement has been increased to 1000 words, although 500 is the recommended amount. The assurance process by external partners is designed to 'ensure that the information in Quality Accounts is accurate and fairly interpreted, and that the range of services described and priorities for improvement are representative' (Quality Accounts Toolkit).
9. The full version of the most recent advisory guidance is available at:  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122540.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122540.pdf)
10. The Trust's Medical Director, and Deputy Director of Nursing and Patient Safety, will be in attendance at the meeting in order to brief the Committee.

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