

JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 DECEMBER 2012
NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS TRUST – CANCELLATION OF NON-URGENT ELECTIVE OPERATIONS – PROGRESS REPORT
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL)
ITEM 5

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Representatives of the Nottingham University Hospitals Trust (NUH) have been invited to today's meeting to set out further measures taken and resulting outcomes to date in respect addressing the unacceptable levels of cancellations of non-urgent elective operations at the Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) and City Hospital earlier in 2012.
- 1.2 This is the second of three quarterly progress reports requested by the Committee following its meeting in May 2012. A written report from NUH is attached.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the information presented at the meeting and determine whether it is satisfied with progress to date.

3. Background information

- 3.1 At its May 2012 meeting, and as a matter of urgency, the Committee considered in detail the issue of the cancellation of nearly 600 non-urgent elective operations at the QMC and City Hospitals in January to April 2012. The Trust explained that had experienced unprecedented pressures on both Emergency Department and on critical care capacity during this period, that these could not have been forecast, and that a raft of measures were being taken to minimise cancellations and to achieve the 'national standard' level of service for Nottingham patients.
- 3.2 In response, the Committee requested quarterly updates until March 2013 to ensure a quick resolution to the upsurge in cancellations, to make sure there was no repeat upsurge, especially in advance of Winter 2012/13, and to monitor the Trust's progress against the National Standard, it having been an 'outlier' in performance terms for some time.
- 3.3 At its September 2012 meeting, the NUH Chief Executive was able to report significant progress, reassuring the Committee that this remained an ongoing, key priority for the Trust. The Committee

welcomed the initiative taken by the Trust to tackle the issue of operations cancelled earlier than 'on the day', but noted that, despite the improved situation, the Trust remained an 'outlier' nationally in respect of 'on the day' cancellation performance.

- 3.4 The Chief Executive also reported that the external review of emergency and elective pathways, and NUH action plan would be published at the Trust's September Board. The Executive Summary is included in the Trust's report.

4 List of attached information

None.

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None.

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Minutes from Joint Committee meeting held on 15 May 2012

7. Wards affected

All

8. Contact information

Contact Colleague

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30 November 2012