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| meeting | ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK SELECT COMMITTEE |                    |
| date    | 9 March 2009                         | agenda item number |

## Report of the Chair of the Annual Health Check Select Committee

### Scope and Background

#### Purpose of the report

1. To introduce the role of the Annual Health Check Select Committee.

#### Background

2. The Annual Health Check was introduced by the Healthcare Commission in 2005-06 as a new approach to assessing and reporting on the performance of NHS Trusts. The Annual Health Check replaced the previous star ratings assessment system.
3. The health check measures Trusts' performance against 24 core standards which are divided into seven key areas:
  - safety
  - care environment and amenities
  - clinical and cost effectiveness
  - governance
  - patient focus
  - accessible and responsive care and
  - public health.
4. The 24 core standards form the basic minimum level of care that Trusts are expected to provide.
5. Trusts assess their own performance against a number of statements and determine:
  - whether they are in compliance
  - whether they have not met the standard or
  - whether they can provide insufficient assurance either way

and then publish their findings in a declaration.

6. Where a Trust has not met the standard, an action plan must be put in place. The Healthcare Commission will then cross-check the declaration and carry out selective inspections, both random and targeted at those who have identified areas of risk.
7. The Healthcare Commission requires NHS Trusts to seek comments from relevant third party organisations on the Trust's performance against the standards for 2008-09. Invited organisations include:
  - Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)
  - **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees**
  - Strategic Health Authorities
8. NHS Trusts are expected to include all third party comments verbatim in their submission to the Healthcare Commission.
9. The County Council Annual Health Checks Select Committee commented on the following Trusts in April 2008:
  - Bassetlaw PCT
  - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
  - East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
  - Nottinghamshire County tPCT
  - Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
10. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee identified comments for the following Trusts at the meeting in March 2008:
  - Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
  - Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
11. The City Council Health Scrutiny Panel commented on:
  - Nottinghamshire City PCT
12. The Committees used evidence gathered during previous scrutiny reviews to comment on specific areas of Trust activity, particularly where that work relates to the core standards.
13. For 2008/09, the annual health check will reflect the two functions of primary care trusts (PCTs): as commissioners (purchasers) and as providers of care. Separate assessments will be carried out on the provider and commissioning functions of the PCTs.
14. The Healthcare Commission published the Annual Health Check Ratings for 2007-08 on Thursday 16 October 2008. The ratings are split into two components; Quality of Services and Use of Resources.
15. The ratings awarded for 2007-08 are set out in the following table:

## Ratings 2007-08

| Trust  | Quality of services | Use of resources |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Bassetlaw PCT                                      | FAIR                | FAIR             |
| NHS Nottingham City                                | FAIR                | GOOD             |
| NHS Nottinghamshire County (tPCT)                  | FAIR                | GOOD             |
| Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust         | GOOD                | EXCELLENT        |
| Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals Foundation Trust | GOOD                | EXCELLENT        |
| East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust          | GOOD                | FAIR             |
| Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust          | FAIR                | FAIR             |
| Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust               | EXCELLENT           | GOOD             |

Table 1

Note: Not all the Trusts are the responsibility of the Select Committee. All of the Trusts are shown for the sake of completeness.

### Role of the Select Committee

16. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned the Select Committee to gather additional evidence prior to providing comments, for Trusts who were rated as providing a weak or fair quality of services following the last assessment. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee believes that residents of Nottinghamshire deserve to receive a good quality of services and would like to see this reflected in the health check ratings of all of the Trusts in Nottinghamshire, providing confidence to residents and patients.
17. To facilitate this the PCTs have been invited to attend the following meetings to discuss the work being undertaken to improve on last years ratings, particularly how the Trust intends to achieve a rating of good:

Monday 9 March – 2pm – NHS Nottinghamshire County

Monday 30 March – 2pm – Bassetlaw PCT

18. The Select Committee is invited to – where Members consider it appropriate – to agree comments for NHS Trusts that have been involved in the County Council scrutiny process during the municipal year.
19. The Annual Health Checks Select Committee Select Committee could provide comments for:
- Bassetlaw PCT
  - NHS Nottinghamshire County
  - Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS Trust
  - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Foundation Trust
  - East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
  - Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
20. NHS Trusts must submit their declarations – and comments – by 1 May 2009. The comments from the Select Committee must be completed by this time and a number of Trusts have requested that comments be provided earlier than this to allow them to be presented to Trust Boards prior to being forwarded to the Healthcare Commission. The Trust Boards must include the comments verbatim and may not amend them.

### **Recommendation**

21. It is recommended that
- the Select Committee note the role set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee .

### **Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones Chair of Annual Health Checks Select Committee**

#### **Background papers:**

- Health Scrutiny Panel Response to the Annual Health Checks - 2008
- Annual Health Checks Select Committee Response to the Annual Health Checks – April 2008
- Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Response – April 2008  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/scrutiny>
- Healthcare Commission Annual Health Checks 2007-08  
<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk>
- Letter inviting comments from NHS Trusts
- Your part in the annual health checks – guidance from the Healthcare Commission
- CfPS Guide – the annual health check, a guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees

