

Draft Declaration

The Secretary of State has directed that the Chief Executive should be the Accountable Officer to the PCT; the key responsibilities of the Accountable Officer are to ensure that:

- There are effective management systems in place to safeguard public funds and assets and assist in the implementation of corporate governance;
- Value for money is achieved from the resources available to the PCT;
- The expenditure and income of the PCT has been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and conform to the authorities which govern them;
- Effective and sound financial management systems are in place; and
- Statutory accounts are prepared in a format directed by the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year and net operating costs, recognised gains and losses and cash flows each year.

An additional responsibility for the Chief Executive that began in April 2005 is compliance with the Standards for Better Health, which is part of the Annual Health Check. The new Annual Health Check has replaced the star ratings and is designed to provide a fuller picture of the performance of the PCT against the Standards for Better Health that were set by the Department of Health in July 2004. The Annual Health Check provides the PCT with an opportunity to complete a declaration of compliance with the core standards. The PCT has also invited comments from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Trent Strategic Health Authority. For the first year only of the new system we are publishing a draft declaration prior to a final declaration in April 2006.

Rushcliffe PCT has declared itself compliant against all 24 Standards and in order to provide independent assurance against the Standards for Better Health a substantive amount of work has been carried out by the Internal Auditors. The PCT can provide a robust and appropriate audit trail of all evidence to provide assurance as part of our normal system of governance. This involved carrying out a baseline assessment against the Standards for Better Health and identify any shortfalls and addressing them prior to approval by the PCT Board.

It is the PCTs opinion that compliance against all 24 of the Standards for Better Health have been met and no significance lapses have occurred. Should anyone wish to view the baseline assessment and any subsequent evidence that supports compliance against the core standards this will be made available upon request.