



meeting	JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
date	15 JANUARY 2008	agenda item number

Report of the Head of Law and Democracy, Nottinghamshire County Council

NHS ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTHCARE TRUST

Purpose of the report

1. To invite Members to discuss the findings of the Healthcare Commission's annual health check for NHS Trusts with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust (NHCT).

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 wayand 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. Invited organisations include:
 - Patient & Public Involvement Forums
 - **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. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee identified comments for Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust at the meeting on 13 March 2007:
9. In addition to the core standards from 2006-07 the Healthcare Commission will introduce developmental standards to promote improvement in NHS services. There are 13 developmental standards. In 2006-07 the following was assessed:
 - safety - focus on acute trusts
 - clinical and cost effectiveness - focus on acute trusts and mental health services
 - public health - primary care trusts

Ratings 2006-07

10. The ratings for all Trusts that relate to the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee were reported to Members at their meeting of 13 November. At this meeting Members were pleased to see the improvement of Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust from a rating of Good to Excellent for Quality of Services.

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	EXCELLENT (Improvement on 2005-06 rating of GOOD)	FAIR (Same rating at 2005-06)

11. Also at this meeting, Members requested the opportunity to discuss with the Trust the progress that was being made improving upon the rating of Fair for Use of Resources
12. Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust has been invited to attend today's meeting and Jim Walker, Associate Director, Planning and Partnership will be attending.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that

the Joint Committee consider the information provided and discuss the Trust's progress in improving upon the Fair Use of Resources.

	Jayne Francis Head of Law and Democracy Nottinghamshire County Council
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Background papers:

Response of the Annual Health Checks Select Committee to NHS Trusts

Response of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to NHS Trusts

Healthcare Commission Annual Health Checks 2006-07