



meeting	JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
date	13 November 2007	agenda item number

## Report of the Head of Scrutiny – Nottinghamshire County Council

### NHS Annual Health Checks

#### Purpose of the report

1. To invite Members to consider the findings of the Healthcare Commission's annual health check for NHS Trusts in the conurbation of Nottingham.

#### 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 the following Trusts at the meeting on 13 March 2007:
  - Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
  - East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
  - Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
  - Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT
  
9. The County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee established an Annual Health Checks Select Committee which commented on the following Trusts in April 2007:
  - Bassetlaw PCT
  - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Foundation Trust
  - Nottinghamshire County tPCT
  - Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS Trust
  
10. The City Council's Health Scrutiny Panel commented on the City PCT's Annual Health Check in March 2007.
  
11. 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

12. During 2006-07 a number of Trusts were reconfigured. The Ratings apply to the new Trusts which relate to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. The ratings for 2006-07:

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Nottingham City PCT*	GOOD	GOOD
Nottinghamshire County tPCT*	FAIR	WEAK
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	GOOD	FAIR
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	GOOD	WEAK
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	EXCELLENT	FAIR

\*Note: Scrutiny of Nottingham City PCT and Nottinghamshire County teaching PCT is the responsibility of the respective Councils However, as the PCTs have been involved in commissioning work on behalf of the both the City and the County the Joint Committee has had some involvement with both. Nottingham City PCT has improved from a previous rating of Fair in both categories.

## Progress

13. The results of the following Trusts are comparable to 2005-06, the table shows the overall progress of the Trust:

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Nottingham City PCT	IMPROVEMENT (Fair – Good)	IMPROVEMENT (Fair – Good)
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	IMPROVEMENT (Good - Excellent)	SAME

14. The **East Midlands Ambulance Service** was reconfigured during 2006-07 and is not directly comparable, however the service available in Nottinghamshire was previously rated as Weak:

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	IMPROVEMENT (Weak – Good)	SAME

15. **Nottingham University Hospitals Trust** was formed by the merger of the Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust and the Queen’s Medical Centre NHS Trust, the ratings are not directly comparable but the Use of Resources rating is the same as the lowest rating of the two former trusts:

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	SAME	LOWER NCH SAME QMC

16. **Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust** was newly formed in 2006-07 from the PCTs across Nottinghamshire excluding Bassetlaw PCT. Again it is not directly comparable. Only one of the 6 previous PCTs received a Weak rating for Use of Resources. 3 of the previous PCTs received a Fair rating for Quality of Services, 3 previously received Good:

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Nottinghamshire County tPCT	SAME as 3 PCTs LOWER than 3 PCTs	SAME as 1 PCT LOWER then 5 PCTs

## **Ratings of Weak**

17. There are two trusts that have received a rating of weak, Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust and Nottingham University Hospitals. Scrutiny of Nottingham University Hospitals is usually conducted by the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Scrutiny of Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust is primarily an issue for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **Other Trusts**

18. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to note that the overall ratings are comprised of many sub-categories. An overall rating that has not changed since last year does not necessarily indicate that no progress has been made or that the same level of service has been maintained.

## **Recommendation**

19. It is recommended that  
  
the Joint Committee consider the information provided and identify further information needs or areas for Scrutiny.

**Lynn Senior**  
**Head of Scrutiny**  
**Nottinghamshire County Council**

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

### NHS Trusts in the Conurbation of Nottingham 2005-06

Trust	Quality of services	Use of resources
Ashfield PCT	FAIR	FAIR
Broxtowe and Hucknall PCT	FAIR	FAIR
Gedling PCT	FAIR	WEAK
Newark and Sherwood PCT	GOOD	FAIR
Rushcliffe PCT	GOOD	FAIR
Nottingham City PCT	FAIR	FAIR
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	WEAK	FAIR
Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	GOOD	FAIR
Queen's Medical Centre NHS Trust	GOOD	WEAK
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	FAIR	FAIR

APPENDIX 5  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsible for NHS Trusts**

NHS Trust	Scrutiny Body Co-ordinating the Response
East Midlands Ambulance Service	Nottinghamshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee All East Midland Social Services Authority Health OSCs
Nottingham City PCT	Nottingham City Council Health Scrutiny Panel
Nottingham University Hospitals Trust	Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	Nottinghamshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust	Nottinghamshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Nottingham City Council Health Scrutiny Panel (Joint Health Scrutiny Committee)