

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK

Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the preparation of the Committee's commentaries on health bodies in Herefordshire as part of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check process.

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. Health scrutiny committees are asked by the Healthcare Commission to submit commentaries on the performance of trusts against the standards, based on their experience of scrutinising the NHS during the year.
4. They are not being asked to comment on the trusts' own self assessments, nor on their degree of compliance.
5. Commentaries should be evidence-based. There is no set template for presentation of commentaries. Commentaries should address the core standards that are relevant to the county. The core standards are divided into these domains: Safety; Clinical and cost effectiveness; Public health; Governance; Patient focus; Accessible and responsive care; Care environment and amenities.
6. The Healthcare Commission will code comments, matching them to core standards, as positive, negative or neutral. Commentaries will contribute to the annual performance rating for each trust. Trusts will attach health scrutiny committee commentaries verbatim to their self-assessments, the deadline for which is 1 May 2007.
7. The Commentary from this Committee needs to be finalised by 6 April 2007 to give trusts time to digest and comment on them and present them to their boards before their deadline for submission.
8. Representatives of the Trusts will be present at the meeting to provide information to the Committee and answer the Committee's questions, acknowledging that the Committee received a detailed presentation from the Ambulance Trust on 2nd March, 2007 .
9. It is proposed that the Director of Adult and Community Services is then authorised to finalise the Committee's commentaries for transmission to the trusts taking account of comments made at the meeting, following consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Sara Siloko, Directorate Services Officer
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RECOMMENDATION

THAT (a) the Committee consider the presentations of the Ambulance Trust, PCT and Hospital Trust relating to the Annual Health Check;

and

(b) the Director of Adult and Community Services be authorised to finalise the Annual Health Check commentaries for transmission to the trusts taking account of the Committee's comments, following consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None