

## HEALTH COMMISSION – HEALTH CHECK

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider the Committee's role in the Health Check Process.

### Financial implications

2. None identified.

### Background

3. The Health Care Commission "exists to promote improvements in the quality of healthcare and public health in England." It has created a new approach to assessing and reporting on the performance of NHS Trusts. The Commission's guidance on the assessment of core standards, previously circulated to Members, states:

*"Our annual health check replaces star ratings from this year and requires NHS Trusts to produce yearly self-assessments." "As part of the annual health check we will measure performance by reference to the 24 core standards identified by the Government.....These cover seven key areas: safety, clinical and cost effectiveness, governance, patient focus, accessible and responsive care, care environment and amenities and public health."*

4. For the first year of assessment, 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, NHS trusts have to prepare a draft declaration by 31 October 2005, covering the period 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2005 before the final version is submitted to the Commission in April 2006.
5. All Trusts are required to ask overview and scrutiny committees to comment on a Trust's performance against the core standards.
6. Representatives from the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust will give a presentation on the process at the meeting which will allow the Committee to consider its role in this process.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny)  
on 01432 260239