

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND INCLUSION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 8 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK: RATINGS 2005-06 AND PROCESS 2006-07

Executive Summary

This report describes the process for the annual health check of NHS organisations for 2006-07, and in particular the component of the health check towards which health overview and scrutiny committees contribute. Attached are reports from Wirral NHS organisations setting out the results of the first annual health check in 2005-06.

1 Background

1.1 The Healthcare Commission (HC) is responsible for assessing the performance of NHS bodies in England and awarding an annual rating through the annual health check process which commenced in 2005-06. As part of the health check each NHS organisation is required to complete a declaration (self assessment) on whether they meet the national core standards. There are 24 core standards within 8 domains: safety, clinical and cost effectiveness, governance, patient focus, accessible and responsive care, care environment and amenities, and public health. Trusts are expected to invite comments from overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) on whether they are meeting the core standards, and to include these comments in their declaration. Wirral's Health OSC commented on the health checks of Wirral NHS trusts at its meeting on 15th March 2006.

2 The Health Check Process 2006-07.

2.1 There are a number of changes to the annual health check for 2006-07. Chiefly, the HC is running a shadow process on whether trusts are meeting specific developmental standards (which show the organisation is making and sustaining improvements). This information will not contribute to overall ratings until 2007-08. However, the HC has indicated that there will be no significant changes to the process for assessing performance in relation to core standards. Further guidance will be issued in December or January. NHS boards will need to submit declarations in April 2007.

2.2 For 2005-06 a matrix was presented to the Social Care and Health OSC identifying how its programme of work related to particular core standards. From this, the Committee was able to determine its comments. It is

proposed that a similar process is used for comments on this year's declaration.

3 NHS Ratings 2005-06

- 3.1 NHS organisations received their annual ratings in October 2006. The attached reports from Wirral PCT, Wirral Hospital NHS Trust and Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology provide information to the Committee on the following: the 2005-06 rating, a summary of the main points from the HC assessment, and actions to be taken. (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust is considered via the Joint Committee). This information presented from the NHS within the public forum of the Committee can be seen as contributing evidence to the core standard C17 'The views of patients, their carers and others are sought and taken into account in designing, planning, delivering and improving health care services.'

4 Financial and Staffing Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

5 Equal Opportunities Implications

The health check is a way of increasing the views of patients and the public.

6 Human Rights Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

7 Local Agenda 21 Implications

The health check increases local democracy and accountability.

8 Community Safety Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

9 Planning Implications

None immediately arising from this report.

10 Local Member Support Implications

The work of the NHS covers all areas of Wirral.

11 Background Papers

'NHS Annual Health Check: Developing Draft Comments', Social Care and Health Committee 13 October 2005

'NHS Annual Health Check 2005-06 – Agreeing Final Comments,' Social Care and Health Committee, 15 March 2006

'The Annual Health Check in 2006-07', Healthcare Commission.

12 Recommendations

12.1 That Committee notes the attached reports

12.2 That a matrix of information for the health check is presented to a future Committee

KEVIN MILLER
Director of Adult Social Services

Name – Christine Heron
Title – Joint Commissioning Manager Health
ext no 5092

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