

**Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Tuesday, 20 March 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Review of draft Quality Accounts - May 2018</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chair of the Committee – Cllr Julie McManus</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Providers of NHS healthcare services in England, including the independent sector, are required to publish an annual Quality Account. The Quality Account provides information on performance across the year and identifies the priorities for improvement during the forthcoming year; describing how those priorities will be achieved and measured. The purpose of Quality Accounts is to ensure providers are assessing the quality of service they provide and working to continuously improve this, focussing particularly on:

- Patient Experience;
- Safety;
- and Clinical Effectiveness.

For those Trusts providing services within the geographical area of the Local Authority, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees are given the opportunity to comment on the Trusts' draft Quality Accounts, prior to publication of the final document. This report proposes a process for Members to provide comments on the 2017/18 draft documents if they wish to do so.

Although the Health Trusts have a duty to consult with Overview and Scrutiny Committees regarding the draft Quality Account, it is not mandatory for the Committee to formally respond. However, in order to hold health providers to account, to do so is regarded as good practice.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to:

- 1) Establish a task & finish group in order to enable scrutiny members to review the draft Quality Accounts of the local health partners;
- 2) Authorise the task & finish group Chair to approve the final wording of the responses to the Health Trusts.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

In order to hold health providers to account, it is regarded as good practice for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and comment upon draft Quality Accounts.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not applicable

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 The Legislative Process**

Under the National Health Service (Quality Accounts) Regulations 2010 (amended by The National Health Service (Quality Accounts) Amendment Regulations 2012) healthcare providers publishing Quality Accounts are required to send a draft of the Quality Account to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the local authority in whose area the provider has its registered or principal office located, and invite comments on the document.

Providers must send their Quality Account to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by 30 April each year at the latest. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee then has a maximum of 30 days in which to respond. The Department of Health requires providers to submit their final Quality Account by 30 June each year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may, if it wishes, provide a written statement outlining its views on the draft document. Providers are legally obliged to publish this statement, of less than 1000 words, as part of their final Quality Account.

#### **3.2 Review of the draft Quality Accounts in Wirral**

In recent municipal years, the Health and Care Performance Panel has taken on the responsibility of responding to the draft Quality Accounts, on behalf of the former People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (and previously the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee). However, since the creation of the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the beginning of the 2017/18 municipal year, the Health and Care Performance Panel ceased to exist. Therefore, if members want to review the draft Quality Accounts this year, an alternative approach will need to be adopted. It is proposed that a task & finish group is established for the purpose of reviewing the draft Quality Accounts. It is suggested that a single meeting of the task and finish group is arranged in early May 2018, most likely week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> May, in order to review the draft Quality Accounts for each of the health service providers. It is necessary for any meetings to be held at this time in order to fit in with the timescales of the providers as they aim for final submission to the Department of Health before the end of June.

There are four main NHS Trusts which serve Wirral residents:

- Wirral Community Foundation Trust;
- Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;
- Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust;
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust;

It is planned that a representative from each of those partner organisations will be present at the meeting to highlight key points and discuss relevant issues. Members will review each of the draft Quality Accounts and identify comments which will be included in the formal response to each of the Health Trusts. Any comments submitted by the Panel must be included by the Health Trust in the final version of the Quality Account, which is presented to the Department of Health. In order to meet the strict timescales, it is proposed that the task and finish group Chair be authorised to approve the final wording of any responses.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Although the health trusts have a duty to consult with Overview and Scrutiny Committees regarding the draft Quality Account, it is not mandatory for the Committee to formally respond. However, to do so would be regarded as good practice.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

This process will be supported from within existing resources

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

The Local Authority should put an appropriate process in place in order to support its role as an effective scrutineer of local health provision.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Not applicable

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

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## APPENDICES

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date