

**Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 19th March 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	Review of Draft Quality Accounts 2018/19
REPORT OF:	Chair of the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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 a 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 suggests a process for Members to provide comments on the 2018/19 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 (and later 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 draft Quality Account to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by 30th 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 30th 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 process in Wirral

In recent municipal years, the Chair and Party Spokespersons have taken on the responsibility of responding to the draft Quality Accounts on behalf of the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It is proposed that a task & finish group consisting of the Chair and Party Spokespersons is established for the purpose of reviewing the draft Quality Accounts for 2018/19. It is suggested that a single meeting of the task and finish group is arranged in early May 2019, most likely week commencing 6th May 2019, 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 NHS Foundation Trust;
- Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;
- Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust;
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;

It is proposed that a representative from each of these partner organisations will attend 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

Not applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Alexandra Davidson**
Scrutiny Officer
0151 691 8381
alexandradaavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date