

Report to Adult Social Care Partnership Board

3 March 2009

Healthcare Commission: your part in the annual health check 2008/09 update

Report by Graham King, Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Members the process for contributing to the NHS annual health check and to consider whether the Board wish to submit a Third Party commentary.

2. Summary

- 2.1 From April 2009, NHS trusts will be preparing the declaration part of the annual health check. Through the declaration trusts must inform the Healthcare Commission how they have performed against the 24 core standards that describe a minimum level of service that patients have the right to expect.
- 2.2 As part of this process trusts are responsible for inviting 'third parties' to comment on their performance. Third parties include local authorities, overview and scrutiny committees and for 2008/09, the Local Involvement Network and learning disability partnership boards are also invited to contribute. These third party commentaries will be included in the declaration that is submitted by the trust.

Any comments provided by a third party must relate to the performance of the trust during the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

- 2.3 The 2008/09 Health Check reflects the changing structure of PCTs, in that there will be separate assessments on the provider and commissioning functions of the PCT.
- 2.4 Local trusts should begin contacting third parties early in 2009 to agree a timetable for including comments in their declaration. There is no standard template for providing comments. The deadline for trusts to submit their declaration to the Healthcare Commission in midday on 1 May 2009, therefore any third party comments need to be sent to the Trust in enough time for them to include them in their declaration.

If the trust gets a follow up inspection, third parties may be contacted by the regional assessor from the Healthcare Commission to discuss the comments provided. They will also want to see any supporting information at this point.

2.5 Key dates:

Early 2009

Establish deadlines from submitting comments to the trust.

15 April

Trusts can begin to submit their declaration to the Healthcare Commission

Midday 1 May 2009

Deadline for trusts to submit their declaration

22 May 2009

Trusts declaration made public

October 2009

Results of the annual health check published

- 2.6 As noted above, Local Involvement Networks are invited to submit commentaries. The Sunderland LINK is still in its infancy and is not in a position to contribute to the process this year. Therefore, the Partnership Board are requested to consider contributing to the process on behalf of the local community through the Voluntary and Community Sector representatives and Elected Members who are represented on the Board.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board are recommended to:

Receive this report for information and consider contributing to the annual health check and submit a Third Party commentary