

QUALITY ACCOUNT**REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR NHS TRUST****1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee has been invited to comment on the Quality Account for Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. This report gives the necessary background in advance of the Quality Account being made available.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 High Quality Care for All, published in June 2008, proposed that all providers of NHS Care should produce Quality Accounts to provide the public with information on the quality of care they provide with a view to enhancing public accountability and ensuring a focus on improving quality.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the Department of Health introduced legislation which places a legal duty on providers of NHS Services to publish Quality Accounts as part of a new Quality Framework which was brought into force in April 2010.
- 2.3 The accounts are published annually in June and they cover healthcare services for the previous financial year. The accounts outline:-
- What an organisation is doing well;
 - Where improvements in service quality are required;
 - What an organisation's priorities for improvement are for the coming year;
 - What actions an organisation intends to take to secure these improvements; and
 - How the organisation has involved people who use their services, staff and others with an interest in their organisation in determining their priorities for improvement

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 As part of the Quality Accounts process, providers are required through regulations to send a draft of their Quality Account to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Regulations currently specify that the "appropriate" Overview and Scrutiny Committee means the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the local authority in whose area the provider has its registered or principle office located, however NTW have chosen to widen its consultation to include the other local authority scrutiny functions in areas that receive its services.

- 3.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are invited, on a voluntary basis, to review the Quality Accounts of relevant providers and supply a statement commenting on the Account– based on the knowledge they have of the provider. Providers are required to include any statement supplied in their published Quality Account and any narrative provided should be published verbatim (up to a maximum of 500 words).
- 3.3 Due to the timescales involved the Quality Account was not available at the time this report was published. This will follow under separate cover in advance of the actual Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 3.4 Jennifer Illingworth, Deputy Director, Performance and Assurance will attend the Scrutiny Committee to present the Quality Account and answer questions from the Scrutiny Committee. Following this meeting, the Scrutiny Committee will be given 30 working days to prepare its comments and send back to the provider, prior to publication of the Quality Account.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to:-
- (a) Receive the Quality Account and the supporting presentation and provide comment where appropriate; and
 - (b) Agree that comments made at the Scrutiny Committee inform a formal response to be submitted on behalf of the scrutiny function by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

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