

Report of the Director of Public Health

Foundation Trusts Quality Reports

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The current process for reviewing and commenting on annual quality audit reports submitted by NHS Foundation Trust's to the Health and Wellbeing Board is not robust or well established.
- 1.2 From April 2013 all NHS Foundation Trusts have been required by the regulator Monitor to send an annual quality account to Health and Wellbeing Boards for their consideration and comment.
- 1.3 This new requirement has a fixed 30 day period for review and comment.
- 1.4 Currently the Health and Wellbeing Board has no process in place to manage this. This year as a consequence of the timing, the Health and Wellbeing Board were unable to provide a formal comment. A response was, however, provided by Public Health.
- 1.5 It is therefore proposed that the following process is established:
 - In January/February Foundation Trusts provide the Board with an overview of what they are planning to review within their quality audit.
 - The Director of Public Health/ Public Health Clinical Governance Lead prepares a response for consideration and approval of the Board.
 - Where timescales mean a consultation response is required between Board meetings, the Director of Public Health/ Public Health Clinical Governance Lead is delegated responsibility of preparing a response on behalf of the Board.
 - Published Quality reports are provided to the Board for information.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to receive, review and comment on Foundation Trust Quality Accounts/Reports
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board approves the process outlined in 1.4 including delegating responsibility to the Director of Public Health/ Public Health Clinical Governance Lead when timescales necessitate.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To implement a process that supports the Health and Wellbeing Board to review and

comment on the annual Quality Accounts/Reports of Foundation Trusts.

3.2 Supports the Board in its understanding of the quality of the NHS Foundation Trusts providers operating in its area.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Monitor is the sector regulator for health services in England. It is a non-departmental public body of the United Kingdom government.
- 4.2 The body was established in 2004 under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, which made it responsible for authorising, monitoring and regulating NHS foundation trusts.
- 4.3 All NHS Foundation Trusts must publish an annual quality account. A quality account is an annual report that providers of NHS healthcare services must publish to inform the public of the quality of the services they provide. It provides information on what they are doing well and where there needs to be improvements. It includes priorities for the coming year and details how the provider has progressed against the priorities identified for the previous year.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer	
Human Resources officer	
Estates/Property officer	
Service Director(s)	Derek Ward, Director of Public Health
Other(s)	Alison Wynn, Assistant Director of Public Health

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Background papers:	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None arising.

Legal

2.1 There is not a statutory requirement of the Board to review and comment on Quality Reports, it would however, be deemed good practice.

Personnel

3.1 None arising.

IT

4.1 None arising.

Equalities Impact

5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board will review the Quality reports including consideration of equality issues as appropriate.

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising.

Risk Management

9.1 This provides assurance to the Board that the risks around the quality of the local Trusts are being monitored.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 High quality NHS Foundation Trusts providing services to local people will support the achievement of corporate objectives, most notable in relation to health and wellbeing.