

Report Title: **Annual Health Checks – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments on Core Standards Self- Declarations by Local Trusts**

Report of: **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non-Key Decision**

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the comments that were made by the Committee in the Core Standards self- declarations by Local NHS Trusts

2. Recommendations

That the attached comments be noted

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4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

Not applicable

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The background papers relating to this report are:

Assessment for Improvement – The Annual Health Check; Criteria for Assessing Core Standards (Healthcare Commission)

These can be obtained from Robert Mack – Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 020 8489 2921,
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6. Report

- 6.1 The Annual Health Check is the way that all NHS trusts are now assessed on their performance. It was introduced last year to replace the previous “star rating” system and is undertaken by the Healthcare Commission, who are the body charged with ensuring that healthcare services are meeting standards. It aims to determine whether NHS trusts are getting the basics right and making and sustaining progress. Final results are announced each autumn.
- 6.2 A key part of the assessing whether trusts are getting the basics right is looking at their performance in meeting 23 “core standards”. These are responsibilities that the government believes that all NHS trusts should meet. All trusts undertake a self assessment and comments on how well they are doing against these are requested from Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The comments are supposed to act as a “reality check” so that the self declarations reflect how local communities view their local NHS trusts.
- 6.3 The Committee has previously decided to focus its attention on the four NHS trusts that are of most relevance to Haringey. These are:
- Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust
 - Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust
 - The North Middlesex University Hospital
 - The Whittington Hospital
- 6.4 The Health Scrutiny Conference on 22 March looked in detail at the self assessments of these trusts. A small number of core standards were selected for the event, which were ones that stakeholders and, in particular, patient and voluntary and community organisations, were felt most likely to be able to comment meaningfully on. These covered issues like the quality of patient care, provision of information, hospital food and partnership working.
- 6.5 The final comments were drafted after consideration of the comments and conclusions from the Health Scrutiny Conference and a trawl of all health scrutiny work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken during the last Municipal Year. The Healthcare Commission has stated that comments should be backed up by evidence and this has been taken into account in selecting the particular issues to focus on.
- 6.6 In order to meet the deadlines of the trusts, final comments needed to be submitted before the meeting. However, the comments were finalised in consultation with the Chair and the Members of the Committee who acted as breakout group facilitators at the Conference. The comments for all the trusts are attached for information.

7. Comments of Head of Legal Services

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1 One key area that the Committee will need to consider when making its comments will be whether the proposals by the TPCT affect all members of the community equally.