

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

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

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non-Key Decision**

1. Purpose

To approve draft comments by the Committee on the Core Standards self- declarations by local NHS Trusts

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the attached comments in relation to Haringey TPCT, the Whittington Hospital and the North Middlesex University Hospital be approved.
- 2.2 That final comments made in respect of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust be agreed by the Chair, in consultation with the Opposition Spokesperson.

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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 replaced 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 24 “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 (TPCT)
 - Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust
 - The North Middlesex University Hospital (NMUH)
 - The Whittington Hospital
- 6.4 Rather than attempt to cover all 24 standards in comments, the Committee has also previously decided to focus on a small number of standards which, it has determined that it is best placed to comment on.
- 6.5 Members of the Committee have attended meetings of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums of the TPCT, NMUH and the Whittington Hospital in order to participate in discussions with them on their performance against core standards.
- 6.6 Comments are attached to the report. They have been drafted in the light of the discussions at PPI Forum meetings attended by the Panel and following 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.

- 6.7 In respect of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust, a trust workshop has been arranged to take place on 14 April, to which a number of stakeholders have been invited, including Members of the Committee and Members for Overview and Scrutiny in Barnet and Enfield. In order to meet the deadlines of the trusts, comments on the Mental Health Trust will need to be submitted before the next meeting of the Committee. It is therefore proposed that these be agreed by the Chair, in consultation with the Opposition Spokesperson.

7. Legal and Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial or legal implications for the Council as the contents relate to NHS bodies.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no specific comment to make.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 9.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no specific comment to make

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 One of the core standards (C18) concerns equal access to NHS services and comments for each NHS trust have been drafted accordingly, based on the evidence that the Committee has received.