

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 10 JUNE 2015

COMMENTARY AGAINST QUALITY ACCOUNTS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to consider delegating the task of commenting on the Quality Accounts for the provider health trusts, specifically the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL), Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) and East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS), to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen of this Committee. The report also presents the commentaries on the Quality Accounts 2014/15 for UHL, LPT and EMAS.

Background

2. Quality Accounts (QAs) are annual public facing reports to the public from providers of NHS healthcare about the quality of services they deliver. There is a legal requirement under the NHS (Quality Accounts) Regulations 2010 for all bodies who provide, or arrange to provide (sub-contract) NHS services to produce a QA.
3. The aim of a QA is to enhance accountability to the public and engage the leaders of an organisation in their quality improvement agenda. If designed well, the QA should assure commissioners, patients and the public that healthcare providers are regularly scrutinising each and every one of their services, concentrating on those that need the most attention.
4. In previous years, local NHS Trusts attended meetings of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present their Quality Accounts and seek feedback from the Committee. General feedback from members was that whilst there was value in scrutiny making comments on the declarations, the process was somewhat onerous and the Committees' time would have been better spent on considering specific health issues.
5. It is therefore proposed that the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen, be asked to submit comments on behalf of the Committee. Such comments would have regard to the work of the Committee during the year in relation to the particular NHS body. The Chairman and Spokesmen would also be asked, in the process of scrutinising the declaration and formulating comments, to identify issues that would merit detailed consideration by the Health Overview and

Scrutiny Committee. Arrangements would then be made for these would be brought to the Committee.

2014/15 Quality Accounts

6. The timescale for production of the 2014/15 Quality Accounts was such that the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 June was too late for the Committee to make comments on them. After consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen, it was decided that they would give their views on the Quality Accounts and that the Chief Executive would then prepare and submit the commentaries to UHL, LPT and EMAS. It was thought that was a more appropriate and less time-consuming method of producing a response than to arrange an additional meeting of the Committee. The commentaries are appended to this report for members' information. The comments have been informed by the work undertaken by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2014/15.

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

7. None.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is recommended to delegate the role of commenting on the Quality Accounts of health provider organisations to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen on the basis outlined above.

Background Papers

9. The Quality Accounts are public documents and are available via
[http://www.library.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/pubscheme/Documents/How%20we%20make%20decisions/Board%20Papers/\(2015\)%20-%20Thursday%204%20June%202015/Paper%20O.pdf](http://www.library.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/pubscheme/Documents/How%20we%20make%20decisions/Board%20Papers/(2015)%20-%20Thursday%204%20June%202015/Paper%20O.pdf)
(UHL)
<http://www.emas.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/> (EMAS)
<http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/Aboutus-Trustboardmeetings2015-June2015.aspx>
(LPT)

Circulation under the Local Issues Alerts Procedure

10. None.

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Appendices

Appendix A – commentary for UHL Quality Account 2014/15
Appendix B – commentary for LPT Quality Account 2014/15
Appendix C – commentary for EMAS Quality Account 2014/15