
Meeting: Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13 June 2011

Subject: Bedfordshire Community Health Services Quality Account (2010)

Report of: NHS Bedfordshire Community Health Services

Summary: This note provides a brief outline of the Quality Accounts process and the role of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Advising Officer: Richard Winter, Chief Operating Officer Bedfordshire Community Health Services

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Scrutiny Policy Adviser (0300 300 4634)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: NHS

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee comment on the Quality Account submitted by Bedfordshire Community Health Services if so minded.**

Background

1. All providers of NHS healthcare services in England are required to publish a quality account that represents the quality of the healthcare services delivered over the previous year. Trusts are required to share their quality accounts with the local LINK and appropriate Overview and Scrutiny committees with responsibility for health matter who are offered the opportunity to comment on the draft document on a voluntary basis. These quality accounts are produced annually and made available to the public.

2. The Department of Health have produced guidance on Quality Accounts titled "Quality Accounts: a guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs)". The DoH guidance states that "Quality Accounts aim to enhance accountability to the public and engage the leaders of an organisation in their quality improvement agenda. If designed well, the Accounts 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."
3. The Department of Health Guidance "Quality Accounts: a guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs)" suggests that OSCs might consider the following:-
 - Do the priorities identified by the provider contained in the Quality Account match those of the public?
 - Has the provider omitted any major issues from the Quality Account?
 - Has the provider demonstrated they have involved patients and the public in the production of the Quality Account?
4. With regard to the attached quality account the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the divestment of Bedfordshire Community Health Services (BCHS) (Minute SCHH/09/186 refers) at their meeting on 18 October 2010. The report was noted.

Conclusion and Next Steps

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Quality Account and provide any comments as they feel appropriate. Comments on the Quality Account are voluntary, the Committee is not obliged to comment if it does not feel it necessary.
6. Any statements agreed by the Committee will be sent to the provider to allow them time to prepare their Quality Account, which will include the statement, for publication.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Bedfordshire Community Health Services Quality Account (2010)

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Quality Accounts: a guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125167.pdf

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands