

TITLE:	DERWENTSIDE PRIMARY CARE TRUST - HEALTH CHECK SELF ASSESSMENT
TO/ON:	EXECUTIVE – 24TH APRIL, 2006
BY:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
PORTFOLIO:	HEALTH
STATUS:	REPORT

STRATEGIC FACTOR CHECKLIST

The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Members' attention.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks Executive's views on the Self-Assessment produced by Derwentside Primary Care Trust (PCT) that forms a key element in the new assessment framework for health service trusts.

2. BACKGROUND

In common with local authorities, the health service is subject to assessment frameworks designed to improve provision to the public, and just like local authorities, the frameworks are subject to significant change and refinement. The latest change for the health service was launched in July, 2004 with the Department for Health's publication 'Standards for Better Health', that was associated with the establishment of a new body to oversee improvement, the Healthcare Commission. It also introduced a new system to promote a minimum level of quality standards across the whole of the NHS known as the Annual Health Check.

The new process commenced as from 2005/06, and reports were considered at Executive and Health Scrutiny in October, 2005 setting out in full the draft self assessment for Derwentside PCT.

3. RELEVANT MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS/OPTIONS

Given this is the first year of the Annual Health Check system, health trusts were given the opportunity to prepare a draft self assessment to the Healthcare Commission in October prior to submitting a final self assessment (or declaration) in April. At both stages, health trusts are required to seek the views of local authorities on these assessments, with these comments having to be incorporated unedited in their submission.

At the time of considering the Draft Health Assessment in October, a comprehensive report, and accompanying presentation, was given to Executive and Scrutiny Members as to the content of the assessment. Members will recall that the assessment contained commentary on 24 core standards (covering the seven areas of safety, clinical and cost effectiveness, governance, patient focus, accessible and responsive care, core environment and amenities and public health). A copy of the minute from that meeting of Executive in October is attached to this report for information.

Given at the time of submitting the draft assessment, the PCT had fully met all but seven core standards, this report focuses on those standards where further work was required to achieve full compliance.

As detailed in the attached schedule, Derwentside PCT have now assessed themselves as fully complying with the outstanding standards. In carrying out this further work, of particular note are the enhancements around improved archiving arrangements and the evaluation of all current patient information given those could potentially provide some cross agency lessons for the Council's approach in its related service areas. As a consequence, it is my intention that relevant officers within the Council make contact with their counterparts in the PCT to discuss whether any of their practices could be applied to the Council.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Executive is asked to note that the PCT has assessed that they fully comply with the core standards within their Annual Health Check and to consider if it wants to add anything to the comments it made to the Draft Assessment in October, 2005.