

## Appendix 2

### **NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST**

### **HEALTHCARE COMMISSION– ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2008/09** **DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CORE STANDARDS** **REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Executive Summary**

Members will be aware of the Healthcare Commission's system of assessment for all NHS Trusts in England - The Annual Health Check, which applies for the period 1 April 2008 until 31 March 2009.

The system is designed to provide a fuller picture of the Trust's performance against core standards and progress made against developmental standards. This is the fourth year of reporting to the Healthcare Commission through a declaration of compliance. *(Under the category of 'Quality of Services 2007/08', the Trust scored an "Excellent" rating)*

#### **Declaration process**

The final date for submission of the declaration is midday, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and the Trust is required to publish its declaration, by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009.

#### **Evidence to support the Declaration of Compliance with Core Standards**

##### **(Appendices (a-e) attached for information)**

- a) Summary report to Assurance Committee meeting, held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009, on statements made and evidence to support compliance with Core Standards, dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009. *(Recommendation subsequently approved by the Assurance Committee)*
- b) Summary report to the Audit Committee meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009. *(Recommendation subsequently approved by the Audit Committee)*
- c) Cover sheet report to Audit Committee, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009
- d) Timetable of process leading up to publication of the Declaration, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009
- e) Independent Internal Audit report, (Sunderland Internal Audit Services) dated February 2009

#### **Evidence to support the Declaration**

It should be noted that the Trust must report commentaries from third parties (verbatim) and that any assurance given to the Board by the Audit Committee, following their meeting of the 10th March 2009, is based on the robustness of processes followed in declaring full compliance against the standards. It should be noted that the Board is required to have "Reasonable assurance" which is by definition not absolute assurance.

Reasonable assurance is based on documentary evidence that can stand up to internal and external challenge. Trusts must reflect that the core standards are not optional and describe the level of service which is acceptable and must be universal.

The declaration will be submitted electronically to the HCC, subject to approval at this meeting, by the Trust Board.

#### **Recommendation**

Members are recommended to note the robust process in the gathering of evidence provided in support of all relevant core standards; supported by the above documentation; review the processes adopted to support the statement of compliance, and approve the final declaration of compliance with all of the relevant 24 Core Standards (some standards remain not applicable to Ambulance Trusts) A copy of the full declaration, including comments from the SHA, LINKs and OSC's will be presented to the next Trust Board meeting.

R D French  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE  
16 March 2009