

**NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST**  
**HEALTHCARE COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2006/07 -**  
**PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CORE STANDARDS**

**REPORT BY : DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

HEALTHCARE STANDARDS : All Domains

**Executive Summary**

Board 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 2006 until 31 March 2007.

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 second year of reporting to the Healthcare Commission in the declaration of compliance. Ratings for 2006/07 will not be based on progress against Developmental Standards.

**Declaration process**

The final date for submission of the full year declaration is midday, Tuesday 1 May 2007 and the Trust is expected to publish its declaration by Friday 18 May 2007.

**Evidence to support the final Declaration – (reported to 13 March 07 Audit Committee)**

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

- a) Report on statements made and evidence to support compliance with Core Standards (*this template was used in the collation of statements of compliance and evidence to support the statements – audited on a monthly basis*) – last updated, 5 March 2007
- b) Minutes of Assurance Committee meeting, held 26 February 2007
- c) Copy of Audit Committee cover sheet, dated 5 March 2007
- d) Timetable of process leading up to publication of the Declaration, dated 13 March 2007
- e) Internal Audit report E2007/ 05, dated February 2007

**Evidence to support the Declaration**

Commentary will be provided on the Trust's performance from the Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC) and Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) Forum and added to the Trust's declaration of compliance. It should be noted that the Trust must report such commentary verbatim and that the assurance being given to the Board by the Audit Committee, following its meeting of the 13 March 2007, is based on the *processes* followed in declaring full compliance against the standards. The Trust is however, entitled to make comment upon the statements received by the SHA, OSC and PPI Forum and submit this to the Healthcare Commission. In light of past experience, it is recommended that this opportunity is utilized.

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

**Recommendation**

Members are recommended to note the evidence provided in support of all 24 core standards supported by the above documentation; review the processes adopted to support the statement of compliance, and approve the final declaration of full compliance with all 24 Core Standards. It is further asked to delegate authority to the Trust Chairman to make comment upon those statements received from stakeholders.

A copy of the full declaration, including comments from the SHA, PPI Forum and OSC's will be presented at the 24 May 2007 Board meeting.

R D French  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PERFORMANCE

13 March 2007