

**Adults Wellbeing and Health  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**8 April 2016**

**NHS Foundation Trust 2015/16  
Quality Accounts**



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**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the proposed process for the consideration of the Draft 2015/16 Quality Accounts for:-
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
  - County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
  - North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
2. The report also invites members to agree a way forward that enables the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment thereon.

**Background**

3. The Health Act 2009 requires the NHS Foundation Trusts to publish an annual Quality Account report. The purpose of the Quality Account report is for each of the Trusts to assess quality across all of the healthcare services they offer by reporting information on 2015/16 performance and identifying priorities for improvement during the forthcoming year and how they will be achieved and measured.
4. Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in the development and providing assurance of Quality Account reports. Regulation 10 of the Health Act requires the NHS Trusts to send a copy of their report to be considered by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 30 days beginning with 1 April at the end of the reporting period.
5. Department of Health Guidance states that OSCs are ideally placed to ensure that a provider's Quality Account reflects the local priorities and concerns voiced by their constituents. If an important local healthcare issue is missing from a provider's Quality Account then the OSC can use the opportunity in the form of a statement to be included in a provider's Quality Account to highlight this omission.
6. Moreover, Quality Accounts aim to encourage local quality improvements, and OSCs can add to the process and provide further assurance by providing comments on the issues they are involved in locally and have engaged with providers during the course of their activities during the year. It is also suggested that OSCs may also wish to comment on how well providers have engaged patients and the public, and how well they have promoted the Quality Account.

7. Guidance indicates that OSCs should not feel that they have to comment on areas of the Quality Account where they do not have relevant knowledge. These include areas of clinical safety and processes/procedures.

### **NHS Foundation Trust Draft Quality Account 2015/16**

8. The timing of today's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the draft NHS Quality Account have not yet been received. Indications are that they are likely to be submitted to the Council during the week commencing 11 April 2016. Upon receipt of the draft Quality Account documents, the Council has 30 days within which to submit a response to the documents to the respective NHS Foundation Trusts.
9. Previously, members have received electronic copies of the draft documents as soon as they have been submitted to the Council to allow members to identify any key issues that they may have arising from the documents and to formulate lines of enquiry to put to representatives of NHS Foundation Trusts' at a special meeting of the Committee.
10. To this end, it is proposed that a special meeting of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be held on Wednesday 27 April 2016 to allow for the Trusts' representatives to provide presentations to members detailing information on their draft Quality Account for 2015/16 and respond to any member questions.
11. Thereafter, proposed responses to the respective draft NHS Foundation Trust Quality Accounts will be drafted and a report considered at a further special meeting of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 May 2016 to enable responses to be submitted to the Foundation Trusts within the statutory deadlines.

### **Recommendation**

12. That the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive and note this report and that the process for producing a response to the NHS Foundation Trust Draft Quality Accounts 2015/16 as detailed above be agreed.

### **Background papers**

None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – None.

**Staffing** - None

**Equality and Diversity** - None

**Accommodation** – None.

**Crime and Disorder** – None.

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be invited to comment on the NHS Foundation Trust Draft Quality Accounts documents 2015/16 as outlined in this report.

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Discrimination Act** – None

**Legal Implications** – This report has been produced to reflect the requirements of the Health Act 2009.