

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	4 JULY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	20
TITLE:	QUALITY ACCOUNTS: REVISED SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR HOSKIN	PORTFOLIO:	HEALTH
SERVICE:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out plans for future scrutiny of Quality Accounts presented by healthcare providers, giving the Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Board a clear overview and scrutiny lead in this area via a delegation from the Adult Care Children's Services and Education (ACE) Committee.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Board be authorised to receive and respond to future Quality Accounts received from local NHS healthcare providers.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 A Quality Account is a report about the quality of services delivered by an NHS healthcare provider. The reports are published annually by each provider, including the independent sector, and are available to the public. Quality Accounts are an important way for local NHS services to report on quality and show improvements in the services they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. They aim to give confidence that the relevant board is being open and honest about the quality of services being provided across the organisation and is committed to driving continuous quality improvement.

- 3.2 The quality of the services is measured in the Quality Account by looking at patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments that patients receive, and patient feedback about the care provided.
- 3.3 Health and Wellbeing boards are intended to shape and drive the improvement of the local health and wellbeing system. A recent peer review of Reading's Health and Wellbeing Board noted a clear commitment, politically and from officers and clinicians, for the board to provide strategic leadership and to make a positive difference to improving the health and wellbeing of Reading's people. However, the peer reviewers also observed that that the Board's role to date has been primarily to receive information about decisions made elsewhere in the Council and CCGs. Giving the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board a clear lead in receiving and responding to Quality Accounts will help to consolidate its leadership role in relation to local healthcare.

4. QUALITY ACCOUNTS

- 4.1 The Department of Health requires providers to submit their final Quality Account to the Secretary of State by uploading it to the NHS Choices website by June 30 each year. The requirement is set out in [the Health Act 2009](#). Amendments were made in 2012, such as the inclusion of quality indicators according to [the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#). NHS England or Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) cannot make changes to the reporting requirements. Additionally Healthwatch should be provided with a copy to comment on prior to publication of the Quality Account, and Healthwatches have been asked to consider producing guidance that will enable them to provide an effective challenge to Quality Accounts locally.
- 4.2 Foundation trusts and NHS trusts are only required by regulation to share their Quality Account with NHS England or relevant clinical commissioning groups (as determined by the NHS Quality Accounts Amendment Regulations 2012), local Healthwatch organisations, and Overview and Scrutiny Committees (and have their reports audited). There is no regulatory requirement for foundation trusts or NHS trusts to share their Quality Account/Report with Health and Wellbeing Boards unless the Health and Wellbeing Board is fulfilling a scrutiny function; although it is hard to see any reason why this would not be sensible given the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board to oversee alignment and potential integration of health and care services. For Reading Borough Council, the Constitution identifies the Adult Social Care, Children's Services & Education (ACE) Committee as the Health Scrutiny body, although in practice much of the reporting of developments is managed via the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.3 No central guidance has been issued to Health and Wellbeing Boards setting expectations as to the comments they may make on Quality accounts. However, comments may be made on the following areas:
- the degree to which local communities have been engaged in priority setting
 - other priority areas that could have been included in the Quality Account
 - the approach the organisation has towards quality improvement overall

5 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE HANDLING OF QUALITY ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 ACE Committee is asked to delegate its health scrutiny function in relation to Quality Accounts to the HWB Board. This will facilitate appropriate representation within the responses prepared to Quality Accounts. The local authority will continue to play a key role, but working alongside CCG and Healthwatch representatives. This will give the HWB Board a mandate to take on a clearer leadership role in relation to health improvement locally.
- 5.2 In future, all Quality Accounts received for local NHS healthcare providers will be received and responded to by the Reading HWB Board. The HWB Board ordinarily meets four times a year, however, and this may not be sufficiently frequent to facilitate discussion of each Quality Account response by the full Board. The HWB Board will therefore appoint members to a Quality Account Task and Finish Group and empower this Group to prepare and submit Quality Account responses on behalf of the HWB Board.
- 5.3 The Quality Account Task and Finish Group will include appropriate representatives of the local authority, the Reading CCGs and Healthwatch Reading. Members of the Task and Finish Group will be appointed by but need not be members of the HWB Board.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 'Quality Accounts' report to Health and Wellbeing Board - March 2016