

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	18 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	11
TITLE:	QUALITY ACCOUNTS		
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 clarifies the options for Health and Wellbeing Boards to comment on and advise on quality standards and performance to be achieved in the delivery of Health and Wellbeing strategic outcomes.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 HWB members and observers identify a task and finish group to evaluate Quality Accounts against strategic intentions and JSNA priorities.
- 2.2 That HWB receives a further report at its next meeting, setting out recommendations for on going monitoring of Quality Accounts as an essential element of Health Scrutiny

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 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 by looking at patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments that patients receive and patient feedback about the care provided.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 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 have been asked to consider to produce guidance that will enable them to effectively challenge Quality Accounts locally
- 4.2 Foundation trusts and NHS trusts are only required by regulation to share their Quality Report with NHS England or relevant clinical commissioning groups (as determined by the NHS (Quality Accounts) Amendment Regulations 2012), Local.
- 4.3 Health Watch 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 Committee (ACE) as the Health Scrutiny body, although in practice much of the reporting of developments is managed via the Health and Wellbeing Board.

No central guidance has been issued to Health and Wellbeing Boards in terms of the expectation of comments, 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 Reporting in current year

- 5.1 At this point, a consultation document on QA priorities has been received and responded to from Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, but not the whole QA, and a draft QA has been received from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, with a further QA expected from South Central Ambulance Service. However, the next meeting is planned for July, after the deadline for publishing with NHSE. The documents are attached as Appendices A and B.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None