

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD		
<b>DATE:</b>	15 JULY 2016	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	12
<b>TITLE:</b>	QUALITY ACCOUNTS: REVISED SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	CLLR HOSKIN	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	HEALTH
<b>SERVICE:</b>	ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH	<b>WARDS:</b>	BOROUGHWIDE
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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Board on plans for future scrutiny of Quality Accounts presented by healthcare providers, giving the 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 HWB Board members agree membership of a Task and Finish Group to evaluate Quality Accounts against strategic intentions and JSNA priorities.
- 2.2 HWB Board requires the Task and Finish Group to present Quality Accounts received together with Group's response - prepared on behalf of the HWB Board - at the next available HWB Board after receipt of each Quality Account.

#### 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 has been asked to delegate its health scrutiny function in relation to Quality Accounts to the HWB Board. Transferring responsibility for responding to Local Accounts to the Health and Wellbeing Board in this way will then enable the HWB Board to bring together from its membership representatives of all bodies required to comment on Quality Accounts. Quality Account responses can then be prepared collaboratively across the local authority, CCGs and Healthwatch. In the case of the CCGs as commissioners of the services concerned, they would continue to engage their Quality Committee in the HWB Quality Accounts Group in order to agree the form of response from the Partnership.

5.2 This transfer of responsibility will give the Reading HWB Board a clearer mandate to take on a leadership role in relation to health improvement locally. 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 establish a Quality Account Task and Finish Group including representatives of:

- Director of Adult Care & Health Services
- Director of Children Education & Early Help Services
- Healthwatch Reading
- North and West Reading CCG
- South Reading CCG

and empower this Group to prepare and submit Quality Account responses on behalf of the HWB Board.

5.3 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