

## TRANSPARENCY IN OUTCOMES - A FRAMEWORK FOR THE NHS – BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Bracknell Forest Council has considered the consultation questions within the paper on the proposed outcomes framework.

There are some general points the Council would wish to make before considering the questions.

The Outcomes Framework seems to miss the NHS responsibility for promoting good health and preventing ill health in the general population. The outcomes are based on the population of people who are already ill or have suffered trauma or who have a long term condition. This seems to be an oversight.

The impact the NHS can have on the health of the general population is not yet apparent in the outcomes or indicators. Although this is likely to be joint responsibility with other partners it is the view of the Council that it is important the NHS should be called to account in this area.

The Council would also like to see accountability for outcomes on the service providers as well as the commissioners.

In relation to the consultation questions the Council has comments on each of the general questions and then some comments on the five domains.

<b>Consultation Questions</b>
<p><b>Q1 - Do you agree with the key principles which will underpin the development of the NHS Outcomes Framework?</b></p> <p>The Council believes it is important that the NHS is asked to strive towards improved outcomes for the general population.</p>
<p><b>Q2 - Are there any other principles which could be considered?</b></p> <p>There needs to be a balance between the data collection surrounding the measurement of outcomes and the delivery of services.</p> <p>The principles will need to be revisited as they are used to ensure there are no unintended consequences to service delivery or perverse outcomes.</p> <p>It is unclear how the proposals will link with inspection frameworks for example Ofsted inspection of schools and the work that schools do to promote healthy lifestyles. Education is the foremost prevention action and the NHS has a major contribution to continue to make to this area and it is a key aspect for further future development</p>
<p><b>Q3 - How can we ensure that the NHS Outcomes framework will deliver more equitable outcomes and contribute to a reduction in health inequalities?</b></p> <p>Local determinants of outcomes - especially areas of improvement should be encouraged. The Council believes the Health and Wellbeing Board should take a lead in determining local improvement areas.</p>

**Q4 - How can we ensure that where outcomes require integrated care across the NHS, public health and/or social care services, this happens?**

The Council believes there needs to be a coherent partnership framework. The set outcomes for each partner should not clash. The use of the Local Area Agreement is an example of where partners have come together to agree joint outcomes to work for. The Council would see the Health and Wellbeing Board as being responsible for making this happen.

There is concern that the outcomes being suggested are long term but will the government want to see short term performance improvement.

It is difficult to integrate outcome frameworks given different legislation. There is an opportunity here to overhaul the legislation and repeal conflicting laws as regulations.

**Q5 - Do you agree with the five domains that are proposed as making up the NHS Outcomes framework?**

The Council would appreciate a domain which connects the NHS to one which enables the individual to stay healthy.

**Q6 - Do they appropriately cover the range of health care outcomes that the NHS is responsible for delivering to patients?**

See answer above.

**Q7 - Does the proposed structure of the NHS outcomes framework under each domain seem sensible.**

Yes. As long as the suite of standards is not too long and the measurement of performance does not impinge on operational resources.

**Q8-12 - Domain 1 Preventing People from dying prematurely.**

The Council would like to see more emphasis here on quality of life rather than length of life only.

**Q13-15 - Domain 2 Enhancing the quality of life for people with long term conditions.**

This could include enhancing the quality of life for everyone. Here, the NHS could be held to account for its part in health improvement and health and wellbeing.

**Q16-19 - Domain 3 Helping people recover from ill health or following injury.**

The Council is concerned that prevention does not feature here.

**Q20-24 - Domain 4 Ensuring people have a positive experience of care.**

Again here, there is an opportunity to look at how the NHS is encouraging people to look after their own health and encouraging people to be independent.

**Q25-26 - Domain 5 Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm**

The Council has nothing to add to this domain.

Other questions considered

**Q28. Is there any way in which the proposed approach to the NHS Outcomes framework might impact upon sustainable development?**

So much of health is connected to other areas of life, such as housing and employment. The work of the NHS should be connected to the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and be integral to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Q30. How can the NHS Outcomes framework best support the NHS to deliver best value for money?**

There is a clear relationship to the effectiveness of the NHS through the Outcomes Framework but in terms of the efficiency and economy, there would need to be other measures in place.