

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
13 MARCH 2014**

**NHS QUALITY ACCOUNTS
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Panel to make comments on the Quality Accounts for 2013-14 produced by the five principal NHS Trusts serving Bracknell Forest residents.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel convenes a separate informal meeting to formulate comments to five NHS Trusts on their quality accounts for 2013-14.**
- 2.2 **In accordance with the Panel's decision in January 2014, the Health O&S Panel should invite input from all Members including the Executive Member, also the Director, and the Public Health Consultant before commenting on the annual Quality Accounts.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Department of Health's guidance for O&S Committees on Quality Accounts is attached. All providers of NHS healthcare services in England, whether they are NHS bodies, private or third sector organisations must publish an annual Quality Account. Quality Accounts are annual reports to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of services they provide. The primary purpose of Quality Accounts is to encourage boards and leaders of healthcare organisations to assess quality across all of the healthcare services they offer, and encourage them to engage in the wider processes of continuous quality improvement.
- 3.2 Quality Accounts are published on the NHS Choices website and providers also have a duty to display a notice at their premises with information on how to obtain the latest Quality Account; and to provide hard copies on request.
- 3.3 Healthcare providers publishing Quality Accounts have a legal duty to send their Quality Account to the O&S Committee (or Panel) in the local authority area in which the provider has its registered office, inviting comments on the report from O&S prior to publication. This gives O&S the opportunity to review the information contained in the report and provide a statement on their view of what is reported. Providers are legally obliged to publish this statement (of less than 1000 words) as part of their Quality Account.
- 3.4 The Health O&S Panel sent written comments on the NHS Trusts' Quality Accounts for 2012-13, in late April 2013.
- 3.5 NHS Trusts have advised that they would need any comments from O&S by the end of April 2014.

3.6 The five principal NHS Trusts serving Bracknell Forest residents NHS Trusts are:

- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust
- Heatherwood & Wexham Park NHS Trust
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust,

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS/ EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / OTHER OFFICERS/ CONSULTATION – Not applicable

Background Papers

'Quality Accounts: a guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees' – Department of Health, 2011 (updated in 2012)

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