

**REPORT TO:** Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 10 March 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Health and Community

**SUBJECT:** The Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check 2008/9

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Policy and Performance Board of progress made with the self assessment against the Standards for Better Health during the period April 2008 - March 2009 within: -

- Halton and St Helens PCT
- North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- 5 Borough Partnerships NHS Trust

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board :-**

- **Make a 3<sup>rd</sup> party commentary to accompany the submissions of the Annual Health Check declarations to the NHS Trusts outlined above and to be made public on the Trusts' websites from 22 May 2009.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The annual health check in 2008/09 will assess how well NHS trusts perform during the financial year from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

The Healthcare Commission published "The Annual Health Check 2008/09: Assessing and Rating the NHS" in June 2008. The guidance sets out :

- Proposals for the annual health check in 2008/9 and related processes
- How the annual health check focuses on the issues that are most important to patients
- How the annual health check will be better tailored to different types of trust

The Commission have also published the criteria for assessing performance against the core standards. There are different sets of criteria, one for each type of trust: acute services, mental health services and learning disability services, ambulance services and primary care trusts

A copy of the criteria documents for each of the Trusts outlined in paragraph 1.1 can be found at Appendix 1.

- 3.2 There is a need to feed in the views of patients and the public into the annual health check cross-checking process. The Commission have outlined the need for third party organisations to comment on trust performance as part of the 2008/09 annual health check. By third parties the commission mean LINKs, overview and scrutiny committees and representatives from foundation trust boards of governors

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Local government and primary care trusts have a joint responsibility for improving the health and well being of the local population through effective commissioning. As a consequence these two bodies are mutually dependent on each other's performance in order to make a significant difference to the lives of local people.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The annual health check covers all NHS Trusts including maternity services and children's hospitals. Given these services are checked against national quality standards, the outcome of this process will either have a detrimental or beneficial effect on the realisation of council priorities.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

Effective health service delivery supports and complements HBC efforts to improve the health and well being of the people of Halton.

##### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified.

##### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

#### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 This is a key opportunity to demonstrate to the Board compliance with the nominated Standards for Better Health and the evidence base that can be provided as assurance to the Board.

#### **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 The key standards for self-assessment include equality and diversity issues.

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act