

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN DECISION ITEM

Health Scrutiny Panel

Date **18.7.13**

Originating Service Group(s) **Office of the Chief Executive**

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Title **Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Quality Account 2012/13 / Health Scrutiny Response**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health Scrutiny Panel note the comment on the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Quality Account 2012/13 Statement that has been accepted for inclusion in the final published document.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Royal Wolverhampton presented a draft of the NHS Trust Quality Account 2012/13 to Health Scrutiny Panel meeting on 23.5.13.
- 1.2 The Panel were invited to comment on the report and if considered appropriate to make comments that they would like included in the final published report.
- 1.3 A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Healthcare providers publishing Quality Accounts have a legal duty to send their Quality Account to the Health Scrutiny Panel in the local authority area in which they have its registered office, to invite comments on the report from the Panel prior to publication.
- 2.2. The aim is to give the Health Scrutiny Panel an opportunity to review the information contained in the report and provide a statement on their view of what has been reported.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. [GE/03072013/D]

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. [FD/08072013/B]

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Members will be asked to consider equality implications as part of all scrutiny investigations and recommendations, especially when identifying who to consult and call to give evidence.

6. SCHEDULE OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1: Wolverhampton Health Scrutiny Panel response to Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Quality Accounts 2012/13

The Health Scrutiny Panel have continued to build on the positive working relationship with key staff to discuss issues of concern and to support efforts to both improve health outcomes for local people and achieve national quality standards.

The Health Scrutiny Panel have received regular reports on the performance of the hospital in delivering a safe and effective service and acknowledges the considerable progress made to address issues of concern, while acknowledging areas where improvements are needed. The reports focus on three key priority areas for improvement – reflecting the concerns generally of local people and those of the Health Scrutiny Panel. The Health Scrutiny Panel supports the continued focus on these areas as priorities for improvement in 2013/14, in particular work being done to respond to the increased demand on A&E service.

The Health Scrutiny Panel will continue to monitor the progress made in implementing planned actions detailed in the Quality Accounts report on a regular basis in the future to inform its response to the 2013/14 Quality Account report.

The Health Scrutiny Panel welcome the improved performance in key service areas and the work done to involve local people when determining how to make best use of its resources to improve the patient experience.

The willingness of staff to discuss future service changes with the Health Scrutiny Panel at early stage and also to share the results of external inspections is very much welcomed. The plans for the development of a joint urgent care strategy for Wolverhampton is a good example of the willingness of key staff at the hospital to engage with the Health Scrutiny Panel early in the planning process, to get their views on options for future service changes.

The Health Scrutiny Panel appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Quality Account and the willingness to make changes to its original layout and content in response to the issues highlighted.

The document does not include a reference to decision by Monitor to defer the hospitals Foundation Trust's application for up to twelve months as a result of the high number of "never events" reported by CQC in their inspection of the Trust in July 2012. The Health Scrutiny Panel was briefed about the decision and the action being planned or taken to respond to the concerns. The hospital has agreed to provide regular updates on progress towards reactivation of its application to be become a foundation trust. The Panel will continue to review progress towards achieving foundation trust status at the earliest opportunity.