

## **CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CUSTOMER OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

### **ASSESSMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT/STANDARDS FOR BETTER HEALTH UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN**

#### **Introduction**

In March 2005 the Healthcare Commission (HC) set out the final version of their arrangements for the annual assessment of healthcare organisations in a publication entitled *Assessment for improvement – the annual health check*.

NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts are required to meet the requirements of the HC in respect of the seven domains of *Standards for Better Health*. The domains are divided into a total of 24 core and 13 developmental standards. These are set out in full in the attached action plan (Appendix 1).

The domains are titled as follows:

- Safety
- Clinical and Cost Effectiveness
- Governance
- Patient Focus
- Accessible and Responsive Care
- Care Environment and Amenities
- Public Health

#### **Meeting the Core Standards**

NHS Trust and PCT Boards are required to make a public declaration on the extent to which their organisation meets the core standards within each of the seven domains. A draft declaration is to be made at the PCT's October Board meeting, and the final declaration will be made in April 2006. The Healthcare Commission has indicated that the declaration should be supported by comments from the representatives of patients, other partners in the health community (particularly Patient and Public Involvement Forums), Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the local Strategic Health Authority.

In Chorley & South Ribble, the PCT is seeking comments from both Borough Councils and will share these with Lancashire County Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee. All comments received will be disclosed in public at the October Board meeting and will be submitted verbatim to the Healthcare Commission.

## Chorley & South Ribble PCT's Approach

In order to demonstrate evidence for its self-assessment, both in terms of internal validity and Board Assurance, Chorley & South Ribble PCT has developed and agreed an action plan (Appendix 1). Three core standards are identified on the action plan as requiring some further development and a delivery plan has been drawn up to ensure these standards will be met. A lead officer for each standard has been identified.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The comments of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Patient and Public Involvement Forums will greatly add to the Healthcare Commission's understanding of the views of patients and the public on the quality of care they receive.

Members are therefore asked to consider the PCTs self-assessment as at August 2005 and to make any comments they feel to be appropriate, taking into account the Healthcare Commission's guidance (reproduced at Appendix 2). Please note that at this stage, the Healthcare Commission will only be considering the core standards and not the developmental standards.

The PCT will be seeking further comments prior to the final declaration in April 2006.

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