

**Standards for Better Health Declaration  
2007/2008**

1. This paper gives a brief outline of the process undertaken by the Trust. In previous years the Trust has received feedback from partners about the challenge of commenting on our performance in relation to our Standards for Better Health declaration. As a result, this year the Trust held workshops for our OSC and PPI colleagues in October and December in preparation for a March 2008 response. The purpose of these workshops was to give colleagues the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and seek further information on the Trust's approach by giving a more in depth picture of how we approach the task each year.
2. As a Foundation Trust, this year we have also invited our Council of Members to comment on our Declaration. Following a presentation to the whole council discussing the role of the Healthcare Commission and our standards, a small working group has been formed of interested governors who will provide additional scrutiny of the process.
3. Executive Leads for each standard considered compliance with the standards in the context of reasonable assurance, taking into account whether any significant lapses had taken place in the year. They also looked in detail at the Healthcare Commission's cross-checking data and the inspection guides used for the previous year's round of inspections.
4. The Board of Directors have considered a range of Standards for Better Health materials during the year. A list of evidence was produced by the Trust's Clinical Governance team. This evidence was provided from a range of sources via the Trust Executive Directors. In rendering their judgment of 'compliant' with the core standards, the Board has therefore considered a 30 page list of policies, procedures, audits, presentations, leaflets and other documents. In addition to this evidence the Board has also seen a 'Deep Dives' paper which looked particularly closely, through the Healthcare Commission's cross-checking data, at the standards which relate to the patient experience of our services.
5. The Performance Management Committee, and where appropriate the Clinical Governance Committee, have considered matters relating to the Annual Health Check throughout the year.
6. Internal audit check our entire Standards for Better Health process. They are currently in the process of doing this. The results will be reported to the Board of Directors in April.
7. Please be assured that a declaration by us of 'compliant' does not mean that we are complacent about the standard of care that we provide. The core standards represent nationally defined basic standards, and we constantly strive to provide care that exceeds these measures.