

Standards for Better Health Declaration  
2008/09

1. The Trust is expected to declare full compliance with all 24 core standards. This paper gives a brief outline of the process undertaken by the Trust prior to submission of the Standards for Better Health Declaration 2008/09.
2. 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 LINK colleagues in February as well as for the Council of Members in preparation for an April 2009 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.
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 considered compliance statements from each of the Executive Leads for each standard.
5. Comparative Indicator data received from the Healthcare Commission has also been considered by the Board when making the declaration.
6. A small working group was established to look in detail at the Annual Health Check process. The group had an overview of all the evidence collection and reporting points across the Trust thereby ensuring no duplication of effort and timescales are met. It received, coordinated and collected the evidence related to the core standards as well as reviewing the inspection guides for the core standards thus helping to identify gaps in the evidence and support identified leads in the provision of evidence. The group also provided one point of contact for the information relating to the Annual Health Check as reports directly to the Performance Management Committee.
7. The Performance Management Committee, and where appropriate the Clinical Governance Committee, have considered matters relating to the Annual Health Check throughout the year.
8. 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.
9. 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.