

Report to: NHS Harrow Overview and Scrutiny Committee

By: Fiona Wise, Chief Executive, The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (NWLH)

Date of meeting: 8th June 2010

1. Purpose of report

To seek support for the Trust's quality accounts (attached) which are due to be published by 30th June on the NHS Choices website.

2. Background

Quality Accounts are annual reports to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of services they provide.

High Quality Care for All, published by the Department of Health in June 2008 set out the vision for putting quality at the heart of the NHS, and a key component of the new quality framework would be a requirement for all providers of NHS services to publish Quality Accounts, in addition to the standard financial accounts.

Foundation Trusts began publishing Quality Accounts in 2009/10 and this is the first year NHS Trusts are required to produce them.

3. Approach at NWLH

The Trust board has identified the following three areas for quality improvement for 2010/11:

- To improve mortality rates;
- To improve patient safety by reducing healthcare acquired infections and increasing incident reporting;
- To improve the experience of patients by reducing numbers of complaints and improving results in patient indicators.

The Trust's two Primary Care Trusts, NHS Harrow and NHS Brent have endorsed the Trust's choice of measures and will submit a statement with the attached report confirming that it is accurate. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and local authority scrutiny functions should also be given the opportunity, on a voluntary basis to review the accounts and supply a statement that will be included with the accounts.

NWLH's Quality Accounts will be published by 30th June on the Trust's NHS Choices profile pages. A copy must also be sent to the Secretary of State. The report will also be published on the Trust's website which receives 25,000 hits per month.

4. Recommendation

Harrow Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is asked to review the Trust's quality accounts. On the basis that the OSC is supportive of the Trust's approach, the Trust requests a written statement from the OSC that will be included with the quality accounts.