

Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

COMMENTARY ON THE NORTHERN DEVON HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST

Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee has been invited to comment on the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust's Draft Quality Account for the year 2017 to 2018. All references in this commentary relate to the reporting year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and refer specifically to the Trust's relationship with the Scrutiny Committee and its Members.

The Scrutiny Committee believes that the Quality Account for 2017/18 is a fair reflection and gives comprehensive coverage of the services provided by the Trust, based on the Scrutiny Committee's knowledge.

The Committee appreciates the work undertaken by the Trust in 2017-18 to improve the effectiveness of transfers of care. Although Members understand the challenges the Trust faces, it has been an issue of significant concern to the Committee that an inspection by the Care Quality Commission in October 2017 rated the Trust as 'requires improvement' in several key areas.

Members found it useful that the Trust could attend the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting in March, in which the Trust outlined the Action Plan which was being implemented in response to the findings of the CQC inspection. The Committee is pleased to hear that a Trust-wide improvement programme is in place to address the areas requiring improvement and that these areas have been included in the Trust's priorities for 2018/19. The Trust undertook to keep the Committee informed on the progress of the Action Plan.

Members also found it useful that the Trust could attend the meeting of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee Standing Overview Group in May 2018 in which the Trust outlined its Quality Account for 2017-18 to Members.

The Committee welcomes the Trust's Quality Priorities for Improvement in 2018-19 and expects that the Trust will continue to work on improving patient flows, reducing waiting lists, and implementing integrated governance. Members also endorse the Trust's aim to strengthen training and appraisal processes for staff.

The Members of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee look forward to following the Trust's improvements in 2018/19 and hope for a continued positive working relationship to continue to ensure the best possible services for the residents of Devon.