

Trust Board 27 April 2021

Quality Account Update

What is the Quality Account?

All NHS providers are required to produce an annual 'Quality Account' which summarises the quality of services provided. The Quality Account provides information and assurance to our patients, service users, carers, family members, commissioner, partner agencies and the general public that the Trust is addressing quality issues and maintaining standards.

Due to the demands on providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic there has been national directive changes in relation to expectations of external assurances and also publication dates. These are set out below.

National expectation in light of COVID-19

Information has been published in the ***NHS accounts timetable and year-end arrangements – with provider annex*** dated 15th January 2021 confirming NHS Trusts are not required to commission external assurance on their 2020/21 Quality Account. Further guidance received from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on the 14th April, 2020 clarifies that DHSC is planning to shortly amend the 2010 Quality Accounts Regulations, This is to remove the 30th June publication date (and preceding assurance requirements) for Quality Accounts of 2020/21 i.e. providers of NHS healthcare (NHS and non-NHS bodies) would not have to obtain assurance on (from the lead NHS commissioner, local Healthwatch and Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and publish their 2020/21 accounts by 30th June 2021.

This relates to the continuing COVID-19 pressures faced by providers and is supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) who oversee the implementation of Quality Accounts policy. NHSEI have informed providers of the continuation of the revised arrangements put in place last year.

Although providers would not be under a legal duty to publish their Quality Accounts for 2020/21 by 30th June 2021, providers are still under a general legal duty under primary legislation to publish their Quality Accounts for each reporting period (s8, Health Act 2009). DHSC and NHSEI believe the expectation is for Quality Accounts for 2020/21 (and accounts for all other reporting periods) to be published within a 'reasonable' timeframe following the reporting year to ensure continuing public accountability for how safety and quality of care issues are managed by NHS providers.

The new regulations will remove the requirement in the 2010 Regulations for NHS providers to gain assurance on their draft 2020/21 Quality Accounts from the relevant CCG and local scrutineers (local Healthwatch and Overview and Scrutiny Committee) by 30th April.

Leicestershire Partnership Progress on the Quality Account

A draft Quality Account has been written based on last year's framework, including information on the quality impact of Covid-19 and also responding to previous stakeholder feedback.

Following consultation, 2021/22 priority themes have been approved by the executive team and Quality Forum Committee. These are written to ensure a clear aim, measures and trajectory are in place to monitor these via Life QI throughout the year ahead.

A draft Quality Account was presented to the Quality Forum 8th April and Executive Operational Meeting on the 16th April, 2021. Although there is no statutory requirement for external assurance statements it was agreed in these forums that a draft would be shared with our key stakeholders for comment. A final account will be presented to the Quality Forum on the 13th May, 2020 and Trust Board on the 29th June 2021.

Decision Required

1. To note the amendments to national guidance and statutory requirements.
2. To receive assurance on the progress of LPTs publication of the Quality Account with timescales.

Governance table

For Board and Board Committees:	Public Trust Board	
Paper sponsored by:	Dr Anne Scott	
Paper authored by:	Deanne Rennie	
Date submitted:	20/02/2021	
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust's governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):	Quality Forum 8/4/21 Executive Operational Meeting 16/4/21	
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e. assured/ partially assured / not assured:	Assurance of the individual work streams are monitored through the governance structure	
State whether this is a 'one off' report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	One off	
STEP up to GREAT strategic alignment*:	High Standards	x
	Transformation	
	Environments	
	Patient Involvement	x
	Well Governed	x
	Single Patient Record	
	Equality, Leadership, Culture	x
	Access to Services	x
	Trust wide Quality Improvement	x
Organisational Risk Register considerations:	High Standards	1
Is the decision required consistent with LPT's risk appetite:	Yes	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	Yes	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	Yes	
Equality considerations:	Yes	