


Agenda Item 8

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham
Executive Director - Resources**

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	16 March 2021
Subject:	Arrangements for the Quality Accounts 2020-2021

Summary

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is invited to consider its approach to the *Quality Accounts* for 2020-21 and to identify its preferred option for responding to the draft *Quality Accounts*, which will be shared with the Committee, by local providers of NHS-funded services.

Actions Required:

- (1) To determine which draft *Quality Accounts for 2020-21* from the local providers of NHS-funded services where the Committee would wish to make a statement.
- (2) To consider the arrangements for drafting statements in response to *Quality Accounts* for 2021.

1. Legal Framework for Quality Accounts

The legal framework for *Quality Accounts* requires each significant provider of NHS-funded services is required to submit their draft *Quality Account* to:

- their local health overview and scrutiny committee;
- their local healthwatch organisation; and
- their relevant clinical commissioning group.

The regulations define 'local' as the local authority area, in which the provider has their principal or registered office. Whilst there is a requirement for local providers to submit their draft *Quality Account* to their local health overview and scrutiny committee, there is no obligation on such a committee to make a statement in response.

Role of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The regulations do not include a formal role for health and wellbeing boards. However, providers may share their draft *Quality Account* with their local health and wellbeing board for comments, if they wish. Any involvement of health and wellbeing boards would be discretionary.

2. **What is a *Quality Account*?**

The content of a *Quality Account* is prescribed by regulations, with additional requirements for NHS bodies. The *Quality Account* must include:

- three or more **priorities for improvement** for the coming year;
- an account of the progress with the **priorities for improvement** in the previous year; and
- details of:
 - the types of NHS funded services provided;
 - any Care Quality Commission inspections;
 - any national clinical audits;
 - any Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) activities;
 - general performance and the number of complaints; and
 - mortality-indicator information.

It should be noted that statements prepared need not be limited to a response to the content of the draft *Quality Account*, but could in addition reflect the views of the Committee on the quality of services provided during the course of the year by the provider.

No Financial Content

The term *Quality Account* has been used by the Department of Health and Social Care since 2010 and has caused some confusion. For the purposes of clarity, a *Quality Account* does not focus on finances, but represents an account of the quality (as opposed to an account of the finances) of a particular organisation. Overall financial information on a particular trust is found in their annual report.

3. **What Should a Statement on a *Quality Account* Cover?**

The Department of Health and Social Care has previously issued guidance to those making statements to focus on the following questions: -

- Do the priorities in the *Quality Account* reflect the priorities of local people?
- Have any major issues been omitted from the *Quality Account*?

- Has the provider demonstrated involvement of patients and the public in the production of the *Quality Account*?
- Is the *Quality Account* clearly presented for patients and the public?
- Are there any comments on specific issues, where the Committee has been involved?

The Health Scrutiny Committee is entitled to make a statement (up to 1,000 words) on the draft *Quality Account*, which has to be included in the final published version of the *Quality Account*.

4. **Quality Account Arrangements in 2020**

In 2020, the Committee agreed to provide statements on the draft *quality accounts* for the providers:

- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

The final *Quality Account* has to be published by 30 June each year, but in 2020 this deadline was relaxed.

5. **Handling Quality Accounts in 2021**

In the table below is a list of providers of NHS-funded services, on which the Committee has previously made a statement. In recent years the Committee has focused on those providers, with identified quality issues. As part of this judgement, the Committee has referred to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating, before making a decision whether to make a statement on a provider's *Quality Account*. It should be noted that in the last year, the activity of the CQC has been limited because of the pandemic.

Provider	Current CQC Rating
Boston West Hospital (Ramsay Healthcare)	Good
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Good
Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	Outstanding
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Good
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	Requires Improvement
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust	Requires Improvement
St Barnabas Hospice	Outstanding
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Requires Improvement

6. Arrangements for Making Statements in Response to Draft Quality Accounts

If the Committee were to choose to make statements on draft *Quality Accounts*, it could use one or both of the following options:

- working group arrangements (held virtually, potentially with representatives of the provider in attendance); or
- the circulation of draft *Quality Accounts* on email, with a request for comments to be sent by email.

7. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to make arrangements for the *Quality Account* process for 2020-21.

8. Consultation

This is not a consultation item. However, as part of the annual *Quality Account* process, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is entitled to make a statement up to 1,000 words on the content of each local provider's draft *Quality Account*.

9. Background Papers - No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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